Central Ohio’s only Men’s Sexual Health Team

DEPARTMENT OF UROLOGY
The Ohio State University
Wexner Medical Center
Official ties and scarves of the Ohio State University Department of Urology were mailed out to past visiting professors. Elspeth M. McDougall, MD, a professor of Urology at the University of British Columbia, shared a photo of herself, wearing her gift. Dr. McDougall was the 2003 Seventh Annual Chester C. Winter, MD, Visiting Professor.

Congratulation to Tariq Khemees, MD (pictured right) who, for the second year in a row, won the Best Poster Award for Localized Kidney Cancer session at the Annual meeting for the American Urological Association that was held in San Diego, CA. Dr. Khemees project titled “The Impact of Peri-renal Fat on Surgical Outcomes following Partial Nephrectomy for Renal Cell Carcinoma” was mentored by Geoffrey Box, MD (pictured left) and will be presented at “The Best of AUA 2013” meeting organized by Japanese Urologic Association in Tokyo, Japan October 2013.

A research study that was presented at AUA 2013, by David Ludlow, MD and Ronney Abaza, MD, was featured in Urology Times as a high quality study. To read the study visit http://urologytimes.modernmedicine.com/urology-times/news/aua-2013-lap-suturing-skills-can-they-be-taught-3-hours.

Pictured on cover
Front Row: Chris McClung, MD, Elizabeth Downing, Jackie Kleeberger, MA, Patrick DiMeo, RN
Back Row: Gregory Lowe, MD, Laura Brugger, Jada Henricks, MA, Ryan Novak, MD

urology.osu.edu
Gregory J. Lowe, MD

Faculty In Focus

No sperm used to mean no children. However, with the introduction of in-vitro fertilization, only a few sperm are necessary for a pregnancy. Male factors play a role in up to 50 percent of cases of couple infertility. Now, at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, no sperm still allows options for men to become fathers.

Gregory Lowe, MD, completed his urology residency at Ohio State prior to pursuing fellowship at the University of Virginia. He trained in Men’s Sexual Health and Male Infertility under Raymond Costabile, MD, and William Steers, MD. Dr. Costabile has performed nearly 2,800 vasectomy reversals and has been instrumental in the development of two drugs, Muse and Cialis. His expertise and guidance rapidly advanced the training Dr. Lowe had previously received in male infertility. Dr. Steers is one of the brightest minds in urology, and has provided research guidance in erectile dysfunction, especially following prostate surgery.

Dr. Lowe grew up outside Cincinnati and went to Miami University (the one established before Florida was a state) for his undergraduate studies. He completed his medical school training at the Medical College of Ohio, in Toledo, Ohio, prior to his residency at Ohio State. Prior to fellowship, Dr. Lowe recognized there was very little male infertility care provided in central Ohio. Unfortunately, this area is not taught in all residency programs and many practicing urologists are not comfortable with providing infertility guidance. Dr. Lowe decided to return to central Ohio to become the first and only fellowship-trained specialist to work full time in Columbus.

Infertility care for the male patient requires an understanding of the hormonal influences and testicular role in sperm production. Many of the male patients coming to see Dr. Lowe have not seen a physician in years. At times, the infertility evaluation provides the opportunity to identify significant diseases such as testicular cancer, diabetes, genetic diseases or low testosterone. Many of the surgical procedures in male infertility require specialized operating microscope training to be performed for the best chances of success. Vasectomy reversal is most successful in the hands of a fellowship-trained surgeon, and has success rates of greater than 95 percent. Micro-dissection testicular sperm extraction is a surgical procedure to identify small areas of sperm production in men who do not have sperm in the ejaculate. This procedure allows men with even five to 10 sperm to have a child through in-vitro fertilization. Dr. Lowe enjoys seeing the ultrasound pictures and joy in the couples who achieve successful pregnancies. He also knows the importance of sensitivity and care when telling couples they will not be able to have their own biological children.

Besides infertility, Dr. Lowe has an interest in low testosterone (hypogonadism) and hormonal imbalances in men. Recent advertisements for medications on TV and radio have made this a booming part of Dr. Lowe’s practice. Testosterone has many effects in men. Some men do not even realize how good they could feel with normal testosterone levels, and assume it is “old age.” Testosterone treatment has many misconceptions and is difficult to study due to the normal fluctuations. Testosterone does not cause prostate cancer and in some cases men with a prior history of prostate cancer are receiving testosterone therapy. Testosterone also does not make men angry or aggressive. In fact, most men on testosterone therapy have an improved and more stable mood. There are many ways to replace testosterone and it is important to find the most appropriate for each patient. Patients desiring maintained fertility/sperm production should not get testosterone injections because this will lower sperm counts. There are treatments to help these men achieve higher testosterone levels without lowering sperm counts.

