

# UF Urology | UroGators Update

News from The University of Florida Department of Urology

Spring 2016

## Li-Ming Su, MD: Professor & Chairman



**D**ear Friends, Colleagues and UroGator Alumni, It is with great pride that I provide you with the following update as the newly appointed chairman of urology. As many of you know, the UF College of Medicine recently completed a national search for a new chairman of urology that attracted over 28 applicants from outstanding academic institutions around the US. With tremendous support from faculty, residents, administration and staff I feel extremely fortunate and humbled to have been chosen to lead this group of outstanding individuals into a new direction. I would like to first highlight **Dr. Tom Stringer's** outstanding leadership as our interim chair this past year. **Tom** has single handedly elevated our department's status within the College of Medicine as well as nationally with his charm, wisdom, kindness and leadership. As an example of his loyalty and commitment to our department, in January 2016, **Tom** and his wife **Leah** made a \$350,000 gift in support of UroGator alumni activities as well as the annual David M. Drylie Visiting Professorship. As a result of his outstanding contributions and service to our department, I have named him the Associate Chairman to help me lead our department in our future endeavors. Other changes in leadership roles include the appointment of **Dr. Lou Moy** as our new residency program director, **Dr. Vincent Bird** as our new chief of Minimally Invasive Surgery and **Michele Van Leer** as our Interim Business Administrator.

There is a lot to celebrate with exciting growth at both the hospital as well as department level. The Harrell Medical Education building opened its doors in July 2015, offering a 95,00 square foot, four-story facility that includes a state-of-the-art simulation and experiential learning theater as well as other facilities for medical student education and activities. UF Health's Children's Hospital completed its renovations providing over 200 beds and a new 68-bed neonatal intensive care unit. The UF Health Heart and Vascular and Neuromedicine Hospital is near completion, representing a \$415 million project that will consolidate cardiac and neurologic care adjacent and mirror-image to the current cancer hospital. UF Health as a health care institution has again made the national honor roll as one of America's Best Employers ranked No. 16 among all health care facilities.

From a department standpoint, we have seen a 20% growth in clinic visits and 30% growth in operative cases over the past year as a result of tremendous dedication and hard work by our faculty, residents and staff. As such, we plan to increase our faculty complement in urologic oncology, endourology and pediatric urology in the next 2-3 years with two positions already filled. We have expanded our practice to Haile Plantation and the Institute of Aging, both outreach clinics within Gainesville. Our operative activities ranks the highest in overall utilization of any surgical subspecialty within the College of Medicine. We are expanding our surgical practice to the Florida Surgical Center to improve our outpatient minor cases. With the College of Medicine's commitment funding we are infusing new digital ureteroscopes, endoscopic equipment, lasers as well as the UroNav MRI-US fusion technology for image-guided prostate biopsies.

It is my honor to work along such an outstanding group of highly skilled, motivated and compassionate individuals who are passionate about academic urology.

It is a great time to be a UroGator!

## Mike Dennis, MD: General Urology

**D**r. Tom Stringer and Dr. Mike Dennis are co-medical directors of the clinic and are working to improve the clinic experience for our patients and staff. General urology services have now expanded to include seeing patients at the UF Health Haile facility. In addition, men's health services and urologic oncology specialists are making themselves available several days a month for the convenience of our patients. Block time in the OR for general urology has allowed for expansion of general cases including genital-scrotal and inguinal cases as well as uncomplicated stone surgery.

## Tom Stringer, MD: UroGators Alumni Society

**T**he UroGators Alumni Society was established in 2008 and represents all former UF Urology faculty, fellows and residents. Our stated mission is to enhance fellowship and communication among its members, to support and promote education for residents and members and to advise and support the Department of Urology.

Part of our heritage and evolving tradition was the creation of a permanent Visiting Professorship in the name of **David M. Drylie** three years ago. This October 7—8 2016 will represent the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Visiting Professorship and features **Dr. Peter Schlegel**, renowned infertility specialist and Professor and Chairman of Urology at Weil Cornell Medicine/New York Presbyterian.

Following the visiting professor lecture and reception on Friday, Saturday is game time. UF vs LSU with the UroGators Alumni Tailgate.

