

TEMPLE HEALTH SCIENCES News Digest

For all faculty, physicians, students and staff of Temple's healthcare enterprise.

Futuristic Operating Rooms Open at TUH

Hybrid ORs and 3-D Robotic ORs Enhance Care

Recently, the hospital debuted the world's most advanced 3-D Robotic OR Suite and the first of two "Hybrid" Operating Rooms.

Setting a New Standard in Robotics

Temple's new twin robotic operating rooms allow two robotic surgeries to be performed simultaneously by surgeons at separate consoles inside the shared observation/control room. There are 3-D monitors throughout the ORs, as well as the observation and control rooms. Those monitors give all members of the surgical team and observers the "view of the surgeon."

"There is nothing like this anywhere else right now," says **Daniel Eun, MD**, Vice Chief of Robotic Surgery at TUH. "These are the most sophisticated robotic operating rooms in the world."

The new ORs will accommodate multiple surgical specialties including cardiac, urology, gynecology, thoracic, otolaryngology, transplant and hepatobiliary, and general surgery. The new robotic operating rooms also have the capability to feed live video to remote locations, including sites within the School of Medicine and a state-of-the-art conference room down the hall from the ORs.

"The twin robotic operating rooms were designed specifically with patient safety and education in mind. From the large observation room to the 3-D monitors, Temple is setting a new standard in robotic surgery," said Dr. Eun.

Hybrid OR: Two Rooms in One

The spacious hybrid OR combines the imaging and diagnostic functions of a cath lab with the surgical functions of a traditional OR.

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Daniel Eun, MD, operates on a patient in the new twin robotic operating rooms.



World Class: Not an Exaggeration

I'm very proud to announce that Temple Health now offers the most advanced robotic operating suite in the *world* – one of the latest examples of how we are translating our growth strategies into results that will solidify the long-term success of our thriving healthcare enterprise. *(See article on this page.)*

Temple University Hospital's new twin robotic ORs feature the latest dual-console da Vinci SI Surgical Systems and an observation area equipped with 3-D viewing capability – something not currently available anywhere else. Temple's 3-D capability for external observers enhances medical education and permits greater flexibility among all members of the surgical team, offering unparalleled visualization of surgical procedures.

We are truly setting a new standard in robotic surgery and training with this new OR suite, while increasing our capacity to offer a growing range of robotic procedures across many surgical specialties. The new suite, together with our recently-opened Robotic Surgical Training Center, means that when physicians throughout the world think about robotic surgery, they will think of Temple.

We've also opened the first of two new Hybrid ORs at TUH, integrating a state-of-the-art surgical suite with advanced imaging capabilities that can be performed without interruption and without moving the patient, allowing us to perform procedures that are available at very few medical centers in the U.S.

Stay tuned – our expansion has only begun.

Sincerely,

Larry R. Kaiser, MD, FACS

Senior Executive Vice President for Health Sciences, Temple University

Dean, Temple University School of Medicine

President & CEO, Temple University Health System



(continued from page 1)

Futuristic Operating Rooms Open at TUH

The blending of technology allows physicians to perform procedures in the same room and treat multiple medical issues at the same time – an approach designed to limit extra procedures, reduce hospital stays and lower the chances of complications.

“Today’s surgical environment is rapidly evolving, with interventional treatments and surgeries often overlapping,” says **Eric Choi, MD**, Chief of Vascular Surgery at Temple and the surgeon who will perform many of his procedures in the hybrid room.

“Interventional procedures are now used to treat increasingly complex problems, while surgery is becoming less invasive,” he continues. “This means that endovascular and open procedures are often being combined in ‘hybrid’ procedures. This merger has created a need for a new type of OR – a room that can easily adapt to a variety of procedures.”

In the hybrid OR, physicians can use advanced, intra-operative image guidance – such as CT scanning, angiography and echocardiography – to monitor blood flow and other anatomical processes during surgery.

“Having this advanced imaging available without interrupting a procedure or having to move the patient enhances the safety and efficiency of our care,” says Dr. Choi.

“Now, we can keep the patient in one place while physicians from various specialties work side by side.”

– Dr. Choi

Initially, the new hybrid OR will focus primarily on vascular procedures such as thoracic and abdominal aortic aneurysm repair and peripheral artery revascularization. The room, as well as a second hybrid OR which is scheduled to open later this year, will also be used by cardiac, trauma and general surgeons, as well as by cardiologists, interventional radiologists and anesthesiologists.



