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Please Welcome-Joyce Hartmann, Physician Liaison for Liver Transplant Program

This fall marked the 25th anniversary of the region’s first liver transplant – performed at Jefferson – and since then, Joyce Hartmann has had the opportunity to represent Jefferson’s Liver Transplant Program to referring physicians throughout the Delaware Valley.

With 20 years of healthcare marketing and program development experience, Joyce was attracted to the position because of the chance to represent the multidisciplinary team of physicians and surgeons, transplant coordinators, social workers and support staff.

Jefferson’s Liver Transplant Program consistently surpasses national averages for transplantation survival rates,” Joyce explains. “Our surgeons transplant the sickest patients in the region and our program has the lowest mortality rate among patients on the recipient waiting list. It is a privilege to represent the team, to ensure that their talents are known to referring physicians and patients receive the care that they need.”

To coordinate an office visit and for assistance with patient navigation or scheduling an appointment, please contact Joyce at 215-503-7507 or joyce.hartmann@jeffersonhospital.org.

For more information about the Liver Transplant Program visit: http://www.jeffersonhospital.org/transplant/liver

This article is available in Jefferson Surgical Solutions: http://jdc.jefferson.edu/jss/vol5/iss1/5
The New Breast Care Center: Truly “Managed Care” for Women

Joyce Hartmann, Physician Liaison for Liver Transplant Program

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With 25 years of healthcare marketing and administrative experience, Joyce was attracted to the position because of the opportunity to represent the multidisciplinary team of physicians and surgeons, transplant coordinators, social workers and support staff. Jefferson’s Liver Transplant Program consistently receives national awards for patient care.

“Jefferson’s transplant service is a model for the region,” says Joyce. “Many patients are able to recover in their own homes after their surgery, and the emotional support we provide complements the medical care.”

One of our most important responsibilities is to educate our patients regarding the transplant process. Jefferson offers a team of transplant coordinators who work closely with transplant patients from the time of diagnosis to recovery. These coordinators assist patients in navigating the transplant process and provide emotional support throughout their journey.

For more information about the Liver Transplant Program see: www.jeffersonhospital.org/transport/liver

Please Welcome!

The Center’s multidisciplinary approach integrates surgery, medicine, oncology and radiation oncology, as well as interventional (and holistic) medicine and emotional support for women and their families. The Jefferson model coordinates care and streamlines the process for patients, to avoid what one patient described as her experience of “being treated by 5-6 or 7 subcontractors, when what I really wanted was a general contractor.”

The team of Jefferson specialists includes the new Assistant Director, Sun Yong Lee, MD, FACS who completed a breast surgical fellowship at Jefferson, Pramilla Anne, MD, Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology; Neal babe, MD, Chair of Medical Oncology; and Barbara Campana, Clinical Associate Professor of Radiology, in Breast Imaging. Other critical team members are association Resident Physicians, DNC, MD, FACS, and coordinator Rita Nathani, RN, BSN, who helps patients navigate the complex insurance system.

Dr. Schwartz is committed to making the most of what scientists are doing across campus. “By integrating basic science research into our practice as soon as possible,” he says. “The Breast Center” also includes an international board of advisors, including the world-renowned Swedish breast cancer surgeon Umberto Veronesi, MD, and others from Italy, France and the United Kingdom, making Jefferson a site for international collaborations.

The long-term plan for the center is to expand upon the Breast Imaging Center on the 40th floor of the Medical Office Building at 11th and Walnut Streets in Center City by adding a clinical facility on one floor below. From its leadership to individual technicians, the breast center strives to serve as a lifelong family for its patients. “The women we treat will have a relationship with us for generations,” says Dr. Schwartz.

For more information about the Breast Center visit: www.jeffersonhospital.org/breast

Brody Recognized for Promising Pancreatic Cancer Research

Assistant Professor Jonathan Brody, PhD, has received a prestigious Career Development Award from the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN) and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) for his investigational research in pancreatic cancer.

While the need for scientific and medical breakthroughs in pancreatic cancer research is urgent, there are major shortages of federal funding for research on this deadly disease,” says Julie Fledish, President and CEO of PanCAN. “Since 1999, PanCAN has been working to help fill this critical void. In 2010, we will distribute nearly $2.5 million in funding for research grants. We are excited about this partnership with Dr. Brody and look forward to working with him as we make strides against this deadly disease.”

Dr. Brody will use the funding to build upon his research on a stress-response protein called HspB7 (Hsp 10). "activated" in pancreatic tumor cells. Dr. Brody and his team have found that HspB7 can actually be used to predict the effectiveness of the standard chemotherapy treatment for pancreatic cancer patients. "This means that HspB7 is essentially a biomarker, which we can use to determine upfront whether a patient is likely to respond to this treatment or not," says Dr. Brody. The findings of his initial study, of which Dr. Brody was the senior author and Jefferson pathologist Dr. Alka Sojka was the co-principal investigator, were first published as a primary study in the journal Cancer Research in June 2009. A follow up report is being presented this month at the American Society for Clinical Research in Chicago.

"By improving our understanding of this new metabolism and how it is involved in the disease, we can develop therapies which may contain,” says Dr. Fledish. "Dr. Brody’s research has the potential to help us understand how to custom treat patients to improve outcomes and survival."

Changing Lives Through Research

Changing Lives Through Research

Brody says Dr. "We are intrigued as to whether other chemotherapeutic agents might also engage this pathway.”

As a young pancreatic cancer researcher I have always admired those two top-notch organizations,” says Dr. Brody, “and to be recognized by them truly is an honor and validates the direction of our research.” This award allows him to produce a body of high-quality data over the next few years as he strives to extend his findings and work with the aid of such organizations as the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Ultimately, Dr. Brody hopes this funding will help translate the work in his laboratory for the benefit of pancreatic cancer patients in the clinical setting.

Editor’s note: Dr. Brody was not available for this writing; just notified us that he has been awarded an American Cancer Society grant in excess of $700K over the next 4 years.

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On the Job

Katie Ashburn, CRNP, and Shamon Pierce, CRNP, are Jefferson Nurse Practitioners in the outpatient and inpatient practices respectively. They both assumed their positions in late spring of 2009.

What does an average day look like? Katie: Between the vascular attending physicians and me, we see 41 patients a day in a fast-paced outpatient office. It involves patient history and physical and developing a plan of care in conjunction with the improvements in patient education and communication. I follow each patient and maintain ownership of the case, which allows us to develop strategies designed to improve outcomes. We work closely with the anticoagulation clinic and the Hyperbaric Treatment Center.

Shamon: I work with the vascular team. As a nurse practitioner it is not uncommon for me to sit down and talk with the patient as well as the surgeon. I work closely with our case manager on more complicated cases and disease states. After patient leaves, I call to help with questions or concerns. What are your respective backgrounds? Katie: I received my nurse’s degree at Jefferson in 1995. I trained in all of the Multidisciplinary Center for Critical Care. I work closely with our case manager on discharge planning and treatment of our residents, students and fellows in one of the five clinical areas.

Brody’s work is funded by the Cancer Research for the Benefit of Pancreatic Cancer (HspB7) program, which has received a $2.4 million grant from the American Cancer Society. The grant supports a team of researchers who are working to identify and develop new therapies for pancreatic cancer.

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