

UF Urology | UroGators Update

Spring 2015

Thomas Stringer, MD, FACS Interim Chairman, UF Department of Urology

I am pleased to provide this annual update on the activities of the UF Department of Urology. In January of this year, I assumed the role of Interim Chairman of the Department of Urology at UF. I feel fortunate to be part of a faculty that has placed the program on a trajectory of excellence by continuing to provide innovative and comprehensive patient care across broad subspecialty lines. We take pride in our residents and fellows and make urologic education a top priority. We have also continued to expand our collaborative efforts across the medical center, with industry partners and within the community. Meaningful outcomes research and patient safety focus continues to be a priority. I am pleased to announce several faculty and resident awards that are worthy of special mention. This year, **Dr. Li-Ming Su** was accepted to the AOA Honor Medical Society. **Drs. Vincent Bird, Paul Crispen** and **Lou Moy** and four of our residents, **Drs. Mohit Gupta, JB Mason, Russ Terry** and **Akira Yamamoto** all received UF Health Shands Physician Customer Service Awards for their excellence in patient care. **Dr. Crispen** was also awarded the UF Health Cancer Center "MVP" Award for his efforts in the multidisciplinary urologic oncology program.

Our clinical forte continues to be in cutting-edge robotic, open, laparoscopic and endourologic surgical expertise provided in an exceptional, personalized and patient-centered manner. Our faculty are recognized as national leaders in robotic, open and laparoscopic oncologic surgery (kidney, bladder, prostate, testes and penile cancers). Our expert team of specialists provides world-class urologic care for female pelvic surgery, genitourinary reconstruction, endourology and stone disease, prosthetic surgery and general urology.

Regarding our outreach efforts, the collaborative scope of work between UF Department of Urology and Orlando Health, branded as UF Health Urology - Orlando Health, resulted in tremendous progress over the past year. Specifically, a multi/inter-disciplinary team, consisting of urologic oncologists, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists and allied health professionals, focused on genitourinary cancers, called the UF Health Joint Oncology Program (JOP). With this joint venture in mind, efforts are underway in recruiting additional urologists for the Orlando Regional Medical Center, Dr. Phillips Hospital and Health Central Hospital campuses to work alongside **Dr. Jason Sea**.

Lastly, I want to recognize the tremendous efforts of our entire faculty, staff and residents, who have continued to exceed expectations each subsequent year. The entire team's perseverance and commitment to compassionate, patient-centric care despite continued economic constraints and tightening resources is commendable. This past year we have enjoyed continued growth with over 16,000 clinic visits resulting in over 2,000 operative procedures. To support the growth of our clinical activities, we are pleased to welcome two new physician extenders, **Sara Petrucci, ARNP** and **Mitsu Andre, PA-C**.

Furthermore, in an effort to address capacity and referral backlog issues, we are expanding the general urology faculty that includes **Dr. Victoria Bird** and myself. Starting in August, **Dr. Michael Dennis** will be joining UF Urology full time. **Dr. Dennis** completed his residency in the Department of Urology at the University of Florida several years ago and is recruited from private practice in South Florida

Division of Urologic Trauma and Reconstructive Urology

Case volume and complexity continues to grow in both male (**Dr. Larry Yeung**) and female reconstructive surgery (**Dr. Lou Moy**) at our center. **Dr. Yeung** has continued to collaborate with trauma surgeons on a national scale and contribute to the development of guidelines for the EAST (Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma) group for the management of bladder trauma. **Dr. Moy** received the annual Resident Teaching Award as a result of his educational efforts in female urology and neurourology.

Gainesville VAMC

The North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System continues to be the busiest VAMC in the country by total patient encounters and total enrolled patients, and the VAMC Urology Clinic is by far the busiest of all the surgical services. During 2014, we had 11,460 total office visits staffed by 5 board certified urologists, 2 physician assistants, 4 nurse practitioners, and 2 rotating urology residents (PGY-5, PGY-2). We annually rank as one of the highest rated VAMCs in the country for patient safety and satisfaction and are proud to be associated with the UF Residency Program.

