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JEFF NEWS

Jefferson's New Surgical Suite Now Open

To help keep pace with the growth of Jefferson's surgical activity, our new operating room suite opened to accept its first patient on October 12.

The completely renovated and expanded surgical suite on the fifth floor of the Foerderer Pavilion contains eight new OR's, instead of the four that formerly occupied the site.

"In addition to doubling the number of rooms, the total suite offers

improved support space such as locker rooms and designated storage for delicate equipment. The new suite also includes a 12-bed post-anesthesia care unit (PACU)," says Susan H. Milner, director of space development for patient programs, hospital administration, who coordinated the project.

Opening of this new facility in renovated space brings the total of Jefferson OR's to 28 and marks the culmination of nearly two years of planning, development and construction.

Francis E. Rosato, MD, The Samuel D. Gross Professor of Surgery and chairman of the department, chaired a physician advisory board charged with overseeing the development and implementation of the new facility. In speaking to the positive impact its opening is expected to bring to both physicians and patients, Dr. Rosato said: "This outstanding new operating suite will go far to meeting Jefferson's increasing surgical demand. Our patients will benefit greatly from this technologically advanced treatment facility."

Hospital Administration Thanks Staff and Employees for Making New Surgical Suite Possible
We Couldn't Have Done It Without You

In expressing thanks and gratitude to all medical, nursing and support staffs whose efforts, patience and flexibility made possible the opening of the new



New Surgical Suite Opens - In one of the eight new operating rooms, which opened October 12 as part of a completely renovated and expanded surgical suite on the fifth floor of the Foerderer Pavilion are, from left, Mary Ann McGinley, RN, MSN, associate executive hospital director and director of nursing; Mary Kehner, RN, nurse manager, operating rooms; Thomas J. Lewis, senior vice president for healthcare administration and chief executive officer for the hospital; Francis E. Rosato, MD, The Samuel D. Gross Professor of Surgery and chairman of the depart-

Robert Nurnal Photography

FEATURE

How Do We Screen Physicians Who Want to Become Jefferson Physicians? Answer: The Office of Medical Staff Affairs

“Our task goes right to the heart of quality care. We want to do everything we can to assure that our medical staff is of the highest caliber,” says Kathleen M. Lombard, RN, CMSC, director of Jefferson’s Office of Medical Staff Affairs.

Question: How is it that we’ve come to depend on the fact that a “Jefferson doctor” is a good doctor? People know that a Jefferson physician is a qualified, skilled clinician. But how do we know that? Who safeguards the hospital’s roster of practitioners, so that only competent doctors care for patients at Jefferson? Welcome to Jefferson’s Office of Medical Staff Affairs, which supports the clinical department chairman and the Credentials Committee in the complicated credentialing process by which physicians gain the privilege of practicing at our hospital.

chairman of the Credentials Committee.

Here’s what happens when a doctor wants to become a Jefferson doctor:

- The physician submits an application that the **Office of Medical Staff Affairs** reviews closely for completeness. Each institution at which the physician has ever trained or practiced is contacted, to confirm all degrees and certifications, to verify tenures and accomplishments, and to ask about any other relevant history. The medical staff office also confirms the practitioner’s licensing and insurance status.

“In addition, we specifically ask about the physicians’ performance and their overall professionalism,” notes Miss Lombard. Further, her office must query the Federal government’s National Practitioner Data Bank, a clearinghouse for information on medical practitioners. (Jefferson, like all hospitals, must report any clinical privilege suspensions, restrictions, or other actions against its own physicians to this source.)

The office rarely uncovers negative information about physicians applying to Jefferson. But, like all good credentialing offices, it must be vigilant



By coordinating the hospital’s physician credentialing process, the Office of Medical Staff Affairs performs one of the most important functions at the University. Here, director Kathleen M. Lombard, RN, CMSC, and assistant Patricia Keevill, MP, consider background information on a physician applying for clinical privileges at Jefferson. Miss Lombard is certified in the specialty of medical staff services and provides leadership in her profession at a state level and, with Mrs. Keevill, at a local level. Victoria Guglielmelli and Joanne Politano also assist Miss Lombard at Jefferson.

- Once the Office of Medical Staff Affairs and the departmental office have passed the application, they prepare a summary that the full **Credentials Committee of the Medical Staff**, chaired by Arthur

only medical-staff provisions in Jefferson’s bylaws that safeguard quality of care. Similarly protecting the hospital, and its doctors and patients, is a formal process that takes effect in the uncommon event of