

## Jefferson in the News



### Jeff Wins Award For ARTZ and Medical Craft

Thomas Jefferson University, in collaboration with ARTZ Philadelphia and Theater of Witness, was recently awarded a \$300,000 grant from The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. The award will fund an expansion of the ARTZ@Jefferson humanities program designed to foster empathy among health professions students. The two-year project will bring together people living with dementia and their care partners, artists, and students for a series of conversations that will culminate in an original theatrical performance. The program is based on the principle that the arts provide a rich context for fostering the compassion essential to the successful practice of medicine.

### TJU-Led Team Wins \$2.7 Million NCI Grant

Thomas Jefferson University researchers have received a five-year, \$2.7 million National Cancer Institute grant to study single circulating tumor cells (CTCs) as they pertain to metastatic breast cancer patients. Principal investigator Hushan Yang, PhD, and his team will use the grant to analyze CTCs (tumor cells that spread in blood and/or lymphatic vessels from solid tumors and begin the process leading to the formation of metastases) collected from 300 metastatic breast cancer patients and 200 nonmetastatic breast cancer patients within the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Network. The study could help advance the use of CTCs for personalized cancer therapies in the future.

### Jeff OB-GYN Monkeys Around, Delivers Gorilla

When a pregnant western lowland gorilla at the Philadelphia Zoo began having trouble delivering her baby in June, the call went out to Jefferson OB-GYN Rebekah McCurdy, MD. While the zoo's medical team was considering a C-section, Dr. McCurdy worried about the mother's recovery from such a serious surgery. Using makeshift forceps, McCurdy pulled the baby out, delivering a healthy five-pound baby boy.

### Dr. Klasko Wins Accolades and Influences Healthcare

Stephen K. Klasko, MD, MBA, President and CEO of Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health, has been named to *Modern Healthcare's* 2017 list of the 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare. An advocate for transformational change in healthcare, Dr. Klasko added innovation and philanthropy to Jefferson's core missions of clinical care and academic excellence. Under his leadership, the organization is rapidly expanding and is now comprised of 13 hospitals and 50 outpatient and urgent care locations. He was also instrumental in creating the recently combined Jefferson (Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University).

### Beam Us Up, Scotty!

A Sidney Kimmel Medical College graduate is part of a team that won the global Qualcomm Tricorder XPrize competition for creating a *Star Trek*-like device that can accurately diagnose 13 health conditions and monitor five vital signs. Basil Harris, MD, who also completed his residency at Jefferson, is the founder and CEO of Basil Leaf Technologies. His team modeled the tricorder—named DxtER—after the gadget used by the fictional character Dr. “Bones” McCoy in the science fiction series. DxtER uses an artificial intelligence engine that diagnoses by using data from personal and family history, a physical exam, and sensors.

### We're Tops!

Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, has been named to U.S. News & World Report's 2017–2018 Best Hospitals Honor Roll, a distinction awarded to just 20 hospitals in the U.S. The magazine ranked 11 Jefferson specialties among the nation's best, including cancer, cardiology and heart surgery, diabetes, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, and neurology. Furthermore, in the overall regional rankings, Jefferson ranked second in the Philadelphia metro area and third in Pennsylvania, and Abington Hospital ranked 11th in the Philadelphia region and 18th in the state.

For the full story, please visit [Jefferson.edu/Ambassadors](http://Jefferson.edu/Ambassadors)



# IT'S AN HONOR

RANKED 16<sup>TH</sup> BEST HOSPITAL IN THE NATION!

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

## Among the Top 10 in the Nation

EAR, NOSE & THROAT

OPHTHALMOLOGY  
Wills Eye Hospital

ORTHOPEDICS  
Rothman Institute at Jefferson  
Philadelphia Hand to Shoulder Center  
at Jefferson

## Nationally Ranked Specialties

CANCER  
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson

CARDIOLOGY & HEART SURGERY

DIABETES & ENDOCRINOLOGY

GASTROENTEROLOGY & GI SURGERY

GERIATRICS

NEPHROLOGY

NEUROLOGY & NEUROSURGERY  
Vickie and Jack Farber Institute for  
Neuroscience at Jefferson

UROLOGY



ABINGTON + ARIA + JEFFERSON + KENNEDY