Many men presenting with low testosterone often complain of erectile dysfunction as well. For most men, simply replacing testosterone will not restore normal erections. Dr. Lowe focuses many clinical hours and research efforts into treating erectile dysfunction. Many factors can lead to erectile dysfunction and it is now well recognized that the penis can act as “the canary in the coal mine.” The arteries that supply the penis with blood are about half the size of heart arteries. Therefore, men who present with erectile dysfunction have been found to have a higher risk of heart attacks over the next 10 years. Usually the erection problems precede the heart attack by two to five years, and this provides an opportunity for intervention prior to an event. Dr. Lowe takes this into account when treating his sexual health patients. Often, the evaluation is detailed to monitor blood sugar levels, cholesterol levels, blood pressure and medications used to treat each of these. Men who fail the typical initial treatments of oral medication are offered penile injection therapy and surgical options. The injection therapy works well, and once men overcome the anxiety associated with a needle injection in the penis, the results are dramatic. When this approach is not successful, surgery to implant a penile prosthesis is a wonderful option. A penile prosthesis is associated with very high satisfaction rates for patients and their partners. The new penile prostheses work well, last a long time and provide near normal feeling erections. Surgery to place the prosthesis can be performed as an outpatient surgery and recent research has shown that success rates for this operation are highest when performed at a higher volume center. With Dr. Lowe’s guidance, Ohio State’s volume has become one the highest in the state.

Dr. Lowe works in one area of urology that has been notoriously difficult to treat — testicular pain. He follows a protocol to allow a trial of conservative measures, followed by medication and ultimately resulting in surgery if needed. On presentation, many of these men request the testicle be removed because of their bother with the pain. However, removing the testicle does not always resolve the pain. Dr. Lowe offers microscopic spermatic cord denervation to remove the nerves travelling along the cord to the testicle and results in pain relief in 70 percent of men. This is an area of active research for Dr. Lowe. Many men struggle with this problem and few good solutions exist. Dr. Lowe is ready to study a treatment algorithm to determine if a simplified way to address this problem is available for urologists.

Dr. Lowe takes great pride in his clinical practice and works hard to ensure each patient feels respected and treated as an individual. He provides new learning opportunities for the Ohio State residents and has been working to establish better care pathways for the patients being treated for all types of cancer. Allowing men the opportunity to bank sperm prior to some surgeries or chemotherapy may be the only option for a patient to have children in the future.

Dr. Lowe’s practice has grown very quickly in the last 20 months and he knows that involves more than just the care he provides. “I love what I do and love treating men’s issues that are difficult for patients to discuss. It’s not just me though. The staff surrounding me makes me look good. Their care and compassion really shines.”
First Auxiliary Clinical Assistant Professor of Urology Named

Urologist Philip Aschi, MD, a long-time member of the Clinton Memorial Hospital (CMH) Regional Health System medical staff and a member of the CMH Board of Trustees, has been appointed as the first Auxiliary Clinical Assistant Professor of Urology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, College of Medicine, Department of Urology, in Columbus.

Dr. Aschi, who started practice at Southwestern Ohio Urology in Wilmington in 1996, has a longstanding clinical relationship with Ohio State.

"I am flattered by this recognition," Dr. Aschi says. "Although I will not teach, I think this could open some doors for CMH to pursue other clinical collaborations with Ohio State."

"We are pleased to have Dr. Aschi as our newest member of the department faculty," says Dr. Robert Bahnson, chair of the department. "He has a strong reputation of providing excellent general urologic care. He is the first community urologist that has been offered a faculty appointment by the department in recognition of his outstanding patient care and shared commitment to the department’s mission of creating the future of urologic health care."

Dr. Aschi, who averages more than 700 surgeries per year in the CMH Surgery Center, refers patients to Ohio State for robotic surgeries and some radical bladder surgeries.

The practice of urology at Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center has been in existence for more than 50 years. There are subspecialists in a variety of areas, including general urology, urologic robotic surgery, kidney stone management, urologic oncology, urologic trauma and reconstruction and men’s sexual health.

Ohio State’s Department of Urology has been recognized as a national leader in this specialty by U.S. News and World Report. The department works in collaboration with urologists across the country and provides care to complex patients who are high risk or difficult to treat.

Areas that Dr. Aschi specializes in include benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), bladder and urinary tract obstruction, erectile dysfunction, hematuria (blood in the urine), incontinence, interstitial cystitis (irritated bladder wall), kidney stones, laser surgery, lithotripsy, prostate cancer, prostate disease, urinary tract infections, urologic cancer and vasectomies.

