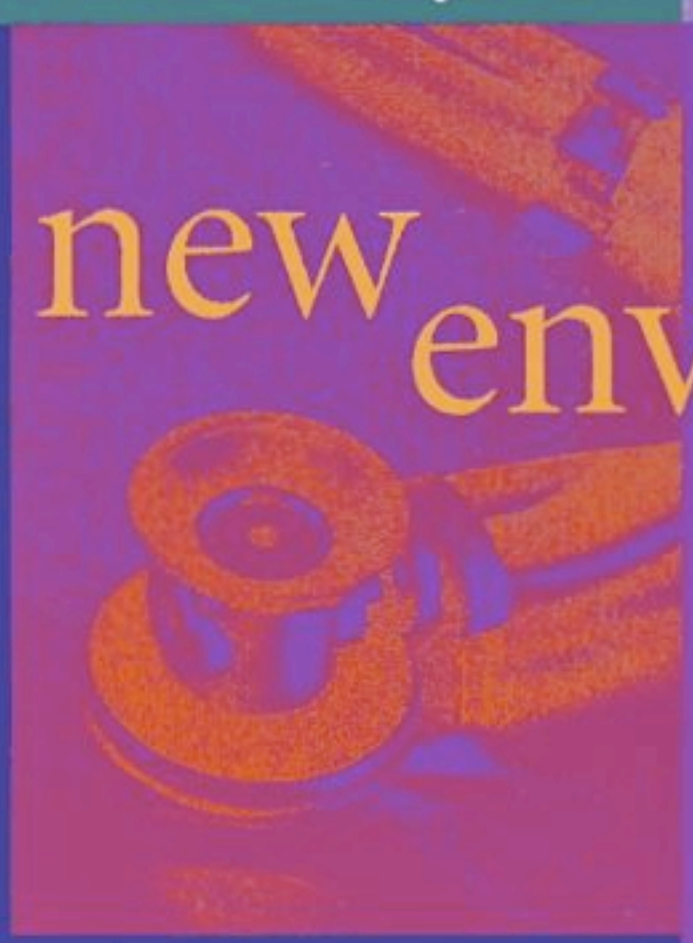
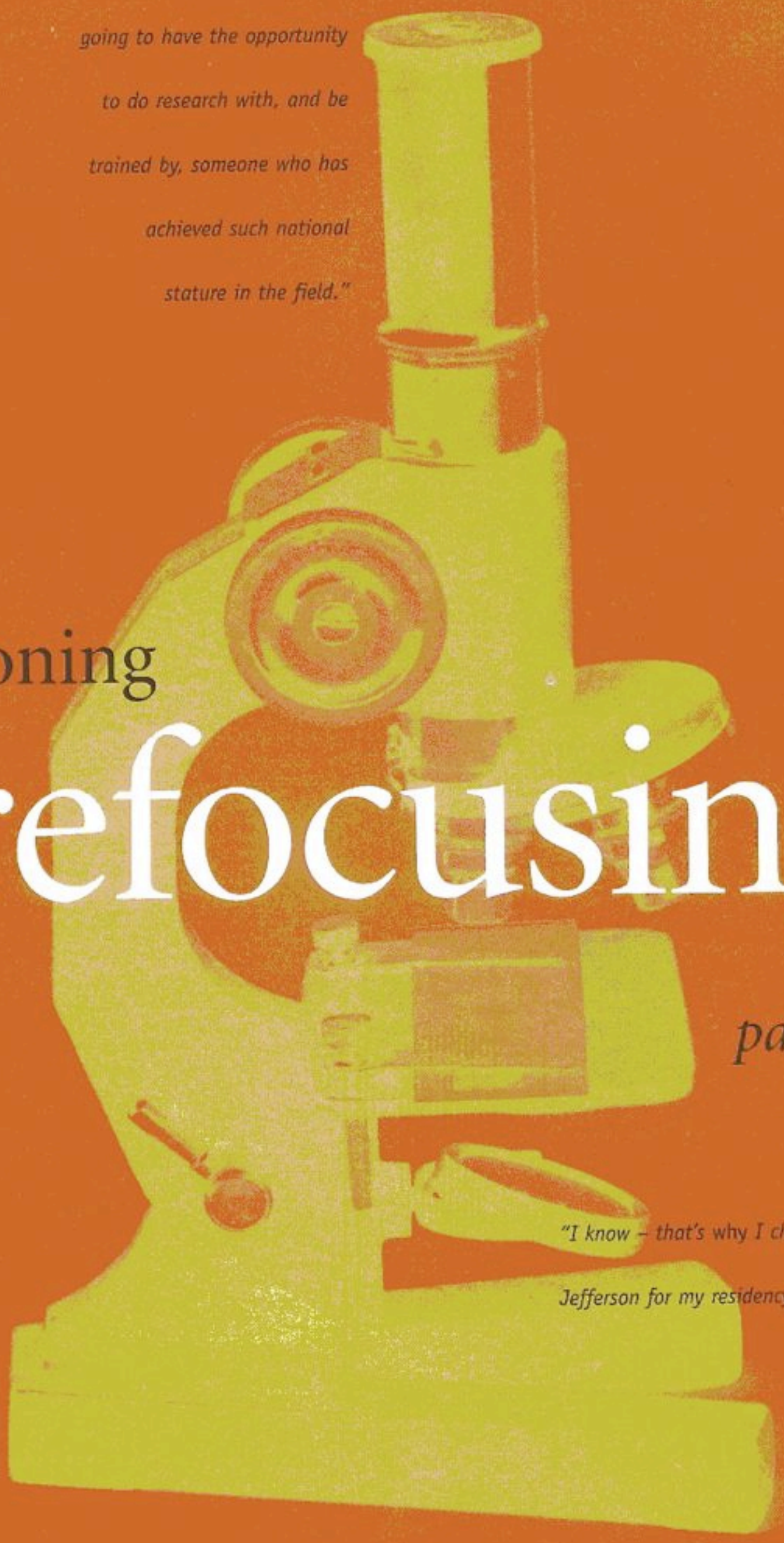
Thomas Jefferson University