Eric Choi, MD, performs sophisticated procedures in the new Hybrid OR.

Study Evaluates Use of Novel Stem Cell Inhibitor for Treatment of Metastatic Breast Cancer



Dr. Lori Goldstein

Whether or not a metastatic breast cancer patient’s tumor cells contain an abundance of a protein called HER2 (Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor) helps determine the best treatment—but for those patients with HER2-negative breast cancer, treatment options may be few and far between.

That’s why researchers, like Fox Chase Cancer Center medical oncologist **Lori J. Goldstein, MD**, have been looking at reparixin—a new drug that targets breast cancer stem cells. Unlike many drugs that are administered intravenously in a clinic setting, reparixin is an oral drug that can be taken at home.

Studies have shown that reparixin reduces the presence of breast cancer stem cells—which have the ability to grow into any of the multiple types of cells found in a tumor—and the spread of disease. Following up on those results, Dr. Goldstein launched a pilot trial of the drug to assess the safety of dosage.

“It’s encouraging to see that, thus far, the combination of the oral drug reparixin has added no additional side effects to the standard medication, paclitaxel,” says Dr. Goldstein. “Rationally-designed studies targeting breast cancer stem cells are a promising strategy to improve the management of breast cancer.”



Congratulations, Class of 2013!

Two former Alaskan commercial fisherman, an award-winning guitarist, a former wildland firefighter, and dozens of other unique and accomplished young men and women graduated from Temple University School of Medicine on May 17.

The School's 111th commencement, held in the Academy of Music on Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts, was electric with the exuberance of 189 students who earned the doctor of medicine degree; two who earned a dual doctor of medicine and doctor of philosophy degree; 18, the doctor of philosophy degree; and 13 the Master of Science degree – amid much cheering and applause.

Larry R. Kaiser, MD, FACS, Dean of the School of Medicine and President & CEO of Temple University Health System, reminded the new graduates of the profound rewards and responsibilities of medicine.

"Perfect strangers will entrust you with their lives," he said. "Whatever changes may occur in how we pay for care or deliver healthcare in this country, nothing is more important than that truly sacred doctor-patient bond."

"We must work to enhance access to care, control costs, and improve quality—to provide the best possible care for our fellow citizens," he said.

Echoing the recent promotional campaign for Temple University, Dean Kaiser noted: "You are all Temple Med and Temple Made."

"We must work to enhance access to care, control costs, and improve quality – to provide the best possible care for our fellow citizens."
– Dr. Larry Kaiser



Dean Larry Kaiser, MD, FACS, presided over the ceremony.



Maureen Daly Moore, MD '13, with the faculty member to whom the Class dedicated its yearbook: her father, John M. Daly, MD, Emeritus Dean of Temple University School of Medicine.

Caring for a Diverse Population with Cultural Sensitivity

Over 100 Temple Health physicians, nurses and staff attended a Cultural Competence in Healthcare Symposium. Held at the Temple Administrative Services Building, the full-day conference delved into the intricacies of diversity in the patient population, and offered insights into the ways in which culturally-sensitive care can help to overcome persistent disparities in healthcare.

"It is a universal truth that all citizens of the United States are to be granted the right to have healthcare matters presented in a culturally sensitive way," said **Curtis Miyamoto, MD**, Chair of Radiation Oncology, in his welcoming message at the symposium.

"The need to be sensitive extends beyond ethnic differences. Patient-centered care requires careful presentation that understands the situation at hand," Miyamoto explained. "For example, patients of certain ethnicities desire to have extended family members deeply involved in a medical process, while others may do everything they can to avoid hospitals. It is important to be cognizant of these dissimilarities and know how to adapt to them effectively."

"We were probably the first hospital to provide education on the newly issued Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards," noted **Sherry Mazer**, Regulatory Officer for Temple University Health System.



TUHS Cultural Competency Symposium Planning Committee members (from left to right): Leticia Domingo, Edgardo Jaminola, Lucia Tono-Ramirez, Leslie Garrett, Kathy Smith, Sherry Mazer, Gloria Sonnesso, Angel Pagán, Curtis Miyamoto, MD, and Evelyn González. Not pictured: Marisol Davila, Raquel Diaz, and Denise Frasca.



NIH Director Visits Temple

The Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) recently spent a day at Temple University School of Medicine as part of a self-described “listening tour.” Gary Gibbons, MD, a Harvard-trained cardiologist who grew up in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, assumed his position with the NHLBI in 2012.

