A Legacy of Leadership: Dr. Francis E. Rosato, Sr.
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Francis E. Rosato Sr., MD, has had a long and distinguished career at Jefferson. He was the Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chair of Surgery from 1978 through 2000. His career also included four years as the first Chair of Surgery at the then new Eastern Virginia Medical School and 14 years at the University of Pennsylvania, where he attained the rank of professor. At each location Dr. Rosato found his patient practice was always the most important part of his work.

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Although Dr. Rosato stepped down as chair in 2000, he continues to come in twice a week to the office at 11th and Walnut. He is surrounded by familiar faces there, having created quite a legacy within the department. His son Ernest (Gary) L. Rosato, MD, is currently Jefferson's Director of the Division of General Surgery and his namesake, Francis E. Rosato Jr., MD, joined the faculty in August. His daughter Anne Rosato, MD, is a pediatrician in King of Prussia, PA. "I taught them how to ski, to play tennis, and how to hit a baseball," says Dr. Rosato, "so I wasn't surprised that they followed me into medicine as well."

A passion for medicine apparently runs both up and down the Rosato family tree. Dr. Rosato's father was a general practitioner who ran his practice out of the family home. Dr. Rosato recalls seeing patients on a day-to-day basis as a child. "I appreciated how happy and fulfilled my father seemed to be," he says.

Dr. Rosato has had the benefit of the long view of the institution over several decades. "When I came in 1978, Jefferson was a number of loosely integrated departments that functioned fairly independently. By the time I stepped down, the administration played a greater role and budgets were much higher, although funds were harder to come by," he recalls.

Dr. Rosato's legacy lives on through the Francis E. Rosato Sr., MD, Surgical Research and Education Fund, supported primarily through gifts from grateful patients and the Jefferson Surgical community. The fund allows residents to present their research at national conferences and pays for essential materials such as journal subscriptions and loupes (high-precision magnifying lenses used during surgery). Contributions to the fund are ongoing.

To make a gift to the Department of Surgery, please contact Diane Calder at 215-955-4126 or Diane.Calder@Jefferson.edu

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A Legacy of Leadership: Dr. Francis E. Rosato Sr.

Francis E. Rosato Sr. (1920-2006) was a renowned surgeon and one of the most influential figures in the history of Jefferson Medical College and Jefferson Health. He spent his career as a faculty member and department head, making significant contributions to the fields of surgery and medical education.

Rosato was born in 1920 in New York City and graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1947. After completing his residency in surgery at Jefferson, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army during World War II. After the war, he returned to Jefferson as an assistant professor and eventually became the chair of the Department of Surgery in 1965. He held this position for 32 years, leading the department through a period of significant growth and development.

During his tenure, Rosato oversaw the development of many new programs and services, including the division of thoracic surgery, the division of pediatric surgery, and the division of oncology. He was also instrumental in establishing the first liver transplantation program in the United States at Jefferson.

Rosato was a prolific researcher, publishing over 150 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He was also a dedicated teacher, mentoring numerous residents and fellows who went on to become leaders in their own right. Among his students were prominent surgeons such as Philip P. Repepi, MD, and Murray J. Cohen, MD.

In recognition of his contributions, Rosato was awarded numerous honors and awards, including the Distinguished Service Medal from the United States Army, the Distinguished Service Medal from the Veterans Administration, and the Distinguished Service Medal from the United States Air Force. He was also elected a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and received the Jefferson University Medal of Honor.

Rosato passed away in 2006, but his legacy lives on through the Francis E. Rosato Sr., MD, Surgical Research and Education Fund, supported primarily through gifts from grateful patients and friends. The fund provides research grants to Jefferson surgeons and supports surgical education programs.

In conclusion, Dr. Francis E. Rosato Sr. was a true leader in the field of surgery, and his contributions to Jefferson Medical College and Jefferson Health will not be forgotten. His legacy continues to inspire and guide the next generation of surgeons and medical educators at Jefferson.

Col. Darnell Waun's Second Chance at Life

Colonel Darnell Waun has spent his career in the Air Force, but is now considering a second career as a transplant coordinator. He explains, “because there may be no end date. Your life revolves around staying close to the transplant center.” He grew up in a military family, and how to hit a baseball,” says Dr. Rosato, “so I wasn’t surprised that they followed me into medicine as well.”

Rosato’s legacy lives on through the Francis E. Rosato Sr., MD, Surgical Research and Education Fund, supported primarily through gifts from grateful patients and friends. The fund provides research grants to Jefferson surgeons and supports surgical education programs.

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