Focus on the Future!

In this Issue:
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- Faculty in Focus - Dr. Geoffrey Box
- Robotic Preceptorship Course
The Flagship!

Always with Alacrity

Our Benefactors

Betsy and Tod Ortlip with Dr. and Mrs. Robert R. Bahnson. The Ortlips have long been donors to the Department.

Michael & Janis Bloch, who have previously established the Bloch Visiting Scholar in the Department of Urology recently announced their $5 million gift to the Arthur G. James and Richard J. Solove Research Institute.

Need a Little Help from Our Friends...

Bob Bahnson (kneeling), Bill Farrar, Mark Conselyea and Dave Schuller assist Dr. Caliguire, CEO of the Jullias, with his golf game at the Annual Herbert J. Block Memorial Golf Tournament benefiting The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center-Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute.

Dr. Robert R. Bahnson pictured with Tami Longaberger at the August, 2001 ceremony recognizing him as the Chair.

13th Year Anniversary of Longaberger Chair

This year marks the 13th year since the establishment of the Dave Longaberger Chair in Urology and the 10th year that Dr. Robert R. Bahnson has held the Chair. Although the Dave Longaberger Endowed Chair in Urology was officially established on September 2, 1998, Dr. Bahnson was named the first holder of the chair on March 2, 2001. The Longaberger family has always been supportive of Dr. Bahnson and what he has been able to accomplish in the Department of Urology. Their support was critical in transitioning Urology from a division to a department.

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Since 2005 Dr. Frank Begun has joined his colleague, Dr. Peter Langenstroer (Medical College of Wisconsin) in week-long visits to Juticalpa, Honduras to provide needed urological services to patients in that region. Completing the medical mission team each year are nurses, an anesthesiologist, a nurse anesthetist, a physician translator, and at least one urological resident. Juticalpa is the Olancho Province’s capital with a population of 33,000 in a region that includes about 50,000 residents. The area is primarily an agricultural and ranching community. The nearest urologists are in the nation’s capital city of Tegucigalpa which is a difficult three-plus hour drive away.

The team brings a large amount of medical equipment and donated medical supplies, such as gowns, packs, foley catheters, scopes, and medications. The usual schedule is to screen approximately 60 referred patients on Monday, and the remainder of the week is spent performing surgical procedures from 7:30am to 8:30pm. The most common surgical procedure that the team performs is a transurethral prostatectomy (TURP). They also have done nephrectomies, nephrolithotomies, and uretero-pelvic junction (UPJ) repairs. The greatest challenge is being able to diagnose urological problems without the availability of the diagnostic tests and equipment. It is fascinating to see how the family members are able to provide postoperative care under the guidance of nursing professionals. Patients are required to bring their own pain medications.

This year the team will be adapting to the new hospital located in neighboring Catacamas, Honduras. The team will be one of the first to visit the new facility as a medical mission. Dr. Begun is hoping that there will be hot water showers for a change! He volunteers his services and pays his own travel expenses to make the trip each year because, “It is a humbling experience to serve these patients who lack access to specialty medical care that matters so much in terms of quality of life.” The Honduran medical mission effort in Olancho Province has partnered with the Catholic Medical Association for approximately sixteen years.
“Thanks to all supporters, volunteers, and riders of Pelotonia 2011 this year. It was a wonderful event and a great ride. Through fundraisers and donations, our Urology peloton raised nearly $11,000 for cancer research here at Ohio State. Congrats to all.” — Teamleader, David S. Sharp, MD

Pelotonia 2011 is an annual event to raise money to support cancer research at The James. This year’s event raised over $8.5 million dollars. For more information on this event please visit www.pelotonia.org.

Jay Holdgreve, a testicular cancer survivor, started an endowment fund at The Ohio State University’s James Cancer Center and launched the Testicular Cancer Awareness Research Education website at www.tcare.org. His most recent fundraiser, Bowling for the Boyz, was held on April 30th of this year. The goal was to enjoy bowling and karaoke while raising awareness for research for testicular cancer. His efforts raised more than $6,700.00.
Dr. Geoffrey Box joined the faculty of the Department of Urology as the Director of Laparoscopic Urologic Surgery in 2008. His ties to OSU started much earlier as he completed his undergraduate, medical and residency training here. In 2006, after 13 years of education at OSU, he ventured out west to the University of California, Irvine (UCI) where he completed a two-year fellowship in Laparoscopy, Endourology, Image-Guided Therapy and Robotic-Assisted Laparoscopy. His two-year fellowship in California was instrumental in starting his academic career. It was there he trained with several of the true pioneers in endourology, laparoscopy and robotic surgery, including Drs. Ralph Clayman, Elspeth McDougall and Thomas Ahlering.