Dr. Gibbons oversees the third-largest institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), with an annual budget of more than \$3 billion and a staff of nearly 1,000 employees. The NHLBI provides global leadership for research, training, and education programs to promote the prevention and treatment of heart, lung, and blood diseases.

While at Temple, Dr. Gibbons spent the morning sitting in on scientific presentations by medical school investigators. He later provided a

45-minute overview about the NHLBI and its future to about 100 Temple physicians and researchers.

During his presentation, Dr. Gibbons covered a variety of topics, including the effect the sequester has had on the NHLBI budget, the importance of promoting diversity in the research ranks, the need for the healthcare industry to embrace the digital revolution, and the exciting medical advances he feels are within reach in the near future.

“It was an honor to welcome Dr. Gibbons to Temple and share with him news of the work we are doing here, as well as hear his thoughts on the current state of affairs within the medical research community and the NHLBI,” said **Arthur Feldman, MD, PhD**, Executive Dean of TUSM and Chief Academic Officer for TUHS.



(Left to right): Dr. Larry Kaiser, Dr. Gary Gibbons and Dr. Arthur Feldman.

Taking Aim at Stroke Care

*TUH and Jeanes Hospital Honored
by the American Heart Association*

To treat stroke – a notoriously wily affliction that can mimic other ailments and present subtle symptoms – Temple University Hospital and Jeanes Hospital have each developed effective, multidisciplinary stroke programs to get treatment to patients when time is most precious.

The American Heart Association recently granted the stroke programs at each hospital the Get With the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award, its highest recognition of the commitment and success of hospitals in using nationally-accepted guidelines to provide a higher standard of care in treating stroke patients. This award recognizes better than 85 percent compliance in Stroke Core Measures for a consistent two-year period – signifying exceptional efforts that foster better outcomes for stroke patients.



Leaders from the Jeanes Hospital stroke program gather in the courtyard to receive their Get With the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association.



Accepting the Gold Plus Award on behalf of the TUH stroke team are (left to right) Temple Neurologist and Stroke Director Paul Katz, MD; Neurology Nurse Manager Marie Ciceron, RN; and Stroke Coordinator Juliet Thomas, RN.

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Community Health Workers Help Educate Seniors



(Left to right): Temple Community Health Workers Kareem Stephenson, Tiara Parker, Pamela Sutton and Desiray Savage.

"On a scale of one to 10, this is a 10. It's the part of my job I love the most...community outreach."

Just over three months into her job as a Community Health Worker at Temple, 30-year old **Tiara Parker** is fully immersed in her role and using what she's learned to help improve the health of the community she is now tasked with serving.

She and three other Community Health Workers—**Kareem Stephenson**, **Pamela Sutton** and **Desiray Savage**—recently gave a presentation at the senior center at the Lutheran Settlement House in Kensington. During their visit, they educated three dozen seniors about the role of a Community Health Worker, the significance of patients being active in their healthcare, and the importance of reading nutrition labels in helping to combat or control diabetes.

In late 2012, these four were part of the first graduating class of Temple's comprehensive Community Health Worker training program. They now hold jobs as Community Health Workers within the Temple University Health

System. The workers help improve patient compliance, serve as liaisons between patients and their primary-care physicians, and play a critical role in helping to reduce hospital readmission rates and unnecessary ED visits.

Kareem Stephenson works in the ED at TUH, but says he also enjoys getting out into the community to share the knowledge he's gained to help people like the seniors at the Lutheran Settlement House. "We can empower them to be more proactive about their healthcare decisions," said Stephenson.

The impact of the presentation was evident when one senior in the audience sought out Parker afterwards to discuss the problems she has in remembering to take her medications. Parker offered suggestions to help and urged her to not be embarrassed to discuss it with her doctor.

The presentation was the latest in a string of successes for Temple's Community Health Worker Program. And the program is growing. The second class began its training in May.



Team Temple Marches for Healthy Babies

Employees, family, and friends represented Team Temple at the April 28 "March for Babies" Walk, which began at the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum and proceeded along the Schuylkill River.

Money raised by Team Temple will support March of Dimes, which is celebrating 75 years of commitment to the health of all babies through research and programs that help moms have full-term pregnancies, help babies begin healthy lives, and bring comfort to families with newborns.

Team Temple is proud to play its part in advancing the goal that every baby be healthy at the starting line of life!

