Letter from the Chair

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Our Department mission – to lead the evolution of Urology care – requires coordinated effort in clinical innovation, scientific discovery, and education. Recognizing the unparalleled opportunity for Emory Urology to lead in these endeavors, Emory Healthcare has committed to enabling substantial growth in Urology, in each of these arenas.

Scientific discovery is the launching pad for all progress in health care and outcome. Accordingly, we are amidst a faculty recruitment effort to bring a cadre of the best and brightest translational scientists to Emory Urology and Winship Cancer Institute. Although discovery has traditionally been rooted in laboratory science, today’s opportunities for discovery draw equally as much from health services research and bioinformatics, which are rooted in the scientific disciplines of economics, psychology, sociology, and mathematics. On this basis, Emory Urology is assembling a team of urological health services surgeonscientists, supported by a Clinical and Health Services Research Unit (CHSRU) comprised of staff with expertise in epidemiology, statistics, and clinical research alike. This team will enable not only our scientific mission, but will also serve as a catalyst for our endeavors in clinical innovation, such as by facilitating the role of clinical research protocols in Urology. As the leading program in patient accrual to clinical trials in Winship Cancer Institute, our Urologic Oncology program is on solid footing in this regard, but it can grow, and also expand to Female Pelvic Reconstructive Urology, Infertility, and Stone Disease as well.

For Emory Urology to influence and lead the transformation of Urology care nationwide, we seek to train the next generation of leaders in Academic Urology. A milestone toward this goal was the recent approval by the ACGME to expand our Urology Residency Program to 4 residents per year, and adding Emory Saint Joseph’s Hospital as an additional site for our resident education. This will enhance our training in robotic urology, multidisciplinary care, and will allow us to increase the opportunity for residents to engage in research and scholarship.

Emory Urology and Emory University Hospital Recognized in Top Rankings

Men’s Health magazine named the Emory Winship Cancer Institute (and Urology) a Top 3 Cancer Center in the Southeast and also named Winship one of the Top 20 Cancer Centers in the US for men’s health. As announced on menshealth.com, Winship was rated as one of the best places for men to received treatment for prostate and other men’s health related issues due to Winship’s robust clinical and translational research enterprise. The University Health Consortium (UHC) ranked Emory University Hospital as the second best hospital for quality in the US for 2013. Since UHC ranks only academic medical centers that typically treat more complex patients than most hospitals, making their top ten list of the 101 participants reflects the ultimate assessment of organizational performance in setting the standard in quality and safety.

U.S. News and World Report has ranked Emory University Hospital the number one hospital in both metro Atlanta and Georgia (out of 187) in its 2013-2014 report. With over 5,700 hospitals in the US, this puts Emory University Hospital in the top ⅓ of one percent of all hospitals in the US. Urology was ranked as one of Emory’s top ten high-performing adult specialty areas.

Our Core Purpose - To Serve Humanity by Improving Health through integration of education, discovery and health care
New Faculty - Dr. Akanksha Mehta

Dr. Akanksha Mehta joins the Department of Urology from Cornell Medical College as academic faculty urologist and the inaugural Emory Urology Health Services Scholar. Dr. Mehta’s clinical interests lie in the area of male reproductive medicine, sexual medicine, and microsurgery. In addition to active clinical practice at Emory, Dr. Mehta will be pursuing a Master’s of Science in Clinical Research at the Rollins School of Public Health. To this end, she will also be conducting epidemiological research through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the impact of male factor infertility on clinical outcomes following the use of assisted reproductive technologies.

Dr. Mehta graduated magna cum laude from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, with a B.Sc., in Biology and a B.A. in International Relations. Following medical school and urology residency at Brown University, she attended a 2-year fellowship in Male Reproductive Medicine and Microsurgery at Cornell Medical College/ New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York. Dr. Mehta is closely involved in teaching and mentoring medical students and urology residents. She has authored several book chapters and peer-reviewed publications in Urology, and has lectured both regionally and nationally.

Outside of Urology, Dr. Mehta maintains a keen interest in International Health; she has been involved in providing clinical care in Cambodia and Kenya, and has more recently completed a medical mission in Pediatric Urology to Bangladesh. Prior to arrival to the United States, Dr. Mehta spent much of her childhood and pre-college years in India, Switzerland, and Thailand. She is married to Dr. Jonathan Grossberg who is a neurosurgery fellow at Emory University. The couple has a 7-month-old son.

Emory Receives Movember Foundation Award

Emory will share in the $1,100,000 Movember Foundation Award designed to create a critical research tissue resource to address unmet clinical needs in prostate cancer patient care. The award term is two years beginning in August 2013. The global Movember community of over 1.1 million Mo Bros and Mo Sistas raised over $110 million for men’s health programs. While it is easy to figure out a Mo Bro or Mostasche Brother, some may wonder about Mo Sista. A Mo Sista is essentially a woman who is dedicated to supporting the Mo Bros through their moustache-growing journey. These inspirational women are committed to raising awareness of men’s health issues and much needed funds for men’s health along the way.

