On the Job
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Jennifer Brumbaugh

When the Department of Surgery hired new Webmaster Jennifer Brumbaugh in March, they gained a professional who bridges traditional academic training and modern technological savvy. In 1999, Jennifer received a master's degree in medical illustration from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, 1 of only 4 accredited programs in the U.S.

At Hopkins Jennifer met now-Jefferson Chair of Surgery, Charles Yeo, MD, while working on her master's thesis project, a Website for pancreatic cancer patients and their families. Upon graduating, she was hired by Johns Hopkins University and spent the next 7 years anticipating and translating patient needs into user-friendly online resources. Dr. Yeo was so pleased with her efforts that, upon his arrival in fall 2005, he asked her to manage the Department of Surgery's online presence.

Jennifer's current role draws upon not only her artistic skills (honed at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts), but also her ability to develop interactive content of interest to patients, physicians, and recruits. "My experience at Hopkins really opened my eyes to the Web as a patient education resource and subsequently a fund-raising tool," she says, as grateful donors (many whose only connection to the hospital is the Website) continue to donate several hundred thousand dollars each year for pancreatic cancer research at Hopkins.

"Patients today are so savvy that many want access to doctors' most recent published articles and their research endeavors," Jennifer observes, "We're striving to create online resources that address a wide spectrum of needs."

Keep an eye on www.jeffersonhospital.org/surgery to see the results.

This article is available in Jefferson Surgical Solutions: http://jdc.jefferson.edu/jss/vol1/iss2/6
Meet our Surgical Interns

Jefferson surgeons are currently available by appointment for all surgeries.

The interns are pictured with the original Gross operating table and portrait of Dr. John H. Fulton Jr. These doctors, who recently worked with researchers, are pictured here.

Jason Comesa, MD, Jefferson Medical College; Alex Hughey, MD, Cornell University Medical College; Sarah Fernandez, MD, University of Miami School of Medicine; Robert Altman, MD, SUNY Downstate Medical School; Nathan Rachen, MD, University of Illinois School of Medicine; David Rittenhouse, MD, Jefferson Medical College.

Charles J. Yeo, MD

As a teaching hospital, Jefferson benefits from being on the cutting edge of the latest techniques and technologies, including in the area of plastic and reconstructive surgery. (Clinical Professor) John H. H. Doerr, MD, explains that part of the Jefferson philosophy is to encourage research among the residents, as surgeons were trained to think innovatively and effectively in techniques that open the body to new tissues.

“With breast implants, for example, we were doing a 3D in vivo procedure, using tissues from the abdominal wall,” Dr. Doerr explains. “Now we have switched to using a latissimus dorsi flap (from the back), which seems to be more like with less complications and without infections and without the final result.” Jefferson residents and college students are now compiling data from more than 70 patients as part of a 10-year study by the Department of Surgery evaluating the safety of this new procedure.

The use of stem cells is another trend that has begun to show considerable promise, as the cells can be grown into bone, cartilage and fat in any desired shape. In breast augmentation, natural tissues do not cause the local swelling that can be associated with saline and silicone implants, although this is now considered experimental. For reconstructive surgery, stem cell tissue maintains its shape and size more effectively than conventional soft tissue implants.

Robert Altman, MD, SUNY Downstate Medical School; Nathan Rachen, MD, University of Illinois School of Medicine; David Rittenhouse, MD, Jefferson Medical College.

We are also pleased to welcome Jefferson graduate, Peter Amster, MD, Avi Galler, MD and Melissa Lasar, MD as preliminary general surgery interns.

Dr. John Moore stresses the importance of refining surgical techniques and encouraging the research endeavors of young surgeons.

Dr. Lombardi’s main research interest is helping transform the treatment of aortic disease. In addition to being on the cutting edge of the latest techniques and technologies, including in the area of plastic and reconstructive surgery. (Clinical Professor) John H. H. Doerr, MD, explains that part of the Jefferson philosophy is to encourage research among the residents, as surgeons were trained to think innovatively and effectively in techniques that open the body to new tissues.

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