Lastly, the UroGators have always participated in resident graduation and award our new Alumni with UroGators plaques. This year two of our graduating residents are embarking on private practice, one in NJ and one in Florida. Our third chief resident is pursuing a reconstructive fellowship at the University of Iowa.

Our department has never been stronger and the trajectory continues upward. Part of our strength without question is our heritage. We welcome all of you to be a vital participant and hope to see you at anyone of our annual events.

## University of Florida Department of Urology The 2016 David M. Drylie, MD Visiting Professorship Lecture

presents



### Peter N. Schlegel, MD

James J. Colt Professor of Urology, Chairman, Department of Urology,  
Urologist-in-Chief  
Weill Cornell Medicine/New York Presbyterian

Friday, October 7, 2016 • Saturday, October 8, 2016

For more information, please visit [urology.ufl.edu](http://urology.ufl.edu) or  
email [ronda.patton@urology.ufl.edu](mailto:ronda.patton@urology.ufl.edu).

## Benjamin Canales, MD: VA

**T**he North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System continues to be the busiest VAMC's in the country by total patient encounters and total enrolled patients, and the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center/Gainesville Urology Clinic is by far the busiest of all the surgical services. During 2015, we had 16,523 attending encounters (staffed by 4

board certified urologists) and 9,641 mid-level encounters (2 PA's, 4 ARNP's) with almost 900 surgical procedures performed in the operating room. We again ranked as one of the highest rated VAMCs in the country for patient safety and satisfaction and are proud to have two rotating urology residents each year (PGY-5, PGY-2) from the UF Urology Residency Program.

## Vincent Bird, MD: Endourology and Laparoscopic Surgery

The division has continued to be highly productive in clinical care and research. The inaugural year of our endourology/minimally invasive surgery fellowship has been greatly successful.

**Dr. Brandon Otto**, the division fellow, has been very active in both clinical and research aspects of our department activities.



He has also made substantial contributions to the division research efforts which will be presented at this year's AUA. As part of his ongoing research he has been working with **Dr. Vincent Bird**, and will present our findings related to "The Effect of Continued Aspirin Therapy in Patients Undergoing PCNL". We hope to retain him as a faculty member to support our endourology and MIS activities.

The division faculty will be involved in the upcoming 2016 AUA Annual meeting with a number of presentations relating to endourology/urinary stone disease, minimally invasive surgery, and surgical technology.

We are very proud of **Dr. Benjamin Canales**, who is the 2016 recipient of the **Gold Cystoscope Award**. This prestigious award is given annually to one US urologist distinguished by outstanding contributions to the profession within ten years of completing residency training. **Dr. Canales** was selected for this award based on his research initiatives in the pathogenesis of nephrolithiasis and exploration of novel therapeutic approaches. In addition to a cash honorarium, he will receive a gold-plated cystoscope at the 2016 annual AUA meeting. Please join us in congratulating **Dr. Canales** for this recognition and achievement! At this year's meeting he will give a special presentation at the plenary

session, "Rising Star Report: The Effect of Gastric Bypass Surgery on Renal Function and Metabolism".

**Dr. Li Ming Su** will also be presenting his continuing imaging research at this year's Engineering Society Meeting, entitled, "Fiber-optic Confocal Laser Endomicroscopy: Optical Tissue Characterization of Renal Tumors". The division will be giving eleven presentations in all. **Dr. Bird** will also be part of a surgical technology symposium relating to new endoscopic surgical technologies for performance of ureteroscopy.

**Drs. Bird, Canales, and Su** will also moderate stone, basic science, and kidney cancer sessions, respectively. **Dr. Su** will also present the "Take Home Messages" on minimally invasive surgery (Laparoscopy/Robotics). The division faculty is highly dedicated and continues its tradition as part of the UF Physician team in improving patient care.