“it is fair to say that I bleed scarlet and gray,” said Dr. Box, referring to his fondness for Columbus and OSU. He credits his outstanding training for his current success. “I cannot begin to express my appreciation for those who provided my education in urology. From my residency to my fellowship, I have been fortunate to learn from some of the very best surgeons, educators, scientists and human beings in the field.”

Dr. Box is committed to resident education. He is responsible for several programs designed to further resident training, including a hands-on laparoscopic lab, journal club and developing a urologic ultrasound curriculum. He holds a biannual hands-on laparoscopic and robotic animal laboratory experience where residents are given instruction and are able to perform advanced minimally invasive procedures, both with traditional laparoscopy and the da Vinci robot. Dr. Box collaborates with Dr. David Bahner (Emergency Medicine) to develop an ultrasound curriculum for urology residents. Dr. Bahner is an internationally recognized expert in ultrasound and ultrasound education. He and Dr. Box were awarded a $25,000 peer-reviewed grant to support their research. This Ultrasound Training Protocol and Assessment Program will ultimately be distributed to residency programs across the country.

He holds a biannual hands-on laparoscopic and robotic animal laboratory experience. Dr. Box describes his thoughts on the utility of ultrasound in urology: “In many ways the use of ultrasound by urologists is behind many of our colleges in other disciplines. Affordable handheld ultrasound devices will be available in the near future. This fact, coupled with the recent increased awareness of the harmful effects of ionizing radiation, formalized ultrasound training becomes even more important. In the future, a routine physical exam may include ultrasound to examine the kidneys, similar to the way a stethoscope is used to examine the heart today.”

Dr. Box’s clinical interests include the minimally invasive treatment of genitourinary disease. His sub-specialty training gives him expertise in treating prostate and kidney cancer using laparoscopic and robotic techniques. Additionally he has significant experience with all areas of endourology for the endoscopic and percutaneous treatment of renal tumors, stones and stricture disease. He offers this full spectrum of treatment options to his patients.

Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES), where surgery is performed via a natural body opening (i.e. mouth, bladder, vagina), so that no visible scars are made. It was this work that earned him the Best Paper Award at the Engineering and Urology Society meeting at the American Urological Association annual meeting. He was the first person in the world to perform an experimental animal NOTES procedure with the da Vinci robot. Laparoendoscopic Single Site Surgery (LESS) is a similar technique using standard laparoscopic instruments through only one small abdominal incision that can be hidden in the umbilicus. While at OSU Dr. Box has performed several LESS procedures and continues to investigate this surgical approach. He is the only surgeon at OSU to utilize the retroperitoneal approach for robotic-partial nephrectomies, as this technique can be quite useful for patients with multiple prior abdominal surgeries or kidney tumors in difficult locations.

Dr. Box has also been recognized on national and international levels. He has served as faculty for the AUA Urologic Oncology and Advanced Laparoscopy Course and been an invited presenter in Germany, China, Ecuador, Mexico, India and Japan. He has over 30 peer-reviewed publications, served as Co-Chairman of the Urologic NOTES and LESS Working Group, and was recently selected as an AUA Academic Exchange Scholar. As one of the two selected scholars, he spent this January in India with Muljibhai Patel Urological Hospital (MPUH) in Nadial and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi. Additionally, he attended and presented at the Urological Society of India Annual Meeting in Kolkata. One of the highlights of his experience involved a trip to rural northwestern India where urologic care was provided at a surgical camp to an underserved area of India. He was able to not only observe, but also perform surgery while he was there. Dr. Box describes: “This was truly a wonderful once in a lifetime experience. The compassion and skill of the urologists in India was remarkable. I hope the Indian urologists were able to learn from my expertise as I know my knowledge has significantly improved from this experience. I will remember this trip for a lifetime and have been able to improve the care of my patients because of it.”

