



PHYSICIAN PROFILE

Vakhtang Tchantchaleishvili, MD

Assistant Professor
At Jefferson since 2017

Why did you choose to become a doctor?

I grew up in the country of Georgia. My father had an ischemic heart disease and died at a young age. At that time there were no advanced options like coronary bypass surgery or stents. I could not help him at that time, and now I am trying to help others.

What is your philosophy regarding medicine?

Academic medicine is about not only following treatment guidelines established by others, but also, more importantly, finding answers to controversial questions and problems by yourself and providing these answers to others.

Do you have a mentor? How has that person shaped your work?

During my research fellowship in Innsbruck, Austria, I found a mentor who changed my life—Prof. Alfred Kocher, MD, a cardiac surgeon. He personally funded my first year as a research fellow at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School—an immense favor to me since it launched my career in the United States.

How do you renew yourself?

Through wandering in nature like in the 1972 classic sci-fi film *Solaris*.

Vakhtang Tchantchaleishvili, MD

What he does

Dr. Tchantchaleishvili is a surgeon-researcher dedicated to the treatment of patients with end-stage heart failure. In particular, both his clinical practice and research focus on organ replacement therapies such as ventricular assist devices (VADs) and total artificial hearts (TAHs), as well as cardiac transplantation. He is leading a research laboratory where he and his team are using a multidisciplinary approach to treat end-stage heart disease.

How you can help

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. About 6.5 million adults in the United States have heart failure, and about half of people who develop heart failure die within five years of diagnosis. In Dr. Tchantchaleishvili's laboratory, he and his team are trying to find answers to the most controversial questions in the field. Though significant progress has been made in advancing cardiac surgery, there is much more to learn about treatments. Philanthropic support empowers Dr. Tchantchaleishvili to continue to further his knowledge in order to find answers and provide better care for his patients.

Generosity Heals

Gifts to the [Cardiac Surgery Research and Education Fund](#) support Dr. Tchantchaleishvili's work.

**For more information on how you can help,
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at 215-503-7774.**

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