Division of Urologic Oncology

During the past year we have been fortunate to become active members of the UF Health JOP between Orlando Health and UF Health Cancer Center. This partnership was established in order to explore common research opportunities and provide consistent, quality multidisciplinary care to patients in the State of Florida. Through this joint effort we have recently been designated as a State of Florida Cancer Center of Excellence and hope to achieve NCI Cancer Center designation within 5 years.

Our experienced multidisciplinary genitourinary team, within the JOP, from Gainesville and Orlando has developed *clinical, quality* and *research* initiatives. Specific agenda items and accomplishments of the genitourinary team over the past year include: development of clinical pathways of care for prostate cancer, a common research program which best serves the population of patients treated between centers, and a unified quality set of standards for prostate cancer care. Furthermore, the team is dedicated to improving and advancing patient care by monitoring the quality of care provided and enhancing treatment through participation in clinical trials.

Our Genitourinary Oncology Program at UF Health continues to offer comprehensive multidisciplinary care through collaboration of UF's urology, medical oncology and radiation oncology departments. Our surgeons have extensive experience in treating all urologic malignancies and offer a full complement of surgical services providing robotic, open, laparoscopic, endoscopic and ablative techniques. This year we welcomed **Michelle Doran, RN** as our new Genitourinary Oncology Navigator. **Mrs. Doran's** role is to expedite and optimize patient care within our system by serving as a patient advocate, capturing all necessary medical records, and tracking patients' progress throughout their treatment and recovery to ensure that care is comprehensive and complete. ***If you have a patient who wishes to be evaluated in our Multidisciplinary Urologic Oncology Clinic please contact Shelly Doran at 352-265-8240.***

Division of Robotic and Minimally Invasive Urologic Surgery

At this year's AUA meeting, the division faculty will present a total of 12 posters on topics ranging from stone disease, to laparoscopic and robotic renal surgery. **Dr. Li-Ming Su**, chief of the division, will present two podium presentations at the Engineering and Urology Society meeting and AUA Urologic Oncology Research Symposium on his novel research using a fiberoptic imaging device, confocal laser endomicroscopy, as an optical biopsy tool to provide real-time imaging of renal tumor subtypes. **Dr. Benjamin Canales** will present the Take Home Messages on Endourology and Stone Disease at the plenary session. Lastly the division faculty members are excited to welcome their first Endourological Society fellow, **Dr. Brandon Otto**, who will begin his one-year training in July 2015 after completing his residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital – Weil Cornell Medical College.

Urology Research

The basic science laboratory, headed by **Dr. Benjamin Canales**, has had another stellar year. With continued NIH funding through R01, R03, and K08 mechanisms, the laboratory published 8 peer-reviewed manuscripts in 2014 and had high scores on two new R01 applications. Through the NIH T32 mechanism, our laboratory is also sponsoring two post-doctoral fellows with focused scientific inquiries in stone disease. **Paul Dominguez Gutierrez, PhD**, is using his background in immunology to unravel how and why calcium oxalate stones evade the immune system. The identification of this mechanism may lead to better therapies and even has the potential to identify individuals who are susceptible to becoming a kidney stone former. During his graduate studies in Immunology & Microbiology at UF, **Ryan Chastain-Gross, PhD** candidate, described the relationship of certain oral bacteria to periodontal disease. In our division, he is developing an animal model to study the effects of intestinal microbiota on the transport of certain metabolites (responsible for kidney stone formation) from the gut to the kidney. Both of these talented individuals have already presented their work at a number of different urologic seminars and we are extremely proud to have them as part of our urology family.

Division of Pediatric Urology

There has been significant growth in the Division of Pediatric Urology at UF over the last year under the leadership of **Dr. Romano T. DeMarco**. We have seen a substantial increase in the number of complex cases including the treatment of bladder and cloacal extrophy. Our collaboration with Nemours Children's Specialty Care Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida continues to remain an excellent educational opportunity for our urology residents. UF residents have been busy with clinical research, presenting work at the Pediatric Urology Fall Congress as well as the Southeastern Section AUA Meeting.

