

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL MEDICINE® NEWS BUREAU

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For immediate release:

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Editors note: Research, new techniques and improved facilities by Philadelphia International Medicine hospitals and physicians may lead to new ways to treat some of our most challenging diseases. Below are just some examples from our hospitals.

Jefferson Unveils 21st Medical School Facility: *The only medical school facility in region to offer interdisciplinary learning and an integrated curriculum to students*

Philadelphia – Thomas Jefferson University unveiled its newly transformed urban campus to the community during a dedication ceremony October 19, just two years after university officials broke ground on the new “heart of the campus.”

The Dorrance H. Hamilton Building is one of the nation's first centers for interdisciplinary health instruction and the first medical school facility in Philadelphia to offer interdisciplinary learning and an integrated curriculum to medical, nursing, physical and occupational therapy students.

The \$60 million project features the Dorrance H. Hamilton Building, the Sidney and Ethal Lubert Plaza and a 252-space underground garage. “With the addition of the Hamilton Building we are creating an academic sense of community,” said Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, president of Thomas Jefferson University. “Students from diverse health specialties will work together, not as future individual practitioners, but as members of multidisciplinary teams in the best interest of the patient,” said Dr. Barchi.

The six-story, state-of-the-art academic building will house a technologically-advanced auditorium, small and large group classrooms and a two-floor clinical skills center featuring virtual diagnostic and surgical suites. The facility is designed to enhance the medical training experience with

real-world scenarios handled by multi-disciplinary medical teams.

With an entrance facing onto a grassy plaza where students and faculty can meet and interact informally, the building also features common meeting areas on each floor and a rooftop terrace and lounge for special events. The building's curved facade features large expanses of glass, one of the building's most important features, which carries through the entire ground floor, allowing people on the street to look into the lobby, through the building and out to the plaza.

The Sidney and Ethal Lubert Plaza is the beginning of a new campus plan that includes a sustainable, multifunctional urban design with a community-friendly approach. It is the first step toward integrating Jefferson's urban campus into the community. With lawns lined with shade trees, public art and seating, it will give students, faculty, staff and community members a place to gather and serve as the center of the academic quadrant of Jefferson's campus. The plaza will add 1.4 acres of open "green" space to Center City Philadelphia and received the Stormwater Best Management Practice Recognition Award from the Philadelphia Water Department.

The Hamilton Building project is part of Jefferson's effort to help offset an anticipated shortage in the United States of possibly as many as 200,000 physicians by 2020 and to answer a call to medical schools throughout the nation to boost their enrollment over the next decade by 15 percent.

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has said medical schools need to start planning now to prevent the shortages that at least two studies have predicted. According to the AAMC, given the extended time it takes to educate and train tomorrow's doctors, efforts to increase enrollment must get underway as soon as possible to assure that the health care needs of the nation in 2015 and beyond are met.

Last year, Jefferson increased class size at the medical school to 255, up from 228, and expanded educational programs in related health professions areas, such as nursing, occupational therapy and physical therapy, to address an impending U.S. health professional shortage. In addition, Jefferson has established a School of Pharmacy that will accept its first class in the fall of 2008.

Within the new Dorrance H. Hamilton Building resides the Dr. Robert and Dorothy Rector Clinical Skills Center, the focus for innovative medical education. The center was developed with the aid of a \$10 million bequest from the estate of Jefferson Medical College alumnus the late Dr. Robert (Class of 1948) and Dorothy Rector of Chambersburg, Pa.

The Rector Clinical Skills Center features mechanical patients, and a simulated operating room, medical surgical room and anesthesia lab to train students.

“Sophisticated tools such as intubation mannequins, joint injection models, and birthing simulators, will enable students to gain experience by working in virtual clinical situations that will prepare them for real life medicine,” said Dr. Barchi.

An additional gift from the Connelly Foundation, headed by president Josephine Connelly Mandeville, who also serves as a trustee of Thomas Jefferson University, named the 300-seat Connelly Auditorium, located on the first floor of the Dorrance H. Hamilton Building.