Ultimately the primary goal of all our activities is to deliver exceptional patient care. To this end, Dr. Box credits the incredible staff with whom he works. From his secretary, Whitney (pictured to the right of Dr. Box), to the operating room and clinic nurses (pictured are Brandy, Tina, Amanda, and Jada) and all of the faculty in the department, Dr. Box values his collegiality and collaboration. “I truly look forward to coming to work each day in large part because of all the wonderful people with which I have the opportunity to work.” Dr. Box puts great emphasis on not only trying to provide highly skilled surgical treatment, but also on patient care prior to and following procedures. “My philosophy has always been to try to explain things on a very understandable level. I really try to treat everyone as if they were a member of my family,” said Dr. Box who is particularly enamored by the quote: “No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care.”
In addition to offering the highest quality clinical care for patients undergoing robotic surgery for prostate, kidney, and bladder conditions, OSU Urology continues to excel in research and innovations related to robotic surgery. This year, two journal publications by OSU Urology faculty were highlighted on the covers of major medical journals. Dr. Ronney Abaza, Director of Robotic Urologic Surgery and Co-director of Ohio State’s Center for Advanced Robotic Surgery, published the first ever description of robotic surgery for kidney tumors invading the vena cava. This was featured on the cover of the April issue of *European Urology*. A video illustrating this novel technique was recognized at the annual meeting of the American Urological Association as the First Honorable Mention.

Another publication, authored by OSU urologists Dr. Ronney Abaza and Dr. Gregory Lowe, was featured on the cover of the July issue of the *Journal of Endourology* and was the first to describe robotic lymph node dissections for kidney cancers.

**Innovations from OSU Urology Highlighted in Prestigious Journals**

**New Robotics Fellow**

Praneeth Vemulapalli, M.D., began his one-year robotic surgery fellowship with OSU Urology in July. Dr. Vemulapalli joins OSU Urology after completing a six-year Urology residency at the SUNY Stony Brook program in Stony Brook, New York. Dr. Vemulapalli completed his medical school training at Tufts University School of Medicine prior to his residency. He is Dr. Abaza’s second fellow accepted into the fellowship program at OSU Urology.

The robotic surgery fellow already accepted for academic year 2013 is Jordan Angell, M.D. He is currently a Urology chief resident at Emory University and will begin his fellowship training at OSU in July of 2012. Former fellow, Daniel Mulligan, M.D., is currently at Kings’ Daughters Medical Center in Ashland, Kentucky where he is performing robotic urologic surgery as part of his Urology practice. OSU Urology faculty members involved in the fellowship program include fellowship program director Dr. Ronney Abaza. Drs. Ahmad Shabsigh, Geoffrey Box, and David Sharp are involved in the fellowship program performing and teaching robotic surgery.

**OSU Director of Robotic Urologic Surgery Honored by Taiwan Urological Association**

Dr. Ronney Abaza was invited to address the 33rd Annual Congress of the Taiwan Urological Association, held at the National Cheng Kung University Medical College in Tainan, Taiwan on August 13-14. Dr. Abaza spoke about the role of robotic surgery in the field of Urology. The session was moderated by Dr. Yen-Chuan Ou. Dr. Ou is one of the most experienced robotic surgeons in Taiwan and performs robotic prostate cancer surgery at the Taichung Veterans General Hospital in Taichung, Taiwan. Dr. Abaza was presented with an award by the society inscribed, “In Appreciation for Significant Contributions and Spectacular Lectures at the 2011 Annual Meeting and 33rd General Scientific Meeting.”

Prior to the meeting in Taiwan, Dr. Abaza spent two days in Hong Kong at the Princess Margaret Hospital instructing surgeons on robotic prostatectomies in three patients with prostate cancer. Dr. Abaza has performed approximately 1,500 robotic prostate cancer surgeries. The surgeons had performed nearly 200 such procedures and had invited Dr. Abaza to share his techniques and lessons learned from his experience.

**AUA Video Awardee**

Dr. Abaza with Dr. Yen-Chuan Ou

Pictured with Dr. Abaza are Ashutosh Tewari, MD from Cornell and Benjamin Lee, MD from Tulane both from the AUA audiovisual awards committee and Edward Nickerson, the audiovisual specialist who created the video that won first honorable mention.
OSU Urology Robotic Surgeons Address Clinical Anatomists

On Saturday, July 16, OSU urologists addressed a national meeting of the American Society of Clinical Anatomists regarding robotic surgery. Dr. Geoffrey Box gave a lecture on robotic and other minimally-invasive treatments for kidney disease, and Dr. Ronney Abaza lectured on the anatomy of robotic prostate cancer surgery. Dr. Christopher Ellison, chairman of the OSU Department of Surgery, organized lectures from OSU surgeons of various specialties. Drs. Abaza and Box led a robotic surgery animal lab where the anatomists were able to view the surgical robot in action.

