At the annual Urology Town Hall and Department Retreat this summer, more than 70 members of the faculty, staff, and trainees that comprise the broader Emory Urology family convened to affirm our mission, to celebrate accomplishments of the past year, and to look ahead to the opportunities that await us. Retreat participants discussed strategies for faculty recruitment, deployment of resources to enhance team synergy, and opportunities to improve patient access.

The past year has certainly brought substantial milestones reflecting our progress toward the Emory Urology mission, “To pioneer patient-centered innovation, to train the future leaders of American Urology, and to provide consistently exceptional urological care.” With the addition of 5 new faculty and expansion to 4 residents at the PGY-1, 2 and 3 levels, Emory Urology has grown in size and prominence. Our clinical program was ranked among the top 25 Urology programs nationwide by US News and World Report, and in the key metrics of patient survival and the number of high complexity patients, we outperformed most hospitals that rated in the top 10. Our research program has expanded to rank 16th nationwide in annual NIH funding this year, and Emory Urology faculty have produced more than 60 publications in the biomedical literature.

To harness the full potential of Emory Urology in clinical care, innovation, and teaching, we will continue to build upon our foundation of clinical excellence and growth, by investing resources to enable scholarly investigations of students, residents, and faculty alike. Pilot grant programs to support faculty innovations, a resident rotation with protected time for scholarly activity, and instructional tools such as the robotic dual ‘teaching’ console are examples of initiatives recently deployed toward this goal, even while additional faculty recruitments are underway. The present and future of Emory Urology do indeed look bright – and would greatly benefit from your participation or support.

Emory Urology and Emory University Hospital Recognized in Top Rankings

U.S. News and World Report continues to rank Emory University Hospital as the number one hospital in both metro Atlanta and Georgia (out of 144) in its 2014 report. With over 4,773 hospitals in the US, this puts Emory University Hospital in the top 3% of all hospitals in the US.

U.S. News and World Report ranked Urology at Emory University Hospital as one of Emory’s top ten high-performing adult specialty areas and overall #25 in the US. This is the highest urology ranking for Emory over the past 10 years. Urology at Emory University Hospital received the highest scores in patient volume, patient safety, patient services and advanced technologies. According to the report, Emory Urology patients have a “Much better than expected” survival outcomes with a score of 9 out of 10.

Emory University Hospital was a winner of the 2013 University HealthSystem Consortium (UHC) award. The award is given to the top 10 academic medical centers in the US that have demonstrated superior performance in delivering high-quality patient care as measured by UHC’s Quality and Accountability Study. Emory ranked #2 on the top ten list. Emory Urology remains committed to its Core Purpose and that is To Serve Humanity by Improving Health through integration of education, discovery and health care.
New Faculty - Dr. Mehrdad Alemozaffar

Dr. Alemozaffar joined the Division of Urological Oncology at Emory Urology as Assistant Professor and Director of the Bladder Cancer Program. Dr. Alemozaffar’s primary clinical interest is urologic oncology (cancers involving the bladder, kidney, adrenal gland, prostate, testes and penis). This includes both routine and complex malignancies referred to Emory for management by open, robotic, or focal therapy techniques with cutting edge technology. This includes advanced treatment options such as robotic cystectomy with intracorporeal urinary diversion for bladder cancer, robotic prostatectomy with extended lymph node dissection for high-risk prostate cancer, minimal ischemia robotic partial nephrectomy for kidney cancer, and extraperitoneal approach to retroperitoneal lymph dissection for metastatic testis cancer.

Dr. Alemozaffar graduated summa cum laude from the University of California San Diego with a B.S. in Physiology and Neuroscience. He attended medical school at the University of California Los Angeles followed by five years of urology residency training at the Harvard Program in Urology in Boston, MA. Prior to joining Emory, he completed Urologic Oncology Fellowship, combined with a Masters degree in Biomedical and Clinical Investigation, at the University of Southern California. Dr. Alemozaffar is closely involved in teaching and mentoring medical students and urology residents. He has authored several book chapters and peer-reviewed publications in Urology, and has lectured both regionally and nationally.