One of the more common surgeries Dr. Aschi performs at CMH is for urinary and bowel control. InterStim® Therapy is a minimally invasive option proven to improve or restore bowel control that is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
Urology Physician Achievement in Patient Satisfaction

The physicians in the Department of Urology earned a year-end HCAHPS Doctor Communication patient satisfaction score of 84.4 percent, exceeding their target of 82.5 percent for the year. This score placed them at the 87th percentile in a ranking of their peers in the nation. This ranking was among the highest of all the physician groups in the Medical Center. Dr. Bahnsen and the department were congratulated, via letter, on attaining this exceptional patient satisfaction score. “Your achievement highlights the teamwork and excellence that The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center values. Your team has truly made a difference. Thank you for your continued dedication to the medical center. Your contributions are greatly appreciated,” wrote Hagop S. Mekhjian, MD, Chief Medical Officer, and Susan Moffatt-Bruce, MD, PhD, Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer.

Certificate of Outstanding Achievement

Kamal Pohar, MD, and his research team were recognized with a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement for being among the top enrollers to trials available to all members of the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) Cooperative Group Clinical Trials Network through the Cancer Trials Support Unit (CTSU). The CTSU recognized the hard work and dedication of Dr. Pohar and his team. He was commended for his participation in helping studies led by the Cooperative Group and other organizations reach their accrual goals. Their commitment and hard work in enrolling patients to trials via the CTSU was also noted, as well as Dr. Pohar’s contribution to cutting-edge cancer research being a vital part of answering important treatment questions.

American Board of Urology Certified

Congratulations to Gregory J. Lowe, MD, on becoming American Board of Urology certified. Past graduates of the program, Ashay Patel, DO, Adam Mues, MD, Benjamin Gibson, MD, and Achal Modi, MD, also were certified.

Urology Videos

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<th>Physician Name</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>David Sharp</td>
<td>Overview</td>
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<td>221</td>
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<td>Ahmad Shabsigh</td>
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<td>Ronney Abaza</td>
<td>Overview Prostate Cancer, Men’s Health Screenings</td>
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<td>Geoffrey Box</td>
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<td>Chris McClung</td>
<td>Overview Urologic Trauma &amp; Reconstruction, Urethral Stricture, Peyronie’s Disease, Male Stress Incontinence, Conceived Penis</td>
<td>April 2012</td>
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<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28F1l379MW">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28F1l379MW</a></td>
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<td>Bodo Knudsen</td>
<td>Overview Kidney Stones</td>
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<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suWb_EmvF">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suWb_EmvF</a></td>
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Video links are also available at urology.osu.edu. Click on the Patient Care tab and then on Urology Video Library.

Feedback from the videos has been very positive. We have had individuals schedule appointments after researching and viewing the videos. New patients are directed to the videos. If you have questions about any of the physicians or questions regarding the content of the video please call 614-293-8155.
Goodbye to a Landmark

The demolition of Cramblett Medical Clinic, former home for our department, will allow space for the Phyllis Jones Legacy Park that will be located in front of the new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute and Critical Care Center.

Cramblett Hall Fun Facts

- The Cramblett Medical Clinic was built in 1974 and helped to provide outpatient services in more than 50 specialties including Urology, Obstetrics, Neurology, Surgery and Ophthalmology.
- In 1999, the building was named Cramblett Hall in honor of Henry G. Cramblett, MD, who was dean of the College of Medicine from 1973 to 1980, and served as vice president for Health Sciences from 1980 to 1982.
- While at Ohio State, Dr. Cramblett obtained funding for construction of Rhodes Hall at the Medical Center and also worked to secure funding for the current James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.
- On average, more than 1,000 patients from throughout Ohio were seen each week in the clinic by Medical Center physicians, nurses and staff.
- As part of our sustainability efforts and LEED certification for the new building, demolition material is being recycled.

Demolition of Cramblett Medical Clinic is expected to be complete by late April 2013.

Movember

Movember is all about bringing back the moustache, having fun and doing it for a serious cause: men’s health, specifically prostate and testicular cancer initiatives.

“Mo Bros” committed to growing a moustache for the 30 days of November, and in doing so became walking and talking billboards for the cause. The moustache was our ribbon, the symbol by which we generated conversations, awareness and raised funds for men’s health. The OSUCCC – James and Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center partnered with Turner Construction to start a team for this past year’s event called “OSU Mo James.”
This past fall has been very exciting for me as I settle into my new role. I have an outstanding group of young urologists who make coming to work here every day a real pleasure.

One thing we started this year is our first annual resident bowl among our senior residents. This year’s winner, Matthew Johnson, MD, was awarded the opportunity to represent Ohio State at the regional North Central Section Resident Bowl. Dr. Johnson, along with his team, Dr. Matthew Fulton (Beaumont), Casey Dauw, MD, (U of Michigan), and Devon Snow-Lisy, MD, (Cleveland Clinic), won the regional competition, and will compete in the national Resident Bowl at the AUA meeting in San Diego.