The goal of these lectures was to aid clinical anatomists to be more effective teachers and provide more clinical relevance to medical students during their preclinical training. Training includes their gross anatomy lab where they learn the basics of human anatomy as it applies to the remainder of their medical careers.

Annual Prostate Screening

Each year the Department of Urology staffs the annual free prostate screening held by The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute. The faculty, residents, and nursing staff donate their time to this important cause. As in past prostate screenings at The James, the assessment included two tests: a blood draw that checks the prostate-specific antigen level, or PSA, as it is more commonly known, and a digital rectal exam. The American Cancer Society and National Comprehensive Cancer Network recommend both tests for men 50 years and older, or men as young as 40-45 years old if in a high-risk group. High-risk groups for prostate cancer are African American men and men who have first-degree relatives (father and brother, or two brothers) who have had prostate cancer. For more information on this event and any subsequent events please contact Joe Janowiecki at (614) 293-5066.

OSU Urology has developed a unique educational program designed to allow visiting chief residents from urology training programs in the U.S. the opportunity to spend a week at OSU to improve their exposure and training in robotic surgery. This mini-fellowship program is the first of its kind and began this academic year.

“We developed this as a natural extension to the preceptorship that we have done for the last three years,” said Dr. Ronney Abaza, director of robotic urologic surgery for OSU Urology. “We felt that we were making a contribution to the education of the visiting residents but were limited by the classroom format and by only having them here for two days. This additional educational opportunity lets us do much more.”

The week-long experience will be offered to 15 to 20 visiting residents annually with maximized opportunity for individualized education. The curriculum includes observation of more than 10 robotic surgeries from inside the operating rooms at OSU and hands-on training including robotic console operation, simulation training, and robotic surgery in an animal lab. Through generous industry support from friends of OSU Urology, the program is offered at no cost to the visiting residents and includes their hotel accommodations.

New Robotic Surgery Mini-fellowship at OSU a First

Pictured are Drs. Ronney Abaza, Paul Rusilko, David Sharp, and Praneeth Vemulapalli. Dr. Rusilko is from Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. He will be doing a fellowship in Genitourinary Reconstruction and Trauma next year.
Third Annual National Urology Resident Preceptorship at OSU

In April, OSU Urology hosted a course in robotic urologic surgery for visiting residents from around the country. About 50 residents participated in the course, which included lectures, live surgical procedures transmitted from the OSU operating rooms, and hands-on skills training that included operation of the actual robotic surgical console in a dry lab setting as well as two different robotic surgery virtual reality simulators. Guest faculty included robotic surgery pioneers and nationally-recognized experts Dr. Mani Menon from Henry Ford Health System, Dr. Matthew Gettman of the Mayo Clinic, and Dr. Jihad Kaouk of the Cleveland Clinic. The instructors for the course included OSU Urology robotic faculty Drs. Ronney Abaza, Ahmad Shabsigh, Geoffrey Box, and David Sharp.

Dr. Abaza explains patient positioning for robotic surgery with visiting residents

Visiting residents after hands-on session with members of OSU robotics team

...learn docking of robot during hands-on sessions.

...practice robotic surgery on virtual reality simulator.

...watch live surgery performed by Dr. Abaza from OSU operating room.
Urology Clerkship

Each year we have an average of 8-10 4th year medical students visit OSU Urology to complete an away elective. This Urology Sub-Intern course is also available to our OSU students. The course is designed to allow the student to gain preliminary exposure in the evaluation of urological complaints, both on an inpatient and outpatient basis. Emphasis is on principles of urologic history taking and urologic physical examination. Principles of urinalysis are taught as well as the principles of reading urograms and other urologic-related radiographic studies. In the operating room, principles of cystoscopy are taught and the student is given the opportunity to assist in surgery. Each student will spend one week on our Gray Service, one week on our Scarlet Service, one week at OSU East, and one week at Nationwide Children’s Hospital (NCH). One of our recent visiting students had this to say about his experience, “The organization of the clerkship was outstanding. Dividing the 4 weeks to rotate in Scarlet, Gray, NCH, and OSU East gave me the opportunity to sample all facets of urology that the OSU residency offers. The residents got along extremely well and as such promoted a positive team chemistry and made the work environment pleasant. The attendings were accessible and were respectful all the time. Overall, the experience I’ve had this month was outstanding to say the least. The wealth of information that residents know is astounding, which speaks for the strength of the program. Seeing URO-1 residents get early exposure to surgical cases is an excellent attribute of this residency program.”