New Faculty - Dr. L. Courtenay Beebe

Dr. Beebe joined the Division of Office Urology, Infertility and Men’s Health in Emory Urology as Assistant Professor.

Dr. Beebe received his undergraduate education (Bachelor in Arts) from the University of Virginia (1974) and his medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina (1978). Immediately after receiving his medical degree, he joined the military service in the US Navy where he stayed for 10 years (1978-1988). He received his urology residency training at the Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA where he later served as a US Navy Flight Surgeon and Staff Urologist (1986-1988). Dr. Beebe spent twenty-three years in community practice in Virginia as a clinical urologist and as an executive of the practice group. Dr. Beebe has over 20 years of experience in clinical urological care. His clinical interests include general and office urology, and in particular in enhancing services and clinic access.

New Faculty - Dr. Haydn Kissick

Dr. Kissick joined the Division of Translational Research at Emory Urology and the Emory Vaccine Center as Senior Associate in Tumor Immunology. He received his PhD in Immunology from the University of Western Australia and completed his postdoctoral fellowship in Prostate Cancer Immunology at Harvard Medical School. He has been the recipient of a Postdoctoral Fellowship Award from the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Program, and currently holds a Young Investigator Award from the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Dr. Kissick’s work focuses on using next generation sequencing to identify mutations to be used in personalized vaccine targets for prostate cancer. Having used these techniques in mouse models to identify novel vaccine candidates targeting mutations, Dr. Kissick found that the immune system responds effectively against the mutations, and is now evaluating mutations in prostate cancer patients to design personalized immunotherapeutic vaccines.

Dr. Kissick is also characterizing how cancer can impair immune responses by inducing exhaustion in tumor-specific CD8 T-cells that progressively lose the ability to kill cancer cells. In addition, Dr. Kissick has conducted ground-breaking studies demonstrating that the hormonal milieu can influence immune T cell function. His work has been published in leading Biomedical journals such as the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

New Faculty - Dr. Gladys Y. Ng

Dr. Ng joined the Division of Reconstructive and Female Pelvic Urology as a Senior Associate. Dr. Ng attended Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY for her undergraduate education (Bachelor of Arts in Economics). Dr. Ng received a Masters degree in Public Health (MPH) from Yale University, New Haven, CT (2003), medical degree from Albany Medical College (2008) followed by urology residency training at University of California in Los Angeles (2008-2014).

Dr. Ng is the recipient of multiple awards and honors that include Gold Humanism Honor Society (Albany Medical College Chapter) and the Laurence R. Meyerson and Deborah L. Faiman Young Investigator Award (UCLA). Dr. Ng is involved in teaching and mentoring medical students and urology residents. She has authored multiple scientific journal articles.
Dr. Ritenour - Associate Chief of Surgical Services at Emory Univ. Hospital

It is with great pleasure to announce the appointment of Dr. Chad Ritenour as the new Associate Chief of Surgical Services for Emory University Hospital, effective September 1, 2014. Dr. Ritenour will take on the responsibilities to improve operational efficiencies on a day-to-day basis as well as to help provide strategic direction as Emory Hospital moves forward. In this capacity, Dr. Ritenour will oversee all physician functions within the perioperative platform, including endoscopy.

Dr. Ritenour has held several key Urology departmental roles, including Interim Chairman (2010-2013). He currently serves as Vice Chair for Education and Faculty Affairs, Program Director for residency training and the Associate Chief Medical Officer for Emory University Hospital (EUH).

Emory’s Infertility Research Selected as Prize Paper by SMRU

"What are Infertility Treatment Center Websites Telling Couples About Male Factor Infertility" was the title of Emory research project presented at the 2014 American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) annual meeting. The research was selected as the Prize Paper by the Society of Male Reproduction and Urology (SMRU). Andrew Leung (4th year MS) and his mentor and inaugural Urology Health Services Scholar Dr. Akanksha Mehta investigated the role of information technology in the education of couples seeking infertility care in the United States. They reported that a large proportion of websites failed to include any mention of male factor infertility, or to suggest referral for urologic workup for male partners despite the fact that male factor accounts for 50% of cases of infertility. The results of this study illustrate that patients who seek infertility information from websites may not be well-informed about the male factor infertility factor and about the importance of male urologic workup.

