Greetings! On behalf of The Emory Department of Urology, I wish to first thank our generous donors for providing us with the support that allows us to continue our outstanding clinical service, as well as to achieve exciting new accomplishments.

Here are several recent highlights in our clinical services:

- Minimally Invasive Surgery and Kidney Stone Treatment – the da Vinci Robot has come to Emory.
- Continence and Female Urology – Dr. Niall Galloway will soon be joined by a new specialist in female urology, Dr. Nedra Hood.
- Dr. Muta Issa has established new technology that improves outpatient diagnostic capability for veteran patients.
- In 2008, our 10th year as a department, we continue to grow. The use of our operating room has doubled in the last five years. This year has also brought significant accomplishments in research and teaching. For the 4th straight year, more than ¾ of U.S. medical students seeking urology training applied to Emory Urology.
- At Emory, we have renowned doctors investigating the causes of urological cancer. In addition, urology residents participate and learn from these efforts. These activities add knowledge and expertise that enable us to provide the best current and future care for our patients. I hope you will consider supporting this mission. Please contact Kristin Boggs, Director of Development, at (404) 778-5429 or kboggs@emory.edu for further information.

Dr. Kenneth Ogan utilizes the da Vinci Surgical System during laparoscopic surgery.

The da Vinci Robot Comes to Emory

If you were a dedicated surgeon and could have super-powers, what would you wish for? Microscopic 3D vision? Mini super-steady fingers? How about an extra hand?

The surgeons at Emory Department of Urology have had these wishes come true in the new da Vinci Surgical System (commonly called the da Vinci Robot).

“It’s unlike any other medical tool that’s been offered in the 21st century,” said Dr. John Pattaras. The robotic technology has proven successful in thousands of surgeries for more than five years in the U.S. and internationally. It is especially suited for surgery on the prostate, kidney, or incontinence problems.

At Emory, the da Vinci was eagerly anticipated by doctors and prospective patients alike. Dr. Kenneth Ogan and Dr. John Pattaras currently use the new technology, applying their decades of experience in laparoscopy.

How does the da Vinci Robot improve surgery? Like laparoscopy, the new technology uses lenses which provide stereoscopic vision to aid surgery. The da Vinci has these advantages over traditional laparoscopic surgery:

- High-definition and three-dimensional vision - This is especially critical with a prostatectomy, where the surgeon must protect nerves and other organs in a tight environment.
- Ultra-steady instruments with greater flexibility – for example, the micro-instruments have 360 degrees of movement, greater than the human hand. (The robot cannot be programmed nor can it make decisions on its own. Every maneuver requires the skill and experience of the surgeon.)
- An extra hand – An extra instrument can, for example, hold tissue steadily in place for long periods of time. The benefits for patients are exciting. Evidence indicates surgery using the new technology, rather than traditional laparoscopy or other surgery, may provide the patient:
  - A short procedure which may result in a quick return to daily activities. With the new technology, there is less blood loss and better visualization for nerves and tissues in the body. This leads to a fast recovery.
  - There may be less risk of infection compared to open surgery.

At present, the da Vinci Surgical System at Emory serves prostate cancer and kidney patients. Use of the technology is expected to grow, especially in addressing incontinence. “Incontinence is an increasingly common problem that few surgeons are trained to address,” said Dr. Pattaras. “In the future, the da Vinci will offer improved surgical options to treat incontinence.” This future use of the technology will be led by Dr. Niall Galloway and his experienced staff.

Dr. Pattaras also expects that because of the da Vinci, there will be a shift in choices to address prostate cancer.

“No, young or relatively healthy cancer patients sometimes choose radiation because of the risks associated with surgery,” Pattaras said. “As those risks and recovery time decrease, I expect more patients, in consultation with their doctors, will choose surgery.”

As Georgia’s top urology training facility, the Emory Department of Urology has an important role in preparing residents to be proficient in new medical technology. The da Vinci will attract new residents while it improves urology treatments for patients.
Prostate Cancer Research Wins Merit Grant

This year, Dr. John Petros received the Emory Urology Department’s first Veteran’s Administration Merit grant for prostate cancer research. The four-year grant will support Emory to continue in the vanguard of this research.

The grant recognizes a recent breakthrough in Emory’s renowned research about mitochondria and prostate cancer. The explanation at the cellular level is complex, of course. Briefly, for the last five years the research has focused on mitochondria, which are the engines of cells, and DNA, the genetic map of the mitochondria. In 2006, Emory scientists revealed that a particular “genetic guide for the mitochondria DNA, passed on through the mother, is highly related to prostate cancer.

Most recently, the research concluded that certain mutated mitochondria enable the growth of prostate cancer in the bone environment. This insight contributes to understanding why prostate cancer is often linked to bone cancer, which is a highly aggressive, usually lethal form of cancer.

Several other individuals are less recognized but critical to the work, emphasized Dr. Petros. Other lead contributors were Dr. Rebecca Arnold, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Urology, and Dr. Andre Rogatko, Director of Biostatistics for Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute.

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Several other individuals are less recognized but critical to the work, emphasized Dr. Petros. Other lead contributors were Dr. Rebecca Arnold, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Urology, and Dr. Andre Rogatko, Director of Biostatistics for Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute. “You really can’t make a meaningful medical discovery unless it’s born out by highly sophisticated statistical analysis of both lab and clinical findings,” said Petros.

Also, the research would not be possible without the active participation of Emory patients. With their consent, excess tissues from surgery become the essential basic material for this research. Dr. Marshall is committed to educating patients about informed consent for tissue research.

How might the recent findings help reduce cancer risk, or lead to new treatment options in the future? According to Dr. Petros, “We’re increasing our understanding at a very basic molecular level about how cancer cells become more fit and adapt,” he explained. “In other words, we look at how cancer increases its survival in the body. Potentially, this reveals new targets for drugs or therapy.”

With Emory as a prime contributor, the mitochondrial findings have finally become widely accepted among cancer researchers. This recognition opens the way for related treatment or prevention research.

### Making A Gift To Emory Urology

#### Charitable Gift Annuities

A Gift For Life

- Fixed Income for Life – not variable
- Significant income tax deduction
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- Some capital gain reported but may be spread over life expectancy
- Minimum age 55, minimum gift $10,000
- Income can be deferred until a later date while principal grows to give larger income
- Significant charitable donation to Emory
- No attorneys fees – simple contract
- Guaranteed by Emory’s assets

**Benefits**

- **Immediate** - Income tax deduction of $3,594. May save up to $1,258. Reduced capital gains tax. May save up to $270.
- **Annual** - Annual income of $650 for life. Projected total after-tax income of $8,522 over 16 years.
- **Future** - Emory projected to have $14,549 in 16 years. Reduced estate taxes and costs.

For details on creating your charitable gift annuity, call Stephanie Frostbaum at 404.712.2155 or email at stephanie.frostbaum@emory.edu. You can visit our web site at giftplanning@emory.edu.