In October, we welcomed Stuart Wolf, Jr., MD, as our Chester C. Winter, MD, Visiting Professor. It was a full day of academics and we could not have been happier with the chief residents’ selection for this honored program. October also brought with it the annual process of selecting residents for next year. This is a very exciting time as we get to know all of the budding urologists and to hear about their future plans in this field. We feel very fortunate to have matched with three outstanding candidates. Tariq Khemees, MD, is well known to our department. Dr. Khemees hails from Iraq, and has been with us as a research fellow since 2009. Chad Gridley, MD, comes to us most recently from Harvard University where he has spent the past year as a research fellow for Boston Children’s Hospital. Before Boston, Dr. Gridley graduated from the University of Illinois. Andrew Todd spent a month with us on an away rotation from the University of Louisville back in August. He really impressed us with his hard work and team mentality. We look forward to welcoming all of them in July.

I could not be more excited for our own three medical school graduates who matched in urology. Kevin Heinsimer, Eric Springer, and John Lavin have impressed us with their medical knowledge and passion for urology, and I am delighted that other programs were also able to recognize just how valuable they will be to our field.

We have a very robust academic calendar this year with several visiting professors and a few more in the works for next year.

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Residents Make Impressive Showing at Ohio Urological Society (OUS) Meeting

The following submissions were presented at the 2013 OUS meeting held in Sandusky, Ohio, on March 16, 2013. Congratulations to Erin Akar, MD, and Zach Gordon, MD, whose contributions resulted in Best Poster and 3rd place Best Paper respectively.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESIDENT</th>
<th>FACULTY MENTOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Johnson</td>
<td>Debra Zynger</td>
<td>Expression of Carbonic Anhydrase IX in Urologic Neoplasms</td>
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<td>David Ludlow</td>
<td>Ronney Abaza</td>
<td>Drains are Not Necessary in the Majority of Robotic Urologic Procedures</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Gregory Lowe</td>
<td>Do Physicians Delay Attempted Fertility During Medical Training?</td>
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<td>TJ Morris</td>
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<td>Renal Tumor Scoring Systems: Comparison and Correlation with Surgical Outcomes</td>
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<td>Abhishek Patel</td>
<td>Geoffrey Box</td>
<td>A Retrospective Study to Compare the Degree of Hematuria Reported From Qualitative Dipstick Urinalysis with Quantitative Microscopic Urinalysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Firas Petros</td>
<td>David Sharp, Ahmad Shabsigh and Geoffrey Box</td>
<td>The Impact of Peri-Renal Fat on Surgical Outcomes Following Partial Nephrectomy for Renal Cell Carcinoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Smock</td>
<td>Ronney Abaza</td>
<td>Overnight Stay Adequate for Most Major Urologic Procedures Using Robotic Surgery</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Incoming PGY2- URO1s

Brent Carlyle, MD
Brent completed his undergraduate training at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. After graduating, Brent spent five years in the army as an intelligence officer and Army Ranger. Before leaving the military as a Captain, he completed three combat tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. Observing military doctors work overseas inspired Brent to pursue a medical career. He earned his Medical Doctorate while attending the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, NY. Brent is happily married to his wife, a pediatrician.

Aron Liaw, MD
Aron grew up in Adelaide, Australia, and has a Bachelor’s in Biotechnology from Macquarie University in Sydney, as well as a Master’s in Biological Science from Purdue University and a Medical Doctorate from Indiana University. He was a competitive fencer for many years and has competed in World Cup events and on the Australian Combined University Team. He has made several trips to China to work in the orphanages there, most recently in medical school, where he arranged for other students to go along to enrich their experience. He is having a tremendous time in Columbus, which is very much his kind of town. He plans to continue on to a fellowship after training, and is looking forward to the entire experience of residency as the next step in a medical career.

Jason Orien, MD
Jason chose Ohio State Urology for the chance to work with an outstanding group of faculty and residents who have great collegial camaraderie and provide a high standard of care for their patients. He and his wife are enjoying the family-friendly atmosphere that they have found here in Columbus, and welcomed the birth of their first child this past December. While here at Ohio State, he has eagerly anticipated the opportunity to develop sound surgical skills in addition to expertise in clinical decision making within the field of urology.