Dr. Pearl - 2014 “Resident as Teacher” Award

Congratulations to Dr. Jeffrey Pearl who received the prestigious 2014 Resident as Teacher Award for his dedication to teaching during his surgical internship year at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. The award is given annually to those residents that receive the highest evaluations from the surgical faculty members as well as the medical students during the year. Dr. Pearl completed his medical degree at Northwestern University in Chicago IL. In July 2014, he joined the Department of Urology at Emory University School of Medicine for his urology residency training.

Awards & Accomplishments

- Dr. Lindsey A. Herrel received the 2014 Cooner Award. The Cooner Award is given to the resident who through the preceding year of residency training has best emulated the compassion and care for patients exhibited by Dr. William Hollis Cooner (Professor of Urology). In addition, she received the 2014 Outstanding Resident Academic Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding academic efforts to Emory Urology.
- Dr. Lindsey A. Herrel, Graduating Chief Resident, joined the Department of Urology at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI for Fellowship in Urological Oncology & Health Services.
- Dr. Adam B. Shrewsberry, Graduating Chief Resident, joined a urology community practice in Knoxville TN.
- Dr. Angela Arlen, Graduating Pediatric Urology Fellow, joined the University of Iowa as Assistant Professor of Urology
- Dr. Viraj A. Master received the 2014 Award for Outstanding Contribution to Resident Education
- Dr. Martin Sanda was named Chairman of the American Urological Association (AUA) Panel to Developing Guidelines for the Treatment of Localized Prostate Cancer.
- Dr. Haydn Kissick received a prestigious New Investigator Award from the Prostate Cancer Foundation for his research to develop prostate cancer vaccines.

Chief Residents Graduation Banquet
See you in Atlanta at Emory’s Advances in Urology – Dec 5-6, 2014

Emory Urology Scientific Publications April – September 2014

- Comparative effectiveness study of patient-reported outcomes after therapy or intensity-modulated radiotherapy for prostate cancer: Hoppe, Michalski, Mendenhall, Morris, Henderson, Nichols, Mendenhall, Williams, Regan, Chipman, Crociani, Sandler, Senda & Hamstra. Cancer, April 2014.
- Immunization with a peptide containing MHC class I and II epitopes derived from the tumor antigen SIM2 induces an effective CD4 and CD8 T-cell response. Kissick, Senda, Dunn & Arredouani. PLoS One, April 2014.
- Satisfaction with information used to choose prostate cancer treatment. Gilbert, Sandra, Dunn, Greenfield, Hennbroff, Klein, Saigal, Pisters, Michalski, Sandler, Litwin & Wei. Journal of Urology, May 2014.
- Prostate cancer with Paneth cell-like neuroendocrine differentiation has recognizable histomorphology and harbors AURKA gene amplification: Park, Chen, MacDonald, Siddiqui, Ye, Erbersdobler, Shevchuk, Robinson, Sandra, Chinnaiyan, Beltran, Rubin & Mosquera. Human Pathology, June 2014.

Your Support Can Do Wonders!

As a nonprofit organization, Emory Urology depends on gifts from patients and friends of the department to help support its mission to provide the very best in urological research, training, and care. Gifts of any size truly make a difference!

- Support the day-to-day operations - Urology Excellence Fund
- Educate future urologists - Residency Support Fund
- Support clinical care & research centers - Uro-oncology, The Stone Center, Men’s Health, and/or The Continence Centers

Please contact:
James Owen, Director of Development
404.778.5429 james.p.owen@emory.edu

Online - go to www.emory.edu/give, select ‘School of Medicine’ and enter ‘Urology’ in the text box.
Mail your support to 1365-B Clifton Road, Suite 1403, Atlanta, GA 30322