new strategies *for a* new environment



Annual Report

"I still can't believe we're going to have the opportunity to do research with, and be trained by, someone who has achieved such national stature in the field."



positioning

refocusing

partnering

"I know – that's why I chose Jefferson for my residency."

Conversation between first-year Jefferson resident and third-year Jefferson resident.

This year inaugurated a new era for Thomas Jefferson University, as we expanded the scope of our research and educational activities, while simultaneously identifying key areas that could be consolidated to maximize service and cost efficiency. Following its legal and business separation from the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in 1996, Thomas Jefferson University has experienced important developments that have left it uniquely well-positioned to concentrate on its primary mission: educating health and bioscience professionals who will influence healthcare reform; providing quality healthcare that is empathetic and cost effective; and improving medicine through technical advancements and attention to the needs of people.

We continue to enhance the mutually supportive relationships between the University, the Hospital, and the Jefferson Health System. Collaboration takes place in board membership; in various corporate functions, such as information systems, purchasing, and financial services; and, of course, in research and educational programs.

Gerald Litwack, PhD,
Associate Dean for Scientific Affairs, Jefferson Medical College.

When an academic health center strengthens **relationships with the biomedical industry** everyone reaps the rewards. A key example is the alliance formed recently between Jefferson and leading pharmaceutical company SmithKline Beecham (SB).

The program stresses emerging classes of drugs aimed at illnesses such as asthma, cardiovascular conditions, diabetes, and inflammatory and neurological diseases. Jefferson's goal of expanding clinical trials activity paralleled a newly widened search by SB for leading medical centers with which to partner.

"The SB agreement marks a major commitment by the University to developing drugs with industry," says **Gerald Litwack, PhD,** Associate Dean for Scientific Affairs, Jefferson Medical College.

As part of the agreement, SB will provide Jefferson with $250,000 to $1 million each year in clinical research grants and will award an annual two-year Faculty Research Grant to stimulate interest by younger physicians in clinical research. Jefferson also has a longstanding relationship with Merck & Co. Inc., and more recently with Rhone-Poulenc Rorer Inc.