New Chiefs

Dr. David Shore received his undergraduate degree in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was also a member of the UW men’s varsity crew team. He completed his medical degree at Northwestern University in Chicago before joining the OSU urology residency program. David incorporates teaching patients, medical students and fellow residents into his daily routine. During his training at Ohio State, David has particularly enjoyed learning advanced techniques in robotic surgery and plans to incorporate them into practice after graduation.

Dr. David Prall earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He completed his medical degree in 2007 at the University of Minnesota Medical School. He, his wife, Jana, and shih-tzu, Bear, are from St. Paul, Minnesota and he has plans to enter private practice closer to home once finishing his residency. The education he received in the Department of Urology at The Ohio State University has been excellent in preparing him for the step after residency. David looks forward to starting his career.

Resident Awarded Traveling Fellowship

The Society for the Study of Male Reproduction and the Sexual Medicine Society awarded current OSU Urology chief resident Dr. David Shore a Men’s Health Traveling Fellowship at the 2011 national meeting of the AUA in Washington, DC. This intensive four-day program was focused on the special needs of men pertaining to reproduction and sexual health. The education he received in the Department of Urology at The Ohio State University has been excellent in preparing him for the step after residency. David looks forward to starting his career.
On April 21, 2011 Nationwide Children’s Hospital hosted H. Gil Rushton, MD as the 2011 Section of Pediatric Urology Visiting Professor. Dr. Rushton presented a lecture entitled “The Top Down Approach to Evaluation and Treatment of UTIs and VUR in Children: A New Algorithm and Modern Approach to Management of Prepubertal Testis Tumors.” Lectures were followed by case discussion. Pictured are 1st Row: Drs. Ashay Patel, Seth Alpert, Brian VanderBrink; 2nd Row: Drs. Ahmad Mohamed, Stephen Koff, H. Gil Rushton, Rama Jayanthi and Robert Bahnson.

Ohio Urological Society (OUS) Resident Essay Contest Winners!

Andrew Smock, MD

Dr. Smock won the resident essay contest at the 2011 Ohio Urological Society Spring Meeting. His presentation was titled “Mullerian and Wolffian Duct Abnormalities Encountered During Robotic Prostatectomy.” He was awarded $1,000 and the Department of Urology will receive $1,500 to send him to present this data at the fall meeting of the North Central Section, to be held in Rancho Mirage, CA. The Department is very proud of his accomplishment.

Jeffrey Wilson, MD

Dr. Wilson won second place in the resident essay contest at the 2011 Ohio Urological Society Spring Meeting. His presentation was titled "Should Patients With Glaucoma Be Offered Robotic Prostatectomy?" Dr Wilson received a $500 prize and the respect of the Department.

UROLOGY INTEREST GROUP

This academic year the Department of Urology will support a Urology Interest Group for Ohio State University Medical Students. Fourth year medical students and founders of the interest group, Daniel Box and Michael Antiporda, had early exposure to Urology as a surgical field of interest, and hope to pass their experiences on to other medical students. Michael had this to say about why he chose Urology. “My initial exposure to urology was through bladder cancer research in Dr. Kamal Pohar’s lab, but rotating on service early during my third year was what really drew me in. The wide spectrum of disease, intricacy of surgeries, diversity of therapeutic approaches, and constant intellectual debate that I encountered made every day of the clerkship exciting. Of particular interest to me is the opportunity to care for patients with genitourinary malignancies. I chose urology because it is the specialty that I believe best fits my interests and strengths. I look forward to rigorous training in residency to become a conscientious and skilled GU surgeon like the mentors I have had as a student in the Department of Urology here at Ohio State.” Interest group advisor, Dr. Ahmad Shabsigh, is passionate about working with future surgeons and is excited to share his insight with students. Through the interest group Michael and Daniel hope to provide shadowing opportