As we begin another calendar year, I am happy to report that the Department of Urology achieved numerous successes over the past 12 months. We reached several milestones not previously seen, and I am incredibly proud of our team. Our academic output continues to reach new heights, and many clinical initiatives have worked to improve the quality and efficiency of the care for our patients. I have been blessed to lead an incredible group of individuals who continually works to be the best they can be in their respective positions.

After an extensive search, Emory has identified our next Department Chairman, who will start on February 28th, 2013. Dr. Marty Sanda is an internationally known clinician and researcher who will bring great ideas to our expanding group. I ask that you give him the support that you have provided us for many years. He will continue to work to make Emory Urology nationally and internationally recognized for its teaching, service and research accomplishments. Stay tuned for many new developments.

Our patients are why we come to work each day. As we make new discoveries and teach the next generation, we are reminded each day of the difference we can make in an individual’s life. The stories that emerge from our Department continue to amaze me. As healthcare changes, we hope to always provide compassionate care for those we treat. Future initiatives will work to ensure that this goal is accomplished.

Our team members continue to represent Emory beyond Atlanta. The number of individuals making national and international presentations, as well as serving on boards and committees has ever increased. Our medical students have produced significant output under the guidance of faculty mentors, and the number of students showing interest in our field has risen dramatically. I have watched many people develop into future leaders for our field.

I cannot thank you all for your support in my role as Interim Chair for almost the past three years. Your kindness has been incredible. The future is bright and I ask that you continue to support our Department as we move to the next level. Best wishes for a healthy and successful 2013.

Sincerely,

Chad W.M. Ritenour, MD
Interim Chair
Dr. Wayland Hsiao
Hometown: Palos Verdes Estates, California

Education: Princeton University A.B. (I know it looks backwards but it is right) molecular biology cum laude; University of Pennsylvania, MD; Residency: Emory University
Ph.D. Program: Weil Cornell Medical College / Memorial Sloan-Kettering / Rockefeller University (Andrology).

Urologic specialties: Male Reproductive Medicine / Sexual Medicine / Microsurgery / Andrology

Why did you choose urology? I chose urology because of the depth and breadth of practice and the ability to really have a long-term relationship with a patient. Also, in urology we are lucky to be able to help with some of life’s most basic, yet intimate, problems. The overall tone of the field is also simply amazing, it is about compassionate care and improving quality of life.

Achievement or goals in the future regarding Urology? I would like to advance the field of reproductive medicine, sexual medicine, and urology. I truly believe that if in 20 years we are still doing the same treatments for the same diseases, in the academic establishment has failed. We need to reassess what is the old dogma in the field and question all those assumptions that were just passed on from generation to generation. I think with our genetic and epigenetic research revolutions in progress, we are on the cusp of being able to do what once was only a dream, the delivery of personalized medicine. Instead of quoting patients whatever the overall success rate is for any procedure, my hope is someday we can use personal information to bring success for that individual patient to near 100%.

Family/personal information to share? I married to Lisa, and we have 2 children, Emory and Audrey.

What do you do in your off-time? In the little free time I have I try and spend as much time as I can with my kids, they grow up fast! Otherwise I work on my research endeavors, thinking of new ideas and interacting with people in totally different areas, you never know where the next great idea is from, but usually it is from somewhere else.

Resident News

Welcome New Residents
Interns PGY-1s Usama “Sam” A. Al-Qassab, M.B.Ch.B. University of Baghdad College of Medicine R. Steven Gerhard, M.D. Emory University School of Medicine C. Adam Larentz, M.D. Emory University School of Medicine AVAMC PGY-1s Brad F. Moore, M.D. New York Medical College Amar P. Patel, M.D. University of Arizona College of Medicine Tucson, Arizona

Alumni News

Dr. John T. Abbott, Jr. (Class of 2008) was recently made a full Partner with Georgia Urology Associates, P.C. Dr. Andrew R. Bullock’s (Class of 2007) practice merged with Palmetto Urological to form the new group of Palmetto Greenville Urology.

Dr. Kelly A. Healy (Class of 2010) joined the Department of Urology at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA as one of their new Endourology Assistant Professors as of July 1, 2012. Dr. Jordan Angell (Class of 2012) and his wife, Laura, welcomed Wesley Bissell Angell in December. Congratulations! Dr. Casey Leong (Class of 2015) and his wife, Ashley, welcomed Casey Marcus Leong in January. Congratulations! Dr. Austin B. DeRosa (Class of 2013) and his wife, Laura, welcomed Owen Stewart DeRosa in November. Also, Austin accepted a Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Oncology at The Medical University of South Carolina. Congratulations! Dr. Brian W. Cross (Class of 2013) has accepted a Fellowship in Urologic Oncology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Other news: Jenny AIF, Emory Urology residency program coordinator, helped facilitate a generous gift to the Emory Urology Resident’s Program from the Atlanta Thrasher’s Fan Club. Thanks Jenny!

