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News in Brief

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- The Dean's Awards were held on May 24, 2006 at the Union League. Dean Nasca presented Awards for Faculty Mentoring to R. Anthony Carabasi, MD and Murray J. Cohen, MD. Citations for Significant Contributions to the Advancement of Education were awarded to Herbert E. Cohn, MD, Ernest L. Rosato, MD and Andrew deMichele, MD.

  Drs. Rosato, Cohn and Carabasi

- Francis E. Rosato Jr., MD (JMC Class of 1999) has joined the Department of Surgery's Division of General Surgery. Dr. Rosato recently completed a fellowship in laparoscopic surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He specializes in minimally invasive surgery.

- Thomas A. d'Amato, MD, PhD (JMC Class of 1990) has joined the Department of Surgery’s Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. After many years of practice with both the U.S. Navy and as a staff surgeon in California, Dr. d'Amato completed an advanced fellowship in minimally invasive surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He specializes in thoracic surgery.

- Jason Comeau, MD and David Rittenhouse, MD, two of our new interns, were recognized at Jefferson Medical College’s Class Day 2006. Dr. Comeau accepted the Philip P. Repepi, MD Prize in General Surgery, awarded to a senior medical student pursuing a career in general surgery and deemed most worthy by the JMC surgical faculty. Dr. Rittenhouse accepted the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation. The award is given to an outstanding student demonstrating exemplary compassion in doctor/patient relations.

- Visit www.jeffersonhospital.org/surgery/news for a list of recent publications by members of Jefferson's Department of Surgery.

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Col. Darnell Waun’s Second Chance at Life

Liver transplant patient Col. Darnell Waun is entering retirement in excellent health and considering a second career as a transplant coordinator.

“I’d like to be able to make a similar kind of difference in the lives of others.”

“rest of fate,” as it ultimately brought him to Jefferson. He knew Jefferson oncologist Edith Mitchell, MD (a former reservist), who referred him here for lung cancer treatment. In 1998, while serving as Commander of the 86th Medical Operation Squadron and Chief Nurse at Kunsan Air Force Base, Korea, Col. Waun was diagnosed with Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC). This disease, which causes the bile ducts to narrow and impede the flow of bile, is usually fatal.

On October 29th, 2005, the Colonel learned he was the back-up recipient for a liver. “It was a huge rush,” he says, “but I also was aware that this could be my last shot.” On Halloween Day, a matching liver became available, and Col. Darnell Waun, MD, performed the surgery. Col. Waun was discharged within 16 days and back at work on January 3, 2006, as the Commander of the 86th Medical Group at Dover AFB. He has since communicated with the donor’s family, who has experienced both sides of transplant surgery. The donor’s brother had received a heart transplant.

Col. Waun retires this summer from the Air Force, but is considering becoming a transplant coordinator. “I’d like to be able to make a similar kind of difference in the lives of others,” he says. “Although I firmly believe that there is also something bigger that plays a hand.”

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, having worked in a hospital within the department. His son, Ernest (Gary) L. Rosato, MD, is currently Jefferson’s Director of the Division of General Surgery and her namesake, Francis E. Rosato Jr., MD, joined the faculty in August. The daughter of Dr. Rosato, a pediatrician in King of Prussia, PA, “I bought them how to ski, to play tennis, and to have a healthy,” says Dr. Rosato. “I wasn’t surprised that they followed me into medicine as well.”

As a piece for medicine appeared nearly side-by-side and 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 keen eye 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 much lower to earn it,” he recalls.

In June 2004, Col. Waun was stationed at Dover Air Force Base (AFB) in Delaware—a transplant center. Col. Waun was discharged within 16 days and back at work on January 3, 2006, as the Commander of the 86th Medical Group at Dover AFB. He has since communicated with the donor’s family, who has experienced both sides of transplant surgery. The donor’s brother had received a heart transplant.

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