Team Dashes for Organ Donor Awareness

A team of Temple employees, transplant patients and family members laced up their walking and running shoes on April 21 for the 18th Annual Dash for Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness, which included a 3K walk, a 5K run and a 10K run. All proceeds support programs to educate the public about the importance of organ and tissue donation as well as the Gift of Life Family House.



Members of the Temple Organ Donor Dash team included (from left) Yoshiya Toyoda, MD, PhD, Vice Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery and Surgical Director of Heart and Lung Transplantation; Bob Burke, CICU Nurse Manager at TUH; and Rene Alvarez, MD, Vice Chair of Cardiology and Medical Director of the Heart Failure/Cardiac Transplantation Program.



60 Temple Physicians Named "Top Doctors" by *Philadelphia* Magazine

Sixty Temple physicians have been named to *Philadelphia* magazine's annual "Top Doctors" list. Nominated by their professional peers, the physicians on the list practice at Temple University Hospital, Fox Chase Cancer Center and Jeanes Hospital.

"We are proud of the 60 physicians named to *Philadelphia* magazine's 'Top Doctors' list this year," said **Larry R. Kaiser, MD, FACS**, President and CEO of Temple University Health System and Dean of Temple University School of Medicine. "The listed physicians, who represent more than two dozen specialty areas, provide some of the most innovative treatments and therapies available to patients today. Together with their healthcare teams, they are bringing patient-care to a new level of excellence."



- S. Ausim Azizi, MD, PhD** – *Neurology*
- Marcia C. Boraas, MD** – *Surgery*
- Michael E. Bromberg, MD, PhD** – *Medical Oncology*
- Robert A. Burger, MD** – *Gynecologic Oncology*
- Ashwin J. Chatwani, MD** – *Obstetrics & Gynecology*
- David Y. T. Chen, MD** – *Urology*
- Eric T. Choi, MD** – *Vascular Surgery*
- Marcin A. Chwistek, MD** – *Pain Medicine*
- Gary S. Cohen, MD** – *Vascular & Interventional Radiology*
- Howard A. Cohen, MD** – *Interventional Cardiology*
- Gerard J. Criner, MD, FACP, FACC** – *Pulmonary Disease*
- Paul G. Curcillo, MD** – *Surgery*
- Gilbert D'Alonzo, DO** – *Pulmonary Disease*
- Mary B. Daly, MD, PhD** – *Medical Oncology*
- Hormoz Ehya, MD** – *Pathology*
- Scott H. Faro, MD** – *Neuroradiology*
- Paul R. Forfia, MD** – *Cardiovascular Disease*
- Amy J. Goldberg, MD, FACS** – *Surgery*
- Lori J. Goldstein, MD** – *Medical Oncology*
- Richard E. Greenberg, MD** – *Urology*
- T. Sloane Guy, MD, MBA** – *Thoracic & Cardiac Surgery*

- Oleh Haluszka, MD** – *Gastroenterology*
- Sean P. Harbison, MD, FACS** – *Surgery*
- Shelley B. Hayes, MD** – *Radiation Oncology*
- Enrique Hernandez, MD** – *Gynecologic Oncology*
- John P. Hoffman, MD** – *Surgery*
- Eric M. Horwitz, MD** – *Radiation Oncology*
- Gary R. Hudes, MD** – *Medical Oncology*
- Lawrence I. Kaplan, MD, FACP** – *Internal Medicine*
- Paul S. Karlin, DO** – *Pulmonary Disease*
- Earl D. King, MD** – *Pulmonary Disease*
- Stephanie A. King, MD** – *Gynecologic Oncology*
- Miriam N. Lango, MD** – *Otolaryngology*
- Douglas W. Laske, MD** – *Neurological Surgery*
- Michael H. Levy, MD, PhD** – *Hospice & Palliative Medicine*
- Bennett Lorber, MD, MACP** – *Infectious Disease*
- Kenneth F. Mangan, MD, FACP** – *Hematology*
- Barton N. Milestone, MD** – *Diagnostic Radiology*
- Michael M. Millenson, MD** – *Hematology*
- Curtis T. Miyamoto, MD** – *Radiation Oncology*
- Mark A. Morgan, MD, FACOG, FACS** – *Gynecologic Oncology*
- Beth Moughan, MD** – *Pediatrics*