About Thomas Jefferson University

Thomas Jefferson University is composed of three colleges--Jefferson Medical College, Jefferson College of Graduate Studies and Jefferson College of Health Professions. The three colleges enroll more than 2,600 future physicians, scientists and health care professionals. Founded in 1824, Jefferson Medical College is one of the largest private medical schools in the nation, with among the largest living alumni group. Thomas Jefferson University partners with Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, its education and clinical care affiliate.

Penn’s Department of Dermatology Ranked Best in Nation for Academic Dermatology Program

According to a report that appears in the *Dermatology Online Journal*, the Department of Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center was the highest ranked academic dermatology program based on measurements of academic achievement. The journal notes that this is the first report to rank dermatology programs on academic achievement (with the exception of the NIH funding rankings), as *U.S. News and World Report* does not rate dermatology programs.

“We are extremely proud of this ranking, as the report focused on many of the areas that are reflective of our mission of serving as a leading intellectual center for understanding and treating all aspects of skin and its diseases through excellence in education, patient care, and research,” says John R. Stanley, MD, chair, Department of Dermatology.

The report is based upon data collected between 2001 and 2004, and focused on five outcome measures: publications in 2001 to 2004; NIH funding in 2004; Dermatology Foundation grants in 2001 to 2004; faculty lectures in 2004 delivered at national conferences; number of full-time faculty members who were on the editorial boards of the top 3 U.S. dermatology journals and the top four subspecialty journals.

The five highest ranked academic programs were:

1. University of Pennsylvania

2. University of California, San Francisco
3. Yale-New Haven Medical Center
4. New York University
5. University of Michigan

Temple University and University of Pennsylvania Help Launch New Patient Registry to Track Deadly Lung Disease; Effort is a First for Lung Diseases in the U.S.

Health care providers and researchers at both the Penn Lung Center and the Temple Lung Center in Philadelphia are taking part in a new patient registry to track those who suffer from a deadly lung disease known as Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF). Due to this new statewide effort - the first of its kind for lung diseases in the United States - patients who suffer from this progressive and currently incurable lung disease may soon have better access to care and research.

“Pulmonary Fibrosis is a disease that attacks the air sacs of the lung, causing progressive scarring of the tissue in the lung and as a result, labored breathing,” explains Gerard J. Criner, MD, Director of the Temple Lung Center. “IPF affects about five million people worldwide and typically leads to death within about five years of diagnosis. Most IPF cases are considered to be idiopathic. We simply don’t know what caused it.”

Some known causes of pulmonary fibrosis include:

- Occupational and environmental exposure to asbestos
- Metal dust
- Farming, chemicals and mold
- Sarcoidosis, an inflammatory disease
- Radiation
- Drug reactions
- Auto-immune disorders
- Genetic predisposition

Dr. Criner adds, “There is currently no proven effective therapy for IPF and most drug interventions are considered experimental.”

Gregory Tino, MD, pulmonologist with the Penn Lung Center, states, “This new patient registry may help with patient recruitment in clinical trials in order for us to one day discover what definitively causes IPF and how can we effectively treat it with new medications.”

The Pennsylvania Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis State Registry is a collaborative effort aiming to:

- Increase awareness of IPF
- Provide compassionate care for patients and their families
- Improve access to care and research including the discovery of new therapeutic interventions

Philadelphia International Medicine is an organization that provides medical and patient support services to international patients. It also provides continuing medical education and health care training and education to international physicians, administrators and other practitioners. As the international department of several Philadelphia-area hospitals, international patients gain access to physicians and hospitals rated among the best in the world through one telephone call to PIM. You can reach PIM by calling 1-215-563-4733; fax, 1-215-563-2777; or e-mail, physicians@philadelphiamedicine.com. You can find out more about PIM through its Website at www.philadelphiamedicine.com.