Residency Match Results

Chad Gridley
University of Illinois
College of Medicine

Tariq Khemees, MD
Al-Nahrain University

Andrew Todd
University of Louisville School of Medicine

AUA News

Drs. Bodo Knudsen and Tariq Khemees were invited by the editor of AUA News®, Dr. Gopal Badlani, to write a commentary on “Advances in Laser Lithotripsy for Ureteral and Renal Calculi.” The article will be featured in the May issue of the journal that will be published and distributed during the forthcoming 2013 AUA annual meeting in San Diego, CA.

AUA News® is the official newsmagazine of the American Urological Association, Inc. and is written to provide the AUA members current, highly relevant, cutting-edge news of practical value to urologists while also serving as a vehicle for prompt and current communication between the AUA and its members.

Ball Handlers — 2013 Intramural Champions

Pictured are Drs. Andrew Smock, T.J. Morris, Jason Orien, Mike Rose, Troy Howard, David Ludlow and Matthew Johnson. All are Urology residents with the exception of Mike and Troy, who are ENT Residents. Congrats, you represent us well!
Kevin Heinsimer (pictured first) realized during his third year that he enjoyed surgery. However, as he looked into subspecialties within surgery, he felt many of them lacked medical management. Urology is the perfect mix of medicine and surgery for his career. He also found that he fit well with the people in the field. During his rotations at Ohio State, he found the residents and attendings to be extremely inviting and excited about their careers. They were also always eager to teach and to provide him with guidance as he applied for residency. At the Honors Ceremony on May 2, 2013 Geoffrey Box, MD presented Kevin with the William Neeley Taylor Award. This honor award is given to a graduating medical student who has excelled in the field of urology. As a resident, he is excited to take more charge of patient care and of course, getting the perfect mix of medicine and surgery for his career. He also found that he fit in well with the people in the field.

New PGY4

Please welcome our newest resident, Adam Howe, MD. Dr. Howe will start in July, and comes to us as a PGY4 from the University of Louisville Urologic Surgery training program. Before his training in Kentucky, Dr. Howe received his medical doctorate from Albany Medical College in New York. After searching for a candidate to take the open position, we were very pleased to find Dr. Howe. He has an interest in pursuing pediatric urology after residency, and we hope to give him every opportunity to succeed in his pursuit. This position became open when our current PGY3 resident Samiha Nasser, MD made the difficult decision to pursue another field of practice. Dr. Nasser will finish out the year and we wish her the all the best as she continues with her postgraduate training.

Ohio State’s College of Medicine Med IV Urology Matches

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Urologic Trauma and Reconstruction

Requires Unique Training and Expertise

Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center physician Christopher McClung, MD, is the only fellowship-trained urologic trauma and reconstruction specialist in central Ohio. He is qualified to treat any urologic condition a patient may present with due to his extensive training and expertise in a variety of conditions, including urethral strictures, acute management of GU trauma, male incontinence, erectile dysfunction, Peyronie’s disease, and hidden penis. Urologic trauma can occur from a motor vehicle accident, gunshot wound, or another injury to the urinary or genital system. Reconstruction can be necessary due to a previous surgery, injury, infection or the effects of radiation. Dr. McClung is experienced in determining how best to reconfigure the urologic system to allow the patient to return to normal function.

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Patients who have a stricture from urethral scar tissue have treatment options including: endoscopic incision, dilation, and repair surgery. It is not advisable to have dilation or incision more than once. If this form of treatment is not successful, then surgery to repair the stricture is necessary. This treatment guideline is important because surgical repair becomes increasingly difficult with repeated procedures. One unsuccessful stricture dilation or incision is grounds for a referral for surgery. Experience with delicate, complex urethral stricture treatment is an important consideration when selecting a surgeon. “It is not always possible to predict the course of a stricture repair surgery until it is under way,” says Dr. McClung. “In some cases, a long tissue graft is required unexpectedly, complicating surgery. Having a surgeon who is highly trained and experienced in all possible aspects of urologic surgery is beneficial. In most cases, you get one good chance to repair a stricture. The surgeon’s extra fellowship training cannot be overlooked.” Stricture repair surgery requires an overnight hospital stay and a urinary catheter for two to four weeks, depending on the procedure.

Concealed penis occurs due to scarring or obesity. In obese patients, the lower abdominal skin and sub abdominal fatty tissue cause the penis to become concealed in the abdomen. Patients present with an inability to stand for urination and to have sexual intercourse. Treatment involves removing fatty tissue above the penis in an abdominoplasty procedure and, more often than not, repairing the shaft of the penis with a skin graft from the thigh. Shaft repair is required when the skin has degraded from infection or skin breakdown that occurs from constant moisture in the area.

PATIENT CASE

A 23-year-old male presented with a gunshot wound to the buttocks that deflected anteriorly, injuring the urethra. There was blood at the meatus of the penis. Images were obtained to identify the urethral injury. The patient was taken to surgery for excision of the segment with reconnection of the urethra. The patient’s surgery was successful and he is now back to normal function and voiding well.