- Rosaleen B. Parsons, MD** – *Diagnostic Radiology*
- Arthur S. Patchefsky, MD** – *Pathology*
- Michel A. Pontari, MD** – *Urology*
- William R. Reinus, MD, MBA, FACR** – *Diagnostic Radiology*
- John (Drew) A. Ridge, MD, PhD, FACS** – *Surgery*
- Andrew B. Roberts, MD** – *Vascular Surgery*
- Walter J. Scott, MD, FACS** – *Thoracic & Cardiac Surgery*
- Elin R. Sigurdson, MD, PhD, FACS** – *Surgery*
- Ahmed M. Soliman, MD** – *Otolaryngology*
- Ellen M. Tedaldi, MD** – *Internal Medicine*
- Joseph J. Thoder, MD** – *Hand Surgery*
- Neal S. Topham, MD, FACS** – *Plastic Surgery*
- Michael Unger, MD, FACP, FCCP** – *Pulmonary Disease*
- Robert G. Uzzo, MD, FACS** – *Urology*
- Margaret von Mehren, MD** – *Medical Oncology*
- David S. Weinberg, MD, MSc** – *Gastroenterology*
- Michael M. Weinik, DO** – *Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*
- F. Todd Wetzel, MD** – *Orthopaedic Surgery*



Strength of Temple Research Showcased at International Conference

Study Finds that Race and Gender Influence Diagnosis of COPD

African-Americans are less likely than whites, and women are more likely than men, to have had a prior diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) regardless of their current disease severity, according to a new study presented at the American Thoracic Society (ATS) International Conference, held May 17-22, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.



Dr. A. James Mamary

"Race and gender are known to affect the diagnosis and treatment of a number of diseases," said lead author **A. James Mamary, MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine at Temple University School of Medicine. "In our study of almost 9,000 patients, race and gender were associated with significant disparities in the prevalence of prior

COPD diagnosis across all stages of actual current disease severity.

"The under-diagnosis and potential under-treatment of COPD among African Americans that we detected in our study is cause for concern," Dr. Mamary added. "Future research should focus on the factors underlying the race and gender disparities that we found."

Temple's Strength in Advancing Medicine

In addition to Dr. Mamary's study, 43 other Temple researchers presented their findings at the ATS Conference, an annual gathering of the world's leaders in pulmonary, critical-care and sleep medicine.

"The sheer bulk and breadth of the presentations by Temple physicians, nurses, PhDs, fellows and residents illustrates the commitment of Temple to be at the forefront of clinical care, research and education of lung disease," said **Gerard J. Criner, MD**, Chairman of the Department of Medicine and Director of the nationally-recognized Temple Lung Center.

Temple's Premed Post-Bacc Program Celebrates a Milestone



First class Tee-shirts for the first class! Nine new Temple medical school graduates who were part of the first post-bacc program stand alongside Grace Hershman, Program Director (far right) and Dr. John Daly (second from right).

On May 15, a crowd gathered at the medical school to celebrate 14 students about to earn their MD degrees at Temple. The 14 began their journey together in 2008 as members of Temple's newly launched premedical post-baccalaureate program.

A non-degree program designed to help students' gain admission to medical school, the year-long post-bacc program offers two tracks: a Basic Core for Career Changers, applicants who haven't taken the basic science courses required for medical school admission, and an Advanced Core for Academic Enhancement, for applicants wishing to augment their existing credentials.

"Other institutions offer similar programs," says **Audrey Uknis, MD**, Senior Associate Dean for Admissions and Strategy, "but Temple's program has the unique distinction of offering conditional admission into our medical school."

"We save a seat in medical school for every student who achieves a 3.5 GPA and a Medical College Admission Test score of 30, with no score below 8," she explains.

No other post-bacc program does this – which helps to explain its growing popularity. The program attracts more than 1,300 applicants annually for 56 spots. To date, 91 percent of all the students accepted into the program have been accepted into Temple medical school — and on May 17, the inaugural group of 14 received their medical doctorate degrees.

One of them, Dr. Maureen Daly Moore, said, "To know from day one that there's a place for you in medical school is incredibly motivating."

Another motivating factor for Maureen is her dad: **John M. Daly, MD**. It was under his auspices as Temple medical school's dean (2003-2008) that the post-baccalaureate program was launched. Like her dad, Maureen plans to pursue a career in surgery.

"This is a special milestone for our program," said program director **Grace Hershman**. "Our first group is now graduating from medical school, and we are enormously proud."



