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HEALTH CARE

Pharma's million-dollar doctors club

Payments came from consulting and promotion. But there is little to show that patients were concerned.

IN BUSINESS

► Across the U.S., more than 700 doctors earned at least \$1M from drug and device companies in the last five years. **C1**

This story used data from ProPublica's Dollars for Docs database.

By **Aubrey Whelan and Sarah Gantz**
STAFF WRITERS

Over the course of five years, pharmaceutical and medical device companies paid 76 doctors in the Philadelphia region more than \$500,000 each to consult on or promote their products, an analysis of federal data by The Inquirer and ProPublica has found.

Nearly two-dozen area doctors, among them some of the region's most prominent health-care leaders, received more than \$1 million in such industry payments. That group includes Julia Haller, the ophthalmologist-in-chief at Wills Eye Hospital and a

board member for the biotechnology company Celgene, which paid her \$2.1 million between 2014 and 2018. She also chairs the Department of Ophthalmology at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, an institution that figures prominently on the payments list.

Stephen Klasko, the president of Thomas Jefferson University and CEO of Jefferson Health, was reported to have earned \$1 million in industry payments over that five-year stretch, the bulk of which stemmed from his position on the board of Teleflex, a medical device company with headquarters in Wayne.

Serge Jabbour, director of endocrinology at Jefferson, received more than \$1.6 million. See **PAYMENTS** on A2



Julia A. Haller, ophthalmologist-in-chief at Wills Eye Hospital, was paid \$2.1M by a biotech firm on whose board she sits.



Steven K. Klasko, CEO of Jefferson Health, was reported to have earned \$1M in industry payments, the bulk of that from one firm.

COWBOYS 37 | EAGLES 10

Dallas Debacle



Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz fumbles on a sack by the Cowboys' DeMarcus Lawrence during the first quarter. Wentz was sacked three times in the first half. Complete coverage in **Sports, Section D**. YONG KIM / Staff Photographer

Like Pederson's guarantee, Eagles come up empty.



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ARLINGTON, Texas — Doug Pederson coaches the Eagles, but he's eating crow today.

Pederson spent the last week defending and explaining and walking back his promise that his 3-3 Eagles would beat the 3-3 Cowboys at AT&T Stadium on Sunday night.

He now will spend this week claiming and insisting and trying to con-

vince everyone that his promise did not fuel the Cowboys. They destroyed the Eagles, 37-10, and left no question about which team is the class of the NFC East.

The Eagles have a losing record, and they looked the part; four turnovers, little offense, a defense that couldn't corral a show pony. Pederson's proclamation was bravado at its foolish, hollow worst.

The Cowboys entered the game

healthier and hungrier, having lost three in a row and playing for coach Jason Garrett's continued employment. They exit the game in first place. Injured players dressed out knowing they faced a bye week, in which they could rest and heal. They should have been better in every facet. They were.

It was a bad week to guarantee anything, but the matter deserves a

See **PEDERSON** on A8

Student help is cut on campus

Pa.'s largest community college system eliminated in-house counseling for mental-health issues.

By **Aneri Pattani**
SPOTLIGHT PA

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's largest community college system has eliminated all on-campus mental-health counseling for its students, Spotlight PA has learned, a move that college health experts called short-sighted and risky at a time of growing need.

The Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) told counselors across its five campuses to stop individual and group counseling as of mid-September, according to an internal

memo obtained by Spotlight PA. Instead, students with mental-health needs will be sent to a dean of student affairs who will refer them to an off-campus provider.

Counselors were notified orally of the decision on Sept. 11, and the memo was sent to counselors and administrators on Sept. 25. The changes have not been publicly announced, and the college has yet to notify the entire student body.

Like other institutions across the United States, the community college — with campuses in Harrisburg, York, Lancaster, Lebanon and Gettysburg — has been grappling with falling enrollment and a growing budget deficit, which currently stands at

See **COUNSELING** on A4

DROWNINGS

Answers, but no resolution

2 families left unsettled after July 4 Delaware River deaths.

By **Julie Shaw**
STAFF WRITER

After the bodies of Anjanika Patterson and Timothy Siler were recovered July 4 from the Delaware River at Penn's Landing, police initially determined the deaths to be accidental. The unmarried couple's 5-year-old daughter was found safe in Siler's SUV parked by the river.

But Patterson's relatives suspected foul play because of Sil-

er's history of alleged abuse against her. They believed that Siler, 39, had pushed Patterson, 28, into the river, killing her, then jumped into the river, killing himself.

Siler's family says that didn't happen. One brother believes that Siler jumped into the river to save Patterson after she fell in, and that both died.

More than three months later, the Philadelphia Medical Exam-

iner's Office on Wednesday released its conclusions on the deaths. The cause for both: drowning. The manner of Patterson's death was "undetermined," while Siler's was "accidental."

"I'm mad about everything," Patterson's mother, Denise Johnson, said by phone Friday. "It still brings us no closure. My daughter's still dead."

The day after police recovered

See **DROWNINGS** on A4



Anjanika Patterson's family held a vigil Sept. 18, what would have been her 29th birthday. Patterson's and Timothy Siler's families say they still have a lot of questions surrounding the pair's deaths. CHARLES FOX / Staff



WEATHER

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AccuWeather report, **D12**

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