University of Florida
Department of Urology
PO Box 100247, Gainesville, FL
352.273.6815
www.urology.ufl.edu

Urology Residency

In July 2014, **Dr. Vincent Bird** was named the new residency program director, having had extensive previous experience in this role at the University of Miami. In recent years we have expanded our program to include three residents per year. We have undergone this transformation as our department has expanded in both number of faculty and type of urologic subspecialty care that we offer. With this year's urology match program complete, we look forward to welcoming three new members to our urology resident family: **Maria Domino** (Florida State University), **Kevin Campbell** (Louisiana State University-Shreveport), and **Alex Galante** (Case Western Reserve University).

At this year's AUA annual meeting, our residents will be presenting four podium presentations arising from ongoing research collaborations with various faculty members in our department. In addition to the national meeting, our residents had an active role in the Southeastern Section AUA meeting as well as the proceedings of the Florida Urological Society.

At the UF Department of Urology we are also proud of our newest graduates. Our two graduating chief residents, **Drs. Weil Lai** and **Arash Akhavan**, will both be moving forward to minimally invasive surgery/endourology fellowships in the upcoming year at Tulane University and Cleveland Clinic respectively.

Both medicine and resident training are in a constant state of evolution, and as such we continue our efforts to create a leading clinical and educational environment for our patients and residents. The UF and UF Health Shands Hospital continue to move forward in the creation of state of the art patient care and training facilities that include a new Center for Simulation Education and Safety Research and plans for further additions to our clinical facilities.

Urology Quality and Patient Safety

Safe and efficacious care is a priority for the UF Department of Urology. Over the last few years the focus on quality safe care has expanded with the hiring of a dedicated quality nurse, **Michelle Van Leer, RN, MSN**, as well as the appointment of **Dr. Lou Moy** as the Physician Director of Quality. Both of these positions allow for a larger collaboration with the hospital's quality department as well as other surgical and medical departments within and outside the institution. Our unwavering objective is to provide safe care through a team approach that improves patient satisfaction, reduces complications and reduces readmissions.

Collaborative and multidisciplinary consults allow our department to deliver high quality, patient centric care. This focus continues with two new initiatives, Medicine Co-management and Perioperative Coordinated Care with the Department of Medicine and Anesthesiology respectively.

The Co-management Program started in 2014 as a pilot with the Department of Medicine with the common goal of delivering safe care of medically complex urologic oncology patients who are admitted to the hospital either post operatively or emergent/routinely. This same collaboration exists as well for the pediatric urology division through collaboration with the UF Health Shands Children's Hospital hospitalist team.

Lastly the UF Perioperative Coordinated Care pilot began in 2014 with the Department of Anesthesiology and Medicine and continues to be a success. The objective is to provide patient centered, evidence-based care via a clinical pathway (from time of decision for surgery to 30 days after surgery). This collaboration allows urology to have potential surgical candidates evaluated preoperatively and the decision for surgery is made as a team with anesthesia, medicine and urologic surgery. The pilot's objectives are patient engagement, coordinated care, reducing harm as well as mortality, and making care affordable by decreasing complications and readmissions.

The UF Department of Urology continues to make significant investments in quality and patient safety and our patients are experiencing, firsthand, the significant return on investment.

UroGators

As we grow and innovate, add faculty, and reach out to the community, our bedrock remains our heritage. As a result of the support of our UroGators Alumni Society, the department held the second **David M. Drylie Visiting Professorship**, hosting **Dr. David A. Diamond** from Boston Children's Hospital. This year's Lifetime Achievement Award was given to **Dr. R. Dixon Walker**, for his tremendous contributions to the subspecialty of pediatric urology. The date for this year's Visiting Professor is set for the UF homecoming weekend of **November 5-7, 2015**. More information coming soon! As president of UroGators, I will continue the outreach to former residents, fellows and faculty that extends to every corner of the country. At the UF Department of Urology, we are proud of our past and passionate about our future. Our team is dedicated to excellence in education, patient care and applied research. It is our collective purpose to uphold the heritage and guide the future of urology at UF. In this regard, I want to personally thank each of you for your help and assistance in supporting UroGators and its mission to support education, outreach, networking and collaboration between the Department Urology and its many partners.