This is a retrograde urethrogram (RUG). Contrast is injected into the urethra and the images are obtained. This image shows extravasation of contrast from the urethra due to the injury.

We partner with referring physicians to provide specialty urology care for your patients. Our policy is to accept all patients referred to our department. If we determine that a referred patient would be better served by another specialty, we will arrange that visit for your patient. To refer a patient to Dr. McClung, call 614-293-3648. For general questions or other referral information, call 614-293-8155.

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Distinguished Visitors

Ervin and Bonnie Babbert Visiting Lecturer
Michael Droller, MD

Michael J. Droller, MD, received his medical degree cum laude from Harvard Medical School and followed that with an internship at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and a surgical residency at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. After taking a position in the U.S. Public Health Service at the National Institutes of Health as a Clinical Associate in the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases to pursue clinical and laboratory investigations, he completed his urology residency at Stanford University Medical Center. He spent a year in immunologic research in the Department of Immunology at the University of Stockholm, and then joined the faculty in the Departments of Urology and Oncology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and School of Medicine. Dr. Droller joined Mount Sinai as professor and chairman of the Department of Urology in 1984, serving in that capacity for 19 years and becoming the Katherine and Clifford Goldsmith Professor of Urology (1998) and professor of Oncology.

He was chosen as the Babbert Visiting Lecturer because of his clinical interests that center on urological cancers, with a major focus on bladder cancer and prostate cancer. In March, he presented a lecture to the faculty and staff entitled “Considerations in the Assessment and Treatment of Bladder Cancer in the Elderly.” After the lecture the residents were able to present cases to Dr. Droller and receive feedback and suggestions from him. The lecture was a success and enjoyed by faculty and residents. Our thanks to Dr. Droller for contributing to the education of our residents and also thanks to Ervin and Bonnie Babbert for making this lecture series possible.

Upcoming Lectures

Michael and Janis Bloch Visiting Scholar
H. Ballentine Carter, MD
Professor of Urology, Oncology
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Director, Division of Adult Urology
The James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute
May 16, 2013

Sara Lee Youngs Distinguished Lecturer
Eila Skinner, MD
Chairman, Department of Urology
Stanford University
May 28, 2013

17th Annual Chester C. Winter, MD, Visiting Professor
Eric Rovner, MD
Associate Professor, Department of Urology
Medical University of South Carolina
Director, Section of Voiding Dysfunction, Female Urology and Urodynamics
September 27, 2013
Health Screening Partnership a Success

The Department of Urology partnered with Turner Lend Lease to provide free health screenings to the construction team helping to build Ohio State’s new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute and Critical Care Center. Screenings were offered on-site and included height, weight, blood pressure, body mass index, blood glucose and cholesterol screening. Free prostate and testicular screenings were made available to the team by appointment in the Urology offices. Red drawstring backpacks were distributed to all members of the construction team as they left work for the day on January 3rd, and included health information specific to men and the specialized urologic services provided through Ohio State’s Department of Urology.

Sixteen individuals took advantage of the opportunity of a free prostate and testicular screening.

Jay Holdgreve is a cancer survivor. In mid 2010 he started experiencing right low back pain, right hip tightness and a dull ache in his groin. The results of the workup done by his family physician revealed an elevated tumor marker, hCG, an abnormal ultrasound of his testicle, and a biopsy was positive for testicular cancer. He was referred to Ahmad Shabsigh, MD, an urologic oncologist with the Department of Urology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. He felt confident with Dr. Shabsigh, who told him his cancer was 95 percent curable. To read more about Jay and his personal battle with testicular cancer visit his webpage, http://tcare.org.

After winning his battle with testicular cancer, Jay was shocked to learn that there was no support system or means for men with this cancer to donate for research. He decided to do something about it. He contacted The James and created the Jay Holdgreve Endowment for Testicular Cancer Research. The endowment was for $50,000 and he has currently raised $41,500. He created a website, http://tcare.org, to make the public aware of this cancer and to offer support. May 10th is the 3rd Annual Ohio State Baseball Testicular Cancer Awareness Game. Players on both teams (Ohio State and Oregon) will wear decals on their helmets. This is also his third year for the Bowling for the Boyz (this year he raised over $9,000). This event is held in his hometown of Delphos, Ohio. Movember is another event that he organizes to raise money. This event was held at a local pub, The Tilted Kilt, and they sold mustaches for $5 apiece. He reaches out to local high schools to make the students aware of the symptoms for testicular cancer.

Testicular cancer usually develops between ages 20 to 35, but can happen in men at any age. There are 8,500 men diagnosed each year and it is trending higher each year. The good news is that the death rate has decreased.

