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After graduating Magna cum laude from Brandeis University, Dr. Jaffee received her M.D. from New York Medical College. She completed her internship and residency at University of Pittsburgh, Presbyterian-University Hospital, then received an NIH Research Training Grant as a Research Fellow and Principal Investigator at the University of Pittsburgh under the guidance of Fran Finn, Ph.D., Research Director. Dr. Jaffee came to The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore where she completed simultaneous fellowships as a Senior Clinical/Research Fellow in Oncology and Senior Oncology Fellow from 1989 – 1991. In 1992, Dr. Jaffee was appointed Assistant Professor of Oncology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (JHUSOM), as well as Medical Director of the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center Cell Processing and Gene Therapy Facility, a position she holds today. In 1995, Dr. Jaffee was appointed to a faculty position in the Graduate Program in Immunology. She currently holds faculty positions in the Graduate Program in Pharmacology, is a Professor of Pathology, and Professor of Oncology at JHUSOM.

Dr. Jaffee currently serves as Deputy Director for the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center (SKCCC) at Johns Hopkins, Co-Director of the Immunology Program and Associate Director for Translational Sciences for the SKCCC at Johns Hopkins. She established the Cell and Gene Therapy Processing Facility (cGMP facility) at Johns Hopkins. In 2007, she was appointed Deputy Director for the Institute for Translational and Clinical Research at JHUSOM. She has also served as Chair of the Clinical Research Committee at the SKCCC at Johns Hopkins.

Dr. Jaffee is a member of the NCI Board of Scientific Counselors, and the RAID NCI Program Oversight Committee. In addition to the many JHU administrative committee appointments, among her professional society memberships include the American Association for Cancer Research, American Society for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Association of Immunologists, and SITC.

Dr. Jaffee currently serves on the National Cancer Advisory Board. She is on the Board of Directors for AACR, is a recent Chair of the AACR CIMM Steering Committee, is a member of the Cancer Vaccine Collaborative (CVC), and has served as a Co-Organizer for the AACR Special Conference on Cancer Immunology in 2010 and 2012, and a Keystone meeting dedicated to Immune Based Therapies in 2015. Dr. Jaffee also serves on University of Pennsylvania's Abramson Cancer Center's SAB and on the EAB of the Seattle Breast Spore and the University of Alabama GI SPORE. She has mentored 21 post-doctoral fellows and 12 graduate students, has over 150 peer review publications, and is a nationally and internationally recognized guest lecturer. Dr. Jaffee holds 6 vaccine patents, has been an Investigator on many immunotherapy Clinical Studies, and has amassed millions of dollars in grants and sponsorships for the study of the immunotherapy of pancreatic cancer. Dr. Jaffee is the 2015 AACR Burchenal Award Recipient.