

**PHILADELPHIA
BUSINESS JOURNAL**

April 5, 2016

Jefferson gets \$20M gift to expand neuroscience institute

By John George

Senior Reporter, Philadelphia Business Journal

Philanthropists Vickie and Jack Farber are donating \$20 million to Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health to strengthen the neuroscience institute that already bears their name.

“Research into these devastating neurologic diseases has been gaining momentum at Jefferson for years, and Vickie and I chose to make this investment now because we want to be a part of the transformation which we know is in process,” said Jack Farber.

The gift will be used to expand clinical and research programs at the Vickie and Jack Farber Institute for Neuroscience in Philadelphia, which will serve as the site for Jefferson’s first clinical and research integrated strategic program — an initiative that organizes health care research based on disease focus, rather than by departments or specialties.

The Farbers’ donation will also support an expansion of the Farber Institute’s neurovascular program and provide infrastructure and funding to the Jefferson Weinberg ALS Center, which combines basic and clinical research with personalized care for patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as ALS or Lou Gehrig’s disease. The center was created by Jefferson in a partnership with The ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter.



Pictured above: Vickie and Jack Farber.

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The gift brings to \$35 million the Farbers' total philanthropy to Jefferson.

“For three decades, Vickie and Jack Farber have been inspiring Jefferson to reimagine how we research and care for neurological conditions, and this incredible gift will help us usher in a new era of hope for treatments and preventative therapies — maybe

even cures — for ALS, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other life-robbing brain diseases,” said Dr. Stephen K. Klasko, president and CEO of Jefferson.

The Vickie and Jack Farber Institute for Neuroscience was founded in 2002 with a \$10 million lead gift from the Farber Family Foundation. The Institute has grown into a nearly \$250

million integrated research and clinical enterprise that is home to a team of 115 faculty members, 78 residents, 68 clinical and research fellows, 285 staff members and 35 students working on advances in neurological care.