Jay is very passionate about educating the public about this cancer. He finances the cost out of his pocket. It is his goal to have more testicular cancer awareness programs. Dr. Shabsigh and The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center developed shower cards that illustrate how to do a testicular self-exam and he hands these out at events. He feels that it is important to get the word out to parents of young men as well. He would like to have an event at an Ohio State basketball game similar to the baseball one. He is working on setting up a mailing list for patients with testicular cancer that could be used for disseminating information about events and could also be used as a support system. He has received messages of support from Robert Bahnson, MD, Urology Chairman, David Sharp, MD and Dr. Shabsigh.

Jay would like everyone to know that the James Community Partners, especially Katie Brennan and Kim Collins, have been very helpful in supporting him in this cause. To donate to the endowment fund click on the DONATE button on the http://tcare.org website. He would like to see the money raised from this endowment used for research. He and Dr. Shabsigh have also discussed setting up a national database for existing testicular patients.

Pictured:
Top: Jay with Katie Brennan of the James Community Partners
Jay with Paul Monk, MD at last years Ohio State Baseball game.
Jay with waitresses at the Tilted Kilt
Gregory Lowe, MD, assistant professor in the Department of Urology, specializing in men’s sexual health and male infertility has recently initiated two observational studies, both anonymous surveys, in an effort to collect preliminary data in the areas of delayed fertility among healthcare professionals and unreported sexual symptoms among men.

In the first project, Dr. Lowe queried faculty, fellows, residents and medical students on their personal experience, knowledge and opinions as they relate to fertility and childbearing. The response from the medical center community was very impressive. In less than a week, over 400 respondents completed a 44-question survey, which contained questions regarding demographics, medical specialty, desire to have children, length required to conceive, and openness to artificial reproduction. Other questions focused on factors influencing the decision to become a parent, and perceptions of the importance of age on female fertility. The initial results of this survey were presented by Jeff Wilson, MD, a resident in the Department of Urology at a recent meeting. Dr. Lowe hopes to further analyze the data and use this information to develop a larger multi-institutional survey study increasing the objective to include geographical variances.

The second project reached out to both female and male patients presenting at their Primary Care Clinic for routine examinations or clinic visits. Over 300 completed surveys were collected during a three-week time period. The initial objective of this short questionnaire (10 yes or no questions) aimed to assess the prevalence of men with certain sexual symptoms. Additionally, Dr. Lowe and his colleagues looked for evidence of any increase in reporting symptoms anonymously.

Ultimately, a more global objective of both projects is to determine feasibility and success of using an anonymous survey approach to collecting data relating to reproductive and sexual health.

Integrating Medicine into Basic Science Research

The Ohio State University and Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) established the Med into Grad to facilitate the sharing of information between basic scientists and clinicians. This academic year, Ben Sunkel, a graduate student in Ohio State’s Biochemistry Program and the HHMI Computational Biology Area, has been mentored by Robert Bahnson, MD. In Ben’s words, “I am looking forward to the experiences and the challenges that are ahead. My biggest motivator in applying for the Med into Grad scholars program was the desire to learn exactly how laboratory-derived understanding of cancer is applied in the clinic. I admit to being woefully uninformed in this area, and feel that my career as an investigator will benefit greatly from a knowledge of the downstream utility of research findings. I expect to gain the skills needed to interface with healthcare providers, as I believe such interactions will enhance my ability as a researcher to meet the needs of the clinic. The opportunity to study topics in medical biology will be an excellent supplement to my biochemistry curriculum, and I look forward to ‘zooming out’ to realize the impact that individual interactions have on whole systems. Ultimately, I hope this experience will inform my investigative approach in the future, providing me with the insight needed to conduct research with clear clinical relevance.”

Dr. Bahnson had this to say, “It has been a pleasure to provide Ben with a look at the patient problems created by genitourinary cancer. He has seen firsthand how scientific investigation leads to improved treatments and outcomes”.

Survey Studies Garner Great Response from Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center and Community

Department of Urology Chair Mentors Student in Howard Hughes Medical Institute MED into GRAD Scholars Program
Our Benefactors

Henry A. “Sandy” Wise, II, MD

Henry Wise, II, MD, is an important benefactor for the Department of Urology. Dr. Wise began his career at Ohio State in 1972 after joining the faculty. In 1978, he became the urology division chair, and was instrumental in bringing Dr. Bahnson to Ohio State. Dr. Wise retired in 2000, but has remained an integral part of the Department of Urology.