To lead Jefferson's overall effort to enhance the future of clinically based research, Dr. Litwack has appointed **Robert L. Capizzi, MD**, the Magee Professor of Medicine and Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Jefferson Medical College, as Director of Jefferson's Clinical Trials Office.

"Basic scientists and clinicians need to work together, to talk enough so that they know each other's roles. That way critical connections are not missed and do not take forever, and . . . ."

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a force for

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"I agree. On this project, we'll put those components together from the start. I know the medical-patient side of this problem, you know the molecular side. If we team from the start, we can move this idea to the bedside faster."

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Rocky S. Tuan, PhD, Professor and Vice Chairman of Orthopaedic Surgery, Director of the Division of Orthopaedic Research, and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Jefferson Medical College, speaks with Eric L. Hume, MD, Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Jefferson Medical College, and Director of the Division of Orthopaedic Trauma Services, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Taking better care of people, making their lives healthier, and helping them live longer means tackling exhaustive amounts of work first. The concept, the strategy, the development, the painstaking years of paper and protocol – of approximations and refinement. But at Jefferson, moving breakthroughs from research to patient care *faster* has become central to investigations.

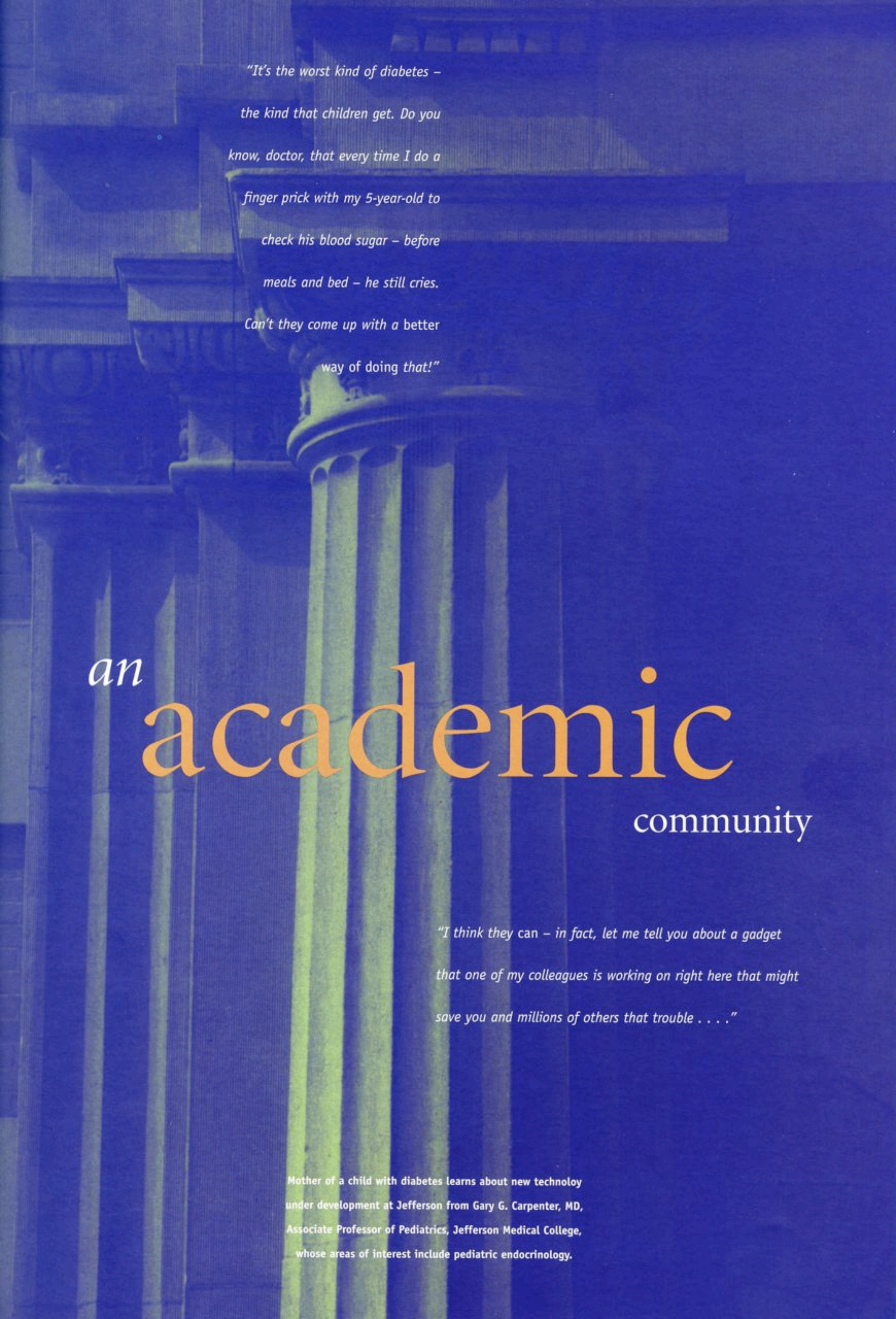
The University's membership in the top echelon of research institutions requires amassing a critical pool of resources and dedication. We must also have the skill and good fortune to recruit highly creative scientists. As a result of Jefferson's success in these areas, the University is producing medical science of which no single report could cover more than a sampling.

