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# Overview from the Chairman

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## Overview from the Chairman

Dr. Yeo

**Charles J. Yeo, MD**  
Samuel D. Gross Professor and  
Chair, Department of Surgery

These are exciting times at Jefferson! This year we "graduated" five topnotch chief residents, and are welcoming our new PG1 residents.

This issue highlights our growing solid organ transplant program, now headed by Dr. Cataldo Doria. Our liver and pancreas volumes continue to grow, and our kidney program remains sound. In the vascular surgery arena, endovascular stent grafts and a multidisciplinary approach to aortic disease are offered in our aortic program, directed by Dr. Joseph Lombardi.

Please join us in welcoming several new members to the surgical team — Dr. Thomas d'Amato (Thoracic Surgery), Dr. Francis E. Rosato Jr. (General and Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery) and Jennifer Brumbaugh, MA (Webmaster & Editor of this newsletter).

Lastly, we are delighted to feature the sixth Samuel D. Gross Professor, and Chairman of Surgery for over two decades, Dr. Francis E. Rosato Sr. Dr. Rosato contributed to the education of hundreds of Jefferson residents and medical students, and has provided us, as part of his legacy, with two stellar faculty members, Drs. Ernest (Gary) and Francis E. Rosato Jr.



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**Dr. John Moore stresses the importance of refining surgical techniques and encouraging the research endeavors of young surgeons.**

## Trends in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

**A**s a teaching hospital, Jefferson benefits from being on the cutting edge of the latest techniques and technologies, including in the area of plastic and reconstructive surgery. Clinical Professor, John H. Moore Jr., MD, explains that part of the Jefferson philosophy is to encourage research among the residents, as surgeons move toward increasingly effective techniques that draw upon the body’s own tissues.

“With breast implants, for example, we were doing a TRAM-flap procedure, using tissue from the abdominal wall,” Dr. Moore explains, “Now we have switched to using a latissimus dorsi flap (from the back), which seems to be even safer with fewer complications and without sacrificing the final result.” Jefferson residents and college students are now compiling data from more than 700 patients as part of a 10-year study by the Department of Surgery evaluating the safety of this newer procedure.

The use of stem cells is another trend that has begun to show considerable promise, as the cells can be grown into bone, cartilage and fat in any desired shape. In breast

augmentation, natural tissues do not cause the local scarring that can be associated with saline and silicone implants, although this use is currently experimental. For reconstructive surgery, stem cell tissue maintains its shape and size more effectively than conventional soft tissue implants. In

2003, former Jefferson resident Stephanie Houser Catterson, MD, won the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery’s Anastasi Award for her work on stem cells. She and her husband, E. J. Catterson MD, PhD, also a

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Jefferson alumnus, conducted research on the ability to propagate stem cells into soft tissues such as bone, cartilage and muscle. Both are now surgical fellows at Harvard.

Further research in this area continues at Jefferson under the direction of Dr. Moore’s young colleague Gary Tuma, MD. “We hope to design a method to develop tissue-engineered fat-derived stem cells for soft tissue augmentation,” says Dr. Tuma. While more research is needed, he hopes for funding that will allow him to open a tissue engineering lab at Jefferson in early 2007.

Dr. Moore points out the benefits of the diverse research interests of Jefferson’s Plastic Surgery faculty. “We are training the next generation of surgeons to be even better,” he says, “and are always striving for a new standard of excellence.”

*Please welcome*

### MEET OUR SURGICAL INTERNS

Jefferson surgeons are currently assisted by an exceptional group of categorical interns. The interns are pictured with the original Gross operating table and portrait of Dr. John H. Gibbon Jr. These doctors, who recently matched with Jefferson, started on July 1, 2006 (l to r):

Jason Comeau, MD, Jefferson Medical College; Alex Arriaga, MD, Cornell University Medical College; Sarah Fernandez, MD, University of Miami School of Medicine;



Robert Adamo, MD, SUNY Downstate Medical School; Nathan Richards, MD, University of Utah School of Medicine; David Rittenhouse, MD, Jefferson Medical College

We are also pleased to welcome Jefferson graduates: Peter Amenta, MD, Avi Galler, MD and Melissa Lasar, MD as preliminary general surgery interns.