When asked why he continues to donate to Ohio State, Dr. Wise made it clear that he would like to one day see the creation of a chair to hire an urologist in the department, with the hope that the physician can practice general urology. As Dr. Wise put it, “We don’t need more specialists – just doctors who can be all-around urologists.” Dr. Wise’s overarching message was even more salient. As he explains it, “More importantly, Ohio State has been very good to me. If I can give back or pay forward, I see it as my obligation.”

Donors Continue Their Support to the Department

2013 Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Justine “Tina” and George Skestos, longtime benefactors of the Department of Urology, were awarded the 2013 Distinguished Service Award. The Distinguished Service Award was established by the Board of Trustees in 1952 to recognize individuals who have rendered exceptional service to the university. Awards are not made on the basis of long, faithful, or loyal service alone, but rather for service that is truly distinguished. Recipients of this award have provided a broad spectrum of services to the university in both official and unofficial capacities.

Recipients were notified of the honor via a personal letter from President E. Gordon Gee. They will receive their awards at the spring commencement on Sunday, May 5, 2013. Please join us in congratulating these individuals for their dedicated service to The Ohio State University.

Other individuals receiving the award this year are Carole A. Anderson, Rudine Sims Bishop, William Blair, Ruann F. Ernst, and Daniel Wampler.

Robert D. Walter, his wife Peggy, and their three sons are committed philanthropists. While the focus of their charitable giving has centered on education, health care, and children, Bob and Peggy have also been supporters of the arts and numerous other, important Columbus charities. They were recently honored with the 2011 Harrison M. Sayre Award as outstanding philanthropists by the Columbus Foundation. Bob and Peggy have been continuous contributors to the tripartite mission of the Department of Urology. Their initial endowment was named in honor of Bob’s father, Robert C. Walter, whose sensitivity and triumph over adversity inspired his entire family. We congratulate Bob and Peggy on their recognition by the Columbus Foundation. We are fortunate and grateful for their ongoing support of our department.
How to Give

Gifts to the Department of Urology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center help us further our goal of continuously being recognized as a leader in patient care, education and research. Gifts can be given to any of the following funds listed on the opposite page or to the Department directly.

BLADDER CANCER RESEARCH FUND (Fund # 312290) Kamal Pohar, MD.
ENDOUROLOGIC UROLOGY SURGERY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUND (Fund # 313015) Bodo Knudsen, MD.
THE ERVIN C. & BONNIE J. BABBERT EXCELLENCE IN UROLOGY FUND (Fund # 640239) Supports resident education.
HENRY A. WISE, II, MD, ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP IN UROLOGY (Fund #627613).
THE JACK N. TAYLOR, MD, UROLOGY LECTURESHIP FUND (Fund # 607129) Supports an annual lecture (or lectures).
THE JAY HOLDGREVE ENDowment FOR TESTICULAR CANCER FUND (Fund # 486020).
THE MEN’S SEXUAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUND (Fund # 313801) Supports research and medical education.
THE JAY HOLDGREVE ENDOWMENT FOR TESTICULAR CANCER FUND (Fund # 486020) Supports research and medical education.
THE MICHAEL D. BLOCH AND JANIS B. BLOCH ENDOWMENT FUND IN UROLOGY (Fund # 640533) Supports research and medical education.
THE MICHAEL W. CURRAN RESEARCH FUND (Fund # 660588) Supports prostate cancer research.
MINIMALLY-INVASIVE/ROBOTIC UROLOGIC SURGERY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUND (Fund # 313014) Geoffrey Box, MD.
ONCOLOGIC AND MOLECULAR UROLOGY/ROBOTIC SURGERY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUND (Fund # 313013) Ahmad Shabsigh, MD.
THE ROBERT C. WALTER MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND (Fund #647551) Supports faculty development and patient outreach.
ROBOTIC UROLOGIC SURGERY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUND (Fund # 312951) Ronney Abaza, MD.
THE RONALD & ERNESTA FAY ENDowment FUND TO SUPPORT RESEARCH IN PROSTATE CANCER AND BRACHYTHERAPY (Fund # 662122).
SARA LEE YOUNGS MEMORIAL FUND (Fund # 311931) Supports a bladder cancer lectureship.
THE JULIUS SKESTOS AND DIANA SKESTOS CHAIR IN UROLOGY (Fund #646575).
UROLOGY TRAUMA AND RECONSTRUCTION RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUND (Fund #313491) Christopher McClung, MD.
UROLOGY EDUCATION FUND (Fund # 306315) Supports teaching and partial funding of urology research projects.
UROLOGIC ONCOLOGY/ROBOTIC SURGERY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUND (Fund # 313017) David Sharp, MD.

All gifts large and small are greatly appreciated. Gifts are tax deductible in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code. Please make checks payable to: The Ohio State University, Department of Urology, and mail them to: 915 Olentangy River Road (Suite 2000), Columbus, OH 43212.