



W. Kim Foster

Finding a 'Philanthropic Home'

W. Kim Foster and Lisa Whitney met in the late 1970s as graduate business students at the University of Virginia. In the decades that followed, they explored the world and built a life together. There was plenty of motion, with frequent moves to new cities, trips around the world (including five to Africa) and a shared passion for scuba diving. There was also a strong, steady foundation: their 40-year marriage, Kim's 34-year career with FMC Corporation and, most importantly, daughter, Amy, and sons, Will and Sam.

In February 2016, Kim and Lisa were four years into one of their most exciting adventures – retirement – when Kim developed jaundice. After being referred to Charles J. Yeo, MD, Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chair of Surgery, Kim received a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. Within days, Dr. Yeo performed a mini-Whipple procedure, which was followed by radiation therapy with P. Rani Anné, MD, and chemotherapy with James A. Posey, MD, and Ashwin R. Sama, MD.

Nine months later, the family was participating in the 11th Annual Pancreatic Cancer and Related Diseases Patient Symposium at Jefferson, where Kim spoke candidly about his experience as a patient. A highly successful businessman and former nuclear submariner in the U.S. Navy, he was a natural leader and problem solver. As Lisa recalls, "One of the hardest things for him was accepting that he could not manage or control it all himself. He realized he had to put his faith in the intellect and experience of the team at Jefferson."

Despite that team's valiant medical efforts, Lisa, Amy, Will, and Sam said goodbye to Kim in August 2018. In the face of this immeasurable loss, Lisa has chosen to honor her husband by recommending generous contributions to Jefferson. The first gift established an endowed research fund and named the W. Kim Foster Pancreatic Cancer Collaborative Research Space, which was dedicated in June 2019. Lisa also directs annual gifts in support of the W. Kim Foster Pancreatic Cancer Pilot Grants.

The program has already helped the 2020 inaugural recipient, radiation oncologist Adam C. Mueller, MD, PhD, obtain additional funding from the Radiological Society of North America. Now in its second year, the program continues to fund innovative research, education, and programs related to pancreatic cancer. [See News in Brief for 2021 recipients.]

Lisa views the relationship with Jefferson as an unexpected silver lining of everything she and her children have been through: "Kim and I often talked about giving back and longed to find the place where the institutional goals aligned with our family goals. The Foster family has found a philanthropic home."

To learn more about supporting cancer research in the Department of Surgery, contact Kelly Austin at **215-955-6383** or **kelly.austin@jefferson.edu**.

Surgical Solutions

Jefferson Department of Surgery
620 Curtis Building
1015 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
JeffersonHealth.org/Surgery

Jefferson Surgical Solutions
is published by
Thomas Jefferson University and
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.
Jennifer Brumbaugh, MA, Editor-in-Chief
Susan Murphy, Writer

Information in Surgical Solutions
is not intended to provide advice
on personal medical matters
or to substitute for consultation
with a physician.

Editorial Board

Kelly Austin
Andrea DeMastro
Adam Frank, MD
Gerald Isenberg, MD
Florence Williams
Charles J. Yeo, MD

CS 22-0745

620 Curtis Building
1015 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Phila., PA
Permit #276

News in Brief



In July, **Scott D. Goldstein, MD**, retired following 37 years as a faculty member in the Division of Colorectal Surgery – including over 17 years as division chief. We thank him for the decades of clinical excellence, patient care, teaching, and leadership he provided our patients, trainees, faculty and staff.



Benjamin R. Phillips, MD, has been named Chief of the Division of Colorectal Surgery following a national search. Dr. Phillips is a graduate of our Colorectal Fellowship Program and joined the faculty in 2013. He has received numerous teaching awards, including the Dean's Award for Excellence in Education, and is a Past President of the Pennsylvania Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons.



Alliric Willis, MD, MSPH, has been named Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs. He also recently completed his Master of Science in Population Health (MSPH) degree.



On November 13, **Steven Copit, MD**, Enterprise Chief of Plastic Surgery, was honored with the Founders Award from Living Beyond Breast Cancer at the Butterfly Ball held at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel.



Joshua Marks, MD and **George Koenig, DO**, (Division of Acute Care Surgery) have been named Medical Co-Directors of the Center for Operational Resource Efficiency (CORE) and the Transfer Center.



In November, 2 W. Kim Foster Pilot Grants were awarded to (1) **Avinoam Nevler, MD** for his work entitled "Targeting CO2 chemoresistance and radioresistance in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma" and (2) **Shawwna Cannaday, MSN, FNP-BC**, and **Theresa P. Yeo, PhD, MPH**, for their project entitled "Implementing Educational Videos to Enhance Preparedness for Surgery." For background on this grant program, see *Those Who Give*.