Elayne Miller, RN retired after 38 years of service as Urology RN at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. Elayne, you are greatly missed!

Discovery Fund Opens World of Research to Medical School Students

Through generous donor support, the Department of Urology has established a Discovery Fund in order to support the research efforts of promising medical students and give them the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with Emory Urology faculty. These Discovery Fund students receive incredible experience while conducting urological research and planning for their future medical careers.

Some highlights of recent accomplishments:

Robert Steven Gerhard
A study, developed in collaboration with Drs. Ritenour and Hsiao, examining how men’s lack of knowledge or negative beliefs contribute to low rates of treatment. A questionnaire explored the patients’ understanding of common conditions including erectile dysfunction, infertility, testosterone deficiency syndrome and others. Eight abstracts on the findings have been accepted at three national meetings including the World Meeting on Sexual Medicine in Chicago and the American Society of Reproductive Medicine in San Diego. Preparation of articles for publication is underway.

Ryan Whitney Dobbs
A database of bladder-cancer patients at the Atlanta VA Medical Center over the past 11 years was assembled for use in future research projects. Also a study examining the training schedules of residents learning prostate ultrasound and biopsy procedures. Findings published or accepted for publication in four journals including The Journal of Urology. Abstracts submitted or accepted by organizations including the Society of Urologic Oncologists.

Maxwell Douglas Taylor
A study to improve understanding of the relationship between frailty and post-operative outcomes has enrolled 223 patients and examined their risk factors. More than half of all operations in the United States are now performed on patients age 65 and older. Findings of this study will be presented at the Southeastern Section of the American Urological Association (SESAAU) in March 2013 and abstracts have been submitted for the annual meeting of the American Urological Association (AUA).

Daniel Shin-Ping Wang
A study, developed in collaboration with Drs. Ritenour and Hsiao, examining how men’s lack of knowledge or negative beliefs contribute to low rates of treatment. A questionnaire explored the patients’ understanding of common conditions including erectile dysfunction, infertility, testosterone deficiency syndrome and others. Eight abstracts on the findings have been accepted at three national meetings including the World Meeting on Sexual Medicine in Chicago and the American Society of Reproductive Medicine in San Diego. Preparation of articles for publication is underway.

Emory Urologists Continue Free Care in Haiti

In summer of the past five years, either Dr. John Pattaras or Dr. Viraj Master (both associate professors of Urology, travelled to the central plateau of Haiti to provide free surgical care to the local population. They go as part of Emory Medishare (which is a branch of Project Medishare-a 501(c)3 non-profit organization) which travels each year to Hinche, which is about 100 kilometers north of Port-au-Prince. Along with General Surgery and Anesthesiology personnel, John and Viraj work with Medishare’s local medical staff to set up clinics at the Hospital Saint Terese, train local healthcare workers, and assist in the improvement of the healthcare infrastructure. Medical students from Emory School of Medicine organize and run the entire trip including pre and post-operative care.

Surgical conditions are very primitive in the central plateau as compared to the United States. The hospital in Hinche has batteries which provide limited energy for lighting and various surgical equipment. It is not unusual for surgery to take place using headlamps John, Viraj, and the students have brought from home. On surgical days, preparation for cases begin just after dawn and surgery may go on late into the night in order to accommodate as many people as possible over the trip’s time. Many patients wait months or even years for treatment.

Each year, 10 Emory medical students raise the majority of money themselves, with activities like date night auctions, and others. The faculty self-fund themselves. The total yearly budget is 60,000 dollars for two weeks, for which surgical care is delivered to more than 60 patients.

For more information or to make a gift in support of this program, please contact James Owen at 404-778-5429.

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!

Ways to support the department:
- Support the day-to-day operations with a gift to the Urology Excellence Fund.
- Help us educate the next generation of urologists with a gift to the Resident Support Fund.
- Give directly to one of our four clinical centers: Uro-ology, The Stone Center, Men’s Health, or The Continence Center.

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

If you would like to make a memorial gift or a gift in honor of your physician, nurse, or resident, or if you need more information, please contact James Owen, Director of Development, at 404.778.5429 or james.p.owen@emory.edu.