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Please Welcome-Dr. Joshua Curtin in the New Transplant Laboratory

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Joshua Curtin, PhD, is a research fellow in the lab of Cataldo Doria, MD, PhD, focusing on the regulation of tumor cell growth and division, primarily in the liver. He examines how molecular components of cellular signaling pathways function to regulate cell growth and cell death.

Dr. Curtin's doctoral research studied the actions of natural derivatives of Vitamin A known as tumor cell differentiators. Derivatives of Vitamin A are a class of compounds known as retinoids, which have been shown to prevent the unchecked division of cancer cells. "Although traditional chemotherapies kill both the mutated cancer cells and the healthy normal cells," Dr. Curtin explains, "this treatment stops only the cancer cells from dividing."

Dr. Curtin has coupled his expertise as a cancer biologist with his experience as a post-doctoral fellow in liver biology. "The ultimate goal," he explains, "is to translate discovery in the lab into improved clinical treatment for patients suffering from liver cancer."

To read more about this research, go to www.jeffersonhospital.org/transplant
New faculty, in addition to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and multiple new studies and trials are just some of the changes underway in the Acute Care Surgery Division. The addition of Jay Jenoff, MD, and Nada Martin, MD, brings the Division team to seven faculty, strengthening its influential program, which makes attending acute care surgeons available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Dr. Jenoff and Martin recently joined the Department after completing fellowships in Cardiothoracic Surgery and Surgical Critical Care at the Hospital of The University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Jenoff, Assistant Professor of Surgery and a 2008 graduate of Jefferson’s surgery residency program, is Board Certified in both surgery and critical care medicine. Dr. Martin, a 2009 graduate of Jefferson’s residency program is also Board Certified in surgery and critical care medicine and is the Philadelphia Surgical Associate Program Director of Graduate Education. As part of Jefferson’s commitment to constantly improving the care and experience of patients, the hospital is building a new, state-of-the-art ICU facility on the Gibbon Building on Jefferson’s Center City campus. Construction is expected to be completed during this year and will add to the existing ICU. The new space will accommodate 34 beds, half of which will be dedicated to surgical patients.

“By combining our ICU with the state of the art surgical ICU, we ensure the best possible care for critically ill patients,” says Dr. Martin. “We’re excited about this new program and hope to attract top surgical and critical care researchers to Jefferson.”

Dr. Jenoff, “and our two trauma nurse practitioners, Alannah Ryan, CNPSP, and Catherine Gill, PNP, RN, CRNP, are extremely well-versed in managing patients who present immediately after their injury. They are absolutely invaluable to the doctors and patients. Their care management skills, level of care and compassion for patients are second to none.”

In addition to clinical priorities, the Division is playing a renewed emphasis on research and has recently undertaken several clinical studies and trials. “A number of these new studies make Jefferson—our Division and in particular—are an exciting place to be right now, a place to grow as a professional,” says Dr. Martin. In trauma, for example, the group is looking at new methods of stabilizing patients, establishing protocols and re-nasalization. Faculty members are also studying abdominal wall outcomes and developing new protocols, while working with industry representatives on device implementation. Research projects include multidisciplinary collaborations with Jefferson colleagues in rehabilitation and orthopedics. Over the next 12-15 months Division will face presentations at multiple national academic meetings. For more information about the Acute Care Surgery Division, visit their new website at www.jeffersonhospital.org/acutesurgery.

Dr. Joshua Curtin in the New Transplant Laboratory

In Dr. Joshua Curtin’s laboratory, the research fellow in the lab of Catalina Coral, MD, PhD, focusing on the regulation of tumor cell growth and cell death, will be the key. He examines how molecular components of cellular signaling pathways function to regulate cell growth and cell death. Dr. Curtin’s doctoral research studied the actions of Notch in the liver of the Drosophila melanogaster fruit fly. Notch is a transmembrane receptor that regulates cell division and cell death. Following his post-doctoral fellowship in the lab of Richard Pestell, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine, Cell, and Cancer Biology, Curtin is a post-doctoral fellow in the lab of Jennifer Sullivan, MD, PhD, Professor of Surgery. Curtin is continuing his research established that pp32 is low or absent in poorly differentiated pancreatic cancer cells, and the research established that pp32 is low or absent in poorly differentiated pancreatic cancer cells. This work provides the proof-of-principle that this approach can be used to target pp32 in pancreatic cancer cells. Dr. Curtin is analyzing how pp32 may be a potential therapeutic target in pancreatic cancer. This work provides the proof-of-principle that this approach can be used to target pp32 in pancreatic cancer cells. Dr. Curtin is analyzing how pp32 may be a potential therapeutic target in pancreatic cancer.

Dr. Jennifer Sullivan is studying the effect of Vitamin K on pancreatic cancer growth. She is analyzing how Vitamin K affects the growth of pancreatic cancer cells. She is analyzing how Vitamin K affects the growth of pancreatic cancer cells. The research established that Vitamin K inhibits the growth of pancreatic cancer cells. Vitamin K inhibits the growth of pancreatic cancer cells. The research established that Vitamin K inhibits the growth of pancreatic cancer cells. Vitamin K inhibits the growth of pancreatic cancer cells. The research established that Vitamin K inhibits the growth of pancreatic cancer cells. Vitamin K inhibits the growth of pancreatic cancer cells. The research established that Vitamin K inhibits the growth of pancreatic cancer cells. Vitamin K inhibits the growth of pancreatic cancer cells.