## Benjamin Canales, MD: Research

The clinical and basic science research efforts at UF continue to thrive. Over the 2015 academic year, UF Urology faculty and residents published over 30 peer-reviewed manuscripts, maintaining active NIH R01, R03, and K08 funding. Additionally, the 2015 annual AUA meeting was highlighted by presentations from a number of UF Urology researchers, including 8 posters, 5 podiums, and a plenary session. **Dr. Paul Dominguez Gutierrez**, our program's first T32 graduate in October of 2015, was awarded the 2016-2018 Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Grant to study the role of immune response in calcium stone formers. Our department's other NIH T32 fellows continue their basic science inquiries in stone disease. **Dr. Ryan Chastain-Gross** has developed an animal model to study the effects of intestinal microbiota on the transport of certain kidney stone metabolites from the gut to the kidney. **Dr. Allison O'Kell**, who joined our program in February 2016, is a board-certified small animal veterinarian who completed a combined residency/Master's program at Virginia Tech. She has clinical experience in both academic and private practice veterinary settings and will be investigating the relevance of dogs and cats with nephrolithiasis as naturally-occurring models of human kidney stone disease. Please join us in welcoming her to our Department of Urology family!

## Lou Moy, MD: Residency Program

We are pleased to announce results of the UF Department of Urology's 2015-2016 residency match. The national match for urologic residency training is very competitive, with over 400 medical students applying for just under 300 positions. The UF Department of Urology interviewed over 40 extremely qualified applicants for 3 positions. It is with great enthusiasm that we introduce the three newest urology residents in our UF urology family.



**Jeremy Bergamo**, from Bradenton, FL, is a UF College of Medicine student. He completed his undergraduate studies at University of South Florida in psychology.

**Jennifer Kuo**, from Tampa, FL, is also a UF College of Medicine student. She completed her undergraduate studies at University of Florida and majored in finance.



**Andrew Rabley**, from Irmo, SC, is a medical student at the Medical University of South Carolina. He attended Clemson University where he majored in packaging science.

The UF Department of Urology is extremely proud of our graduating chief residents. **Dr. J.B. Mason**, will be completing a reconstructive fellowship at the University of Iowa. **Dr. Rishi Modh** will be joining a practice in St. Petersburg, FL. **Dr. Akira Yamamoto** will be joining a practice in Bucks County, PA outside of Philadelphia.

As the practice of urology is ever changing, we have moved forward with a community based urology rotation for our residents. Here they will be exposed to how other urologic practices run, including working in ambulatory surgical centers and community hospitals. The residency program is continually evolving so that our graduates are prepared to be leaders in both academic centers and the community.

*We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to Dr. Vincent Bird for his leadership of the residency program over the past two years.*

## Romano DeMarco, MD: Pediatric Urology

Over the past year there has been continued expansion of the Pediatric Urology practice at UF Health which has mirrored the impressive growth of UF Health Shands Children's Hospital. Clinical volume has increased to an extent that there are plans to hire an additional provider in the near future. Our collaboration with **Dr. Michael Erhard**, **Dr. Mark Barraza** and **Dr. Erica Mercer** at Nemours Children's Specialty Clinic in Jacksonville continues to provide our residents with an excellent educational experience. A recent publication in the *Dialogues of Pediatric Urology* by our residents, **Drs. Mohit Gupta** and **Anja Zann**, highlight the excellent clinical research work done by our residents.

## Paul Crispen, MD: Urologic Oncology

We are pleased to welcome **Dr. Michael Blute Jr.** in joining our multidisciplinary genitourinary malignancy care team. **Dr. Blute** joins us after completing his urology residency at Long Island Jewish Hospital in New York and a Urologic Oncology fellowship at the University of Wisconsin. His clinical interests and expertise include the management of testis cancer, bladder cancer and advanced renal cancer. **Dr. Blute** plans on continuing his research evaluating the role of cytoreductive nephrectomy in the management of metastatic renal cancer and predictors of bladder cancer progression at UF. With the addition of **Dr. Blute**, our experienced surgeons continue to offer comprehensive care to all patients including a full complement of surgical services providing robotic, open, laparoscopic, endoscopic and ablative techniques. Furthermore we look to enhance the care of our prostate cancer patients using the UroNav Fusion Biopsy System in concert with our expert genitourinary radiologists. Additionally, under the leadership of **Dr. Jonathan Licht**, Director of UF Health Cancer Center, we aim to enhance treatment of genitourinary malignancies through the participation in clinical trials. We currently have several trials focusing on bladder, kidney and prostate cancer. To see if a clinical trial is available that may suit your own patients please contact **Michelle Doran**, our Genitourinary Oncology Navigator, at 352-265-8240.