Emory is one of nine centers worldwide to be selected to jointly develop a novel tissue microarray designed to answer the most compelling clinical questions in prostate cancer. Among the other centers are Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and The University of Washington.

The Emory team is led by Dr. John A. Petros (Urology) and includes Emory co-investigators Drs. Martin G. Sanda, Muta M. Issa and Rebecca S. Arnold also in the Department of Urology, as well as Drs. Adeboye O. Osunkoya and Carlos Moreno (Pathology) and David Schuster (Nuclear Medicine).

Dr. Ritenour - New Associate Chief Medical Officer for Emory University Hospital

Dr. Chad Ritenour was appointed Associate Chief Medical Officer for Emory University Hospital (EUH), effective September 1. In that capacity, he will work with the administrative leadership to focus on driving quality and value at EUH. He will also serve as chair of the peer review committee. Dr. Ritenour has held several Urology departmental roles, including Interim Chairman from May 2010-February 2013. He currently serves as Vice Chair for Education and Faculty Affairs as well as Program Director for residency training.

AJC Interviews Dr. Sandra on Prostate Cancer Screening

The Atlanta Journal Constitution interviewed Dr. Sandra on the topic of prostate cancer screening, which was released in an article on June 4 titled “Doctors differ on prostate screening”

Sanda, an advocate of screening – which includes not only the PSA blood test but also the digital rectal exam, sees firsthand what can happen when prostate cancer is not caught in the early stages. Over a five- to 10-year period, about a third of men whose cancers are considered low risk turn worse and require treatment. “I see patients every month who are in their late 40s and early 50s and their cancer is too far along and we can’t do anything to treat them,” he said.

Sanda is studying a new, more sophisticated blood test that could change the way men are screened. Studies indicate the Prostate Health Index, or phi, is more precise than the PSA and better distinguishes an aggressive cancer from a low-risk cancer. It provides more accurate information, prevent unnecessary biopsies and treatments and the anxiety that often accompanies them, while saving lives from a disease expected to kill almost 30,000 men this year alone.

Sanda said a patient’s decision about whether to monitor the low-risk cancer or undergo treatment often depends on how the
information is presented. The key, he said, is explaining that the biopsies not only detect aggressive cancers that need immediate treatment but also pick up cancers that are “quasi cancer” and safe to watch rather than treat immediately. But not all doctors are entirely comfortable with the concept of simply waiting and watching.

Dr. Petros Appointed to FCAP

Congratulations to Dr. John A. Petros, a tenured Professor of Urology, for his recent appointment to the Faculty Committee for Appointments and Promotions (FCAP) at Emory University School of Medicine. Dr. Petros is one of the four new members appointed to the FCAP responsible for the review process of all Tenure Track and Research Track appointments and promotions. Approvals from FCAP Committee are moved to the Council of Chairs (COC) then the Dean. Tenure actions approved by the Dean are further forwarded to the Provost and the President’s Advisory Committee (PAC) for approval and thereafter to the President and the Board of Trustees for final ratification.

Dr. Petros appointment is the first such high level representation by the Department of Urology at FCAP. Dr. Petros’s outstanding reputation and performance as an academic urologist and physician scientist earned him this prestigious appointment. Congratulations.

New NIH Grant to Find “The Needle in the Haystack”

Emory was NIH’s (National Institute of Health) top choice to help solve the current challenges associated with detecting and locating prostate cancer recurrences. A research team headed by Emory Urology (Dr. Viraj Master) and Emory Radiology (Dr. Baowei Fei) has developed novel methods that use a tracer called “FACBC” (given as an injection) to attach to prostate cancer cells and allow for their detection using a molecular imaging camera. In addition to cancer detection, FACBC has a future potential and promise to deliver targeted cancer therapy through attaching different therapeutic drugs to it. In lieu of this tremendous achievement, Emory University is awarding Dr. Master and Dr. Fei the 2013 Emory 1% Award for being in the top 1% of NIH research studies.

For more information, please contact Mersiha Torlak at mtorlak@emory.edu

Faculty Accomplishments

• Dr. K. Jeff Carney received the 2013 Resident Education Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to teaching.

Resident Accomplishments

• Dr. Lindsey A. Herrel received the 2013 Outstanding Resident Academic Achievement Award in recognition of her outstanding academic efforts to Emory Urology.

• Dr. Austin B. DeRosa received the 2013 Cooner Award. The Cooner Award is given to the resident who through the past year’s residency training has most emulated the compassion and care for their patients exhibited by Professor William Hollis Cooner (Urology).