One of the strongest themes in Jefferson research in recent years continues to broaden the ability of molecular medicine and genetic research to penetrate to the ultimate causes of illness and begin to affect them.

Conferring with ***Dr. Curran*** *is* ***Dwight Heron, MD,*** *(left) attending radiation oncologist.*

Jefferson provides more and more **scientific leadership,** including to the groups that organize national cooperative trials. For example, **Walter J. Curran Jr., MD,** was elected group chair of the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG), a consortium of American and Canadian university medical centers and community-based programs working to improve outcomes for adults with cancer. Dr. Curran is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology and the Clinical Director of the Kimmel Cancer Center. He co-directs both Jefferson's Brain Tumor Program and Lung Cancer Center. Dr. Curran works closely with **Carlo M. Croce, MD,** Chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and Director of the Kimmel Cancer Institute, the research arm of Kimmel Cancer Center, to ensure that scientific breakthroughs benefit patients as quickly as possible. As one example of Jefferson's participation in cooperative trials, Dr. Curran and a multidisciplinary group of collaborating Jefferson researchers are seeking to determine the most effective sequencing of radiation therapy and chemotherapy to treat lung cancer.

The College of Health Professions' Human Performance Laboratory is a state-of-the-science research facility dedicated to a better understanding of **human movement.** Two full-time faculty in the Physical Therapy Department lead the lab: Director **Lisa Selby-Silverstein, PhD, PT, NCS,** has extensive experience in gait and movement dysfunction, and **Marcus P. Besser, PhD,** is a biomechanical engineer. A fully sponsored research fellowship based in their lab also demonstrates international collaboration with industry. Paromed, a German medical group, funds the fellowship for the purpose of studying that company's innovative system of products for primary prevention of plantar ulcerations in people with diabetes.



Mother of a child with diabetes learns about new technoloy under development at Jefferson from Gary G. Carpenter, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Jefferson Medical College, whose areas of interest include pediatric endocrinology.

If an organization is to be judged by its financial condition, by what codes form its conduct, and by whether it is contributing to a better way of doing things, the University is faring exceptionally well.

Jefferson's solid financial base encourages people to invest their educational and research dollars, to invest their academic time and their careers in an institution that they know will endure. Their accomplishments in turn support the University's stability.

Also at Jefferson, an effective compliance program instills a corporate culture that promotes integrity and ethical behavior. It provides evidence of responsible corporate citizenship that is deserving of continued participation in governmental programs including research funding.

University President ***Paul C. Brucker, MD,*** (standing at left), *with* (from left) ***Jussi J. Saukkonen, MD,*** *Dean, College of Graduate Studies, and Vice President for Science Policy, Technology Development and International Affairs;* ***John P. Sullivan,*** *Vice President for Administration; and* ***Joseph S. Gonnella, MD,*** *Dean, Jefferson Medical College and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.* Seated (from left) *are* ***Richard J. Schmid,*** *Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer;* ***Alan B. Kelly, Esq.,*** *University Counsel;* ***Lawrence Abrams, EdD,*** *Dean, College of Health Professions and Vice President for Student Affairs, and* ***Robert A. Peterson,*** *Vice President for Development.*