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# Honoring Dr. Herbert Cohn

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## Honoring Dr. Herbert Cohn

**O**n March 28, Mae Gelb of Scranton, Pennsylvania, celebrated her 100th birthday with close friends and family, including her nephew, Herbert E. Cohn, MD, Anthony Narducci Professor and Vice Chair of Surgery, Jefferson. Mrs. Gelb's life has been nearly as healthy as it is long. Aside from giving birth, her only experience as an inpatient was when, in October

**“So many physicians I know have been taught by Herb.”**

1993, at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, she underwent a major operation performed by then-Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chair of Surgery Francis E. Rosato, MD, with moral support from Dr. Cohn.

“Although I didn't have cancer, I felt quite ill,” Mrs. Gelb recalls. “My doctor in Scranton – who Herb had once taught – contacted Herb, who said, ‘Get her down to Jefferson by ambulance tomorrow morning!’ I was frightened out of my wits, but



Mae Gelb, center, with her nephew, Dr. Herbert Cohn, and his wife, Natalie.

Herb was waiting for me when the ambulance arrived, and I had my surgery almost immediately. Herb observed as Dr. Rosato performed the procedure. Both of them were wonderful.”

In January 1994, Mrs. Gelb was able to resume her active schedule of charitable and civic work. She has made generous donations to organizations ranging from Hadassah to Jefferson, through the Gelb Foundation, founded by her late husband, attorney Morris B. Gelb.

“Morris emigrated from Hungary to the United States in 1912, when he was 8 years old,” Mrs. Gelb says. “Although his family was poor, he worked hard and graduated in 1929 from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He couldn't wait to pay back the world for his good fortune.”

Now overseen by Mrs. Gelb's daughters and sons-in-law, Sondra and Morey Myers and Beverly and Jerry Klein, the Gelb Foundation donated generously to the Department of Surgery's Herbert E. Cohn, MD, Residents' Library for the purchase of computers and educational materials, as well as to the Jefferson Breast Care Center, out of gratitude for the care Mrs. Gelb received as well as family pride in Dr. Cohn.

“So many physicians I know have been taught by Herb, and so many people I know have been helped by him,” Mrs. Gelb declares. “He's a fine, charming man with a big heart!”

To make a gift to the Department of Surgery, please contact Diane Calder at **215-955-4126** or [Diane.Calder@Jefferson.edu](mailto:Diane.Calder@Jefferson.edu)

• Jefferson's Department of Surgery has been accepted to participate in the American College of Surgeons' National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP). The lead surgeon for this initiative is **Herbert E. Cohn, MD**. Developed by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, NSQIP is one of the first outcomes-based, risk-adjusted, peer-controlled programs designed to measure and enhance the quality of surgical care. The program collects data on 133 variables, including preoperative risk factors, intraoperative variables and 30-day mortality and morbidity outcomes data – the latter entered by **Kathleen Hartman, RN, BSN**, the department's new Surgical Clinical Nurse Reviewer. It will enable Jefferson to compare outcomes and risk profiles with those of other medical centers and with national averages.

• Surgical Oncologist **Eugene P. Kennedy, MD**, has joined the Department of Surgery and been named Assistant Professor of Surgery, Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University. Dr. Kennedy previously served at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, and Johns Hopkins. He specializes in gastrointestinal disorders.



Eugene P. Kennedy, MD

• Thomas Jefferson University Hospital has received a three-year approval with commendation for its cancer program from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, its highest possible recognition. The Commission on Cancer approval is based on factors such as the ability to provide comprehensive state-of-the-art services and equipment, a multidisciplinary, team approach for the coordination of cancer care, and a cancer data management system, or cancer registry.

• Visit [www.JeffersonHospital.org/surgery/news](http://www.JeffersonHospital.org/surgery/news) for a list of recent publications by members of Jefferson's Department of Surgery.

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#### Jefferson Department of Surgery

Curtis Building, Suite 620  
1015 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
[www.JeffersonHospital.org/surgery](http://www.JeffersonHospital.org/surgery)

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