• Dr. Austin B. DeRosa joined the Department of Urology at Medical University of South Carolina for laparoscopy/robotics fellowship.

• Dr. Brian Cross joined the Department of Urology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center for urologic oncology fellowship.

• Dr. John DeCaro joined a urology community practice in Hawaii

Emory Urology – Champions Out of the Office ...

Saturday, June 22nd was a special day for the Department of Urology. Despite incredibly tough competition and intense Atlanta summer heat, Team Urology was crowned champions of the first annual House Staff Organization Kickball Tournament held at Piedmont Park. Team Urology held a distinct advantage over other teams as the only assembled squad with attending participation. Dr. Nieh pitched a nearly flawless third game, Dr. Ogan was dominant in the batter’s box, and Dr. Ritenour was a vacuum in center field. Other participants ranged from outgoing chief residents to incoming interns, in addition to a huge cheering section of friends and spouses. We look forward to continued departmental dominance and repeating as champions next June. Also of note, the Department of Urology softball team, the Stream Team, look to bring home another championship this August when playoffs begin.
Emory Saint Joseph’s Hospital - First in Georgia for Advanced Prostate Cancer Treatment

Patients with advanced castration-resistant prostate cancer can now benefit from new treatment of radioactive therapeutic drug that targets their prostate cancer. Thanks to Emory Saint Joseph’s for being in the forefront in offering this advanced therapy, the first in Georgia. A six-week course (1 injection per week) of Radium Ra 223 dichloride (brand name Xofigo) reduces bone pain and improves quality of life. Up until now, patients with this form of cancer have limited treatment options, with modest results.

Martin Sanda, MD, chair of the Department of Urology at Emory and director of the inter-institutional Prostate Cancer Center at Emory, Winship, and Saint Joseph’s: “Collaboration between nationally renowned Emory faculty and exceptional community-based specialists is a key paradigm to benefit our prostate cancer patients and their families, making it possible to get cutting-edge treatment at an Emory location easily accessible to the patients”

http://news.emory.edu/stories/2013/07/sjh_xofigo_treatment_prostate_cancer/index.html (Janet Christenbury, contributing writer)

Emory Urology Scientific Publications June-September 2013 (Online and Print)

- Elective Versus Routine Postoperative Clinic Appointments After Circumcisions Performed Under Local Anesthesia. Wardenburg, Dobbs, Barnes, Al-Qassab, Ritenour and Issa. Urology, June 2013
- A +20% Adjustment in the CT Measured Ureteral Length is an Accurate Predictor of True Ureteral Length Prior to Ureteral Stent Placement. Shewsbury, Al-Qassab, Goodman, Petros, Ritenour and Issa. Journal of Endourology, August 2013
- Systematic Review of the Evidence of a Relationship Between Chronic Psychosocial Stress and C-Reactive Protein. Johnson, Abbasi, and Master. Molecular Diagnostic Therapy, June 2013
- The Association Between C-Reactive Protein (CRP) Level And Biochemical Failure-Free Survival In Patients After Radiation Therapy For Nonmetastatic Adenocarcinoma Of The Prostate. Hall, Nickleach, Master, Prabhu, Rossi, Godette, Cooper and Jani. Cancer, July 2013 [Epub ahead of print]
- Impact of Histologic Subtype on Cancer-specific Survival in Patients with Renal Cell Carcinoma and Tumor Thrombus. Tiiki, Nguyen, Dal’Fera, Bertini, Carballido, Chomecki, Ciancio, Daneshmand, Gontzero, Gonzalez, Haferkamp, Hohenfellner, Huang, Koppie, Lorentz, Mandel, Martinez-Salamanca, and Master ET AL. European Urology, June 2013 [Epub ahead of print]
- Impact Of Surgeon And Volume On Extended Lymphadenectomy At The Time Of Robot-Assisted Radical Cystectomy: Results From The International Robotic Cystectomy Consortium (IRCC), Hayn, Stegemann, Agarwal, Badani, Baldy, Dasgupta, Hemal, Hollenbeck, Kibel, Menon, Mottrie, Neeple, Pattaras JG ET AL. British Journal International, June 2013
- Variance of survival is Associated With Increases In Serum Testosterone Independent Of Clinical Grade. Hsiao, Rosoff, Pale, Powell and Goldstein. Urology, June 2013
- Multi-disciplinary update on pelvic fracture associated bladder and urethral injuries. Figler, Hoffler, Reisman, Carney, Moore, Feliciano and Master. Injury, August 2013
- Diagnosis of Relevant Prostate Cancer Using Supplementary Cures From Magnetic Resonance Imaging-Prompted Areas Following Multiple Failed Biopsies: Costa, Bloch, Yao, Sando, Ngo, Genega, Pedrosa, Dewolf & Rofsly. Magnetic Resonance Imaging, July 2013

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

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