Temple Emergency Physicians Lead Medical Team for “Broad Street Run”



Temple Emergency Medicine clinicians who helped treat racers at this year’s Broad Street Run.

Although attending physicians and residents from Temple Emergency Medicine have been a part of the Broad Street Run medical team for at least 10 years, this year’s race was different.

“This year’s race was held in the shadow of the Boston Marathon bombing,” says **Ernest Yeh, MD**, Chief of the Division of EMS in the Department of Emergency Medicine at TUH and the volunteer Medical Director of the Broad Street Run medical tent since 2003.

“The biggest difference from other years was the significant increase in law enforcement presence. There were several agencies involved, including Philadelphia Police, Bomb Squad, SWAT as well as the Department of Homeland Security.”

More than 40,000 runners participated in this year’s race. The medical team at the finish line treated approximately 65 runners, a typical number, according to Dr. Yeh.

In addition to the Temple Emergency Medicine physicians, long-time race volunteer **Howard Palamarchuk, DPM**, Director of Sports Medicine

at the Temple School of Podiatric Medicine, and a team of podiatry students also cared for patients in the finish line tent.



Alvin Wang, DO, (left) Medical Director for the Temple Transport Team (T3), and Ernest Yeh, MD, Chief of the Division of EMS in the Department of Emergency Medicine at TUH and the volunteer Medical Director of the Broad Street Run medical tent.

Communications/Marketing Teams Win Awards

The Temple Health Communications and Marketing Departments recently won Healthcare Advertising Awards in the following categories:

- Gold Award for the TUH YouTube Channel
- Gold Award for the Temple Health “Transformation” video
- Bronze Award for the “Transformation” television ad
- Bronze Award for the Jeanes Hospital “Health Matters” community newsletter
- Merit Award for TUH’s “Temple Talk” newsletter
- Merit Award for the “Broad and Beyond” special insert in the *Philadelphia Business Journal*

Nearly 4,000 entries were received in this year’s competition, making it one of the world’s largest healthcare advertising awards competitions. The awards are sponsored by *Healthcare Marketing Report*, the leading publication covering all aspects of healthcare marketing, advertising and strategic business development.





Temple's Center for Asian Health Joins with Chinese Restaurants to Battle Hypertension

Temple University's Center for Asian Health (CAH), in partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, the Asian Community Health Coalition, and the Greater Philadelphia Chinese Restaurant Association, is spearheading an initiative aimed at salt reduction to prevent hypertension in the city.

The study aims to decrease hypertension-related mortality rates by working with Philadelphia's Chinese take-out restaurants to reduce the amount of sodium in their food by 10 to 15 percent. Many Chinese dishes contain large amounts of sodium mainly due to the sauces used in food preparation and cooking.

Grace X. Ma, PhD, director of the CAH and a professor at the College of Health Professions and Social Work's Department of Public Health, is the principal investigator for the Philadelphia Healthy Chinese Take-out Initiative.

"There are more than 400 Chinese restaurants throughout the city of Philadelphia," said Dr. Ma. "Many are located in communities that have a particularly high incidence rate of hypertension. By targeting these areas in our overall study, we can have a strong impact on at-risk communities."

To date, 221 restaurants have been recruited to participate in the initiative. Preliminary results are promising, according to Dr. Ma.

"Our first cohort shows a 20 percent decrease in sodium content comparing the lab results of pre- and post-tests six months following the intervention," she said. "At the three-, six- and 15-month point following initial intervention, we are following up with each participating restaurant to check compliance."

Excess sodium intake increases the risk of developing high blood pressure, which affects nearly 40 percent of adults and 47 percent of African Americans in Philadelphia. The average American consumes twice the recommended daily amount of sodium, mostly from processed and restaurant foods. The initiative is comprised of several approaches, and includes working with Chinese restaurants and training chefs to cook menu items in new ways that preserve taste and reduce sodium.

Funding for this initiative is provided by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Get Healthy Philly, part of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health.



Grace X. Ma, PhD, (first row, third from left) with restaurant chefs who have completed training in new Chinese cooking approaches as part of a project aimed at preventing hypertension.

PA Heart and Vascular Group Affiliates with Temple

Pennsylvania Heart and Vascular, an active 20-person cardiology group practice based in Jenkintown and Northeast Philadelphia, is now affiliated with Temple Health. The newly-named **Pennsylvania Heart and Vascular – Temple Health** (PAHV-TH) practice will be part of Temple Physicians, Inc. – the Health System's expanding network of community-based primary-care and specialty physicians.

With this affiliation, PAHV-TH cardiologists will continue to provide high-quality cardiac care to patients in their own communities, and be able to offer patients convenient access to the full spectrum of high-end cardiac services available through the Temple Heart & Vascular Center. Such services include participation in innovative clinical trials of advanced medical and surgical therapies, minimally-invasive and robotic cardiac surgical procedures, as well as ventricular-assist device implantation and/or heart transplantation.

This new affiliation will also encourage and support collaborative research efforts between the cardiac specialists of PAHV-TH and Temple Heart & Vascular Center.



Dr. Daniel Edmudowicz, Chief of Cardiology and Director of Temple Heart & Vascular Center (middle) meets with PAHV-TV specialists Dr. William Haaz (left) and Dr. Steven Mattelman (right).

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RECOGNITIONS

Curtis Miyamoto, MD, Elected President of Philadelphia County Medical Society

Curtis Miyamoto, MD, Professor and Chair of Radiation Oncology at Temple since 2000, was recently installed as the 152nd President of the Philadelphia County Medical Society (PCMS). He was elected by his peers and will serve a one-year term.



Curtis Miyamoto, MD

Dr. Miyamoto has been a member of PCMS and the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) since 2002. He has served on the PCMS Board of Directors as past Treasurer, past Delegate-at-Large and President-Elect. Dr. Miyamoto has also served as mentor for the PCMS Medical Student Section and is currently a Delegate to the PAMED House of Delegates.

Faculty Elected to NIH Study Sections

Two Temple University School of Medicine faculty members have been elected to prestigious posts as members of National Institutes of Health (NIH) study sections: **Joseph Cheung, MD, PhD**, and **Xiao-Feng Yang, MD, PhD**.

To serve on an NIH study section, members must be seasoned experts in their scientific disciplines with noted research accomplishments, publication records, and scientific honors. Study section members review grant applications submitted to the NIH from investigators all over the country, make recommendations on the applications to national advisory councils, and survey the status of research in their fields.

Dr. Cheung, who is Professor of Medicine and Senior Associate Dean for Research, has been elected to the NIH Electrophysiology, Signal Transduction and Arrhythmias Study Section. Dr. Yang, who has been elected to the NIH's Atherosclerosis and Inflammation of the Cardiovascular Systems Study Section, is Professor, Pharmacology; Professor, Cardiovascular Research Center; and Professor, Sol Sherry Thrombosis Research Center.



Joseph Cheung, MD, PhD

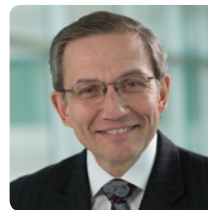


Xiao-Feng Yang, MD, PhD

Robert Lux Named "CFO to Know"

Robert H. Lux, CPA, FHFMA, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Temple University Health System, has been named one of the top "Hospital and Health System CFOs to Know" in the nation by *Becker's Hospital Review*. The 125 financial experts on the list help lead renowned healthcare organizations in all financial matters while balancing quality patient care and innovative healthcare reform strategies.

"I am pleased to be recognized with this national honor, which is a testament to the outstanding work being done by countless people at Temple in providing excellent, cutting edge patient care while maintaining a cost-effective approach to providing that care," said Lux.



Robert H. Lux

Lux is responsible for financial reporting, budgeting, cash and debt management, payroll, managed care contracting, information technology, revenue cycle, financial planning, decision support and investment management for the \$1.4 billion dollar academic health system.

Dr. Verdi DiSesa Named Deputy Editor for The Annals of Thoracic Surgery

Verdi J. DiSesa, MD, MBA, Chief Operating Officer of Temple University Health System, Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs and Professor of Surgery for Temple University School of Medicine, and Interim CEO of Fox Chase Cancer Center, has been chosen by the *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery* to serve as Deputy Editor for Original Articles. As the official journal of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association – two of the largest American associations in its specialty, *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery* receives approximately 3,700 manuscripts per year and maintains rigorous selection standards, providing original coverage of cutting-edge developments in chest and cardiovascular surgery and related fields. Now nearing 50 years of publication, the journal's steady growth necessitated a restructuring of the review process to include seven deputy editors covering original, feature, and special articles, as well as its online journal CME.



Verdi J. DiSesa, MD, MBA

SUBMIT STORY IDEAS

Please submit story ideas about academic, clinical, research and community-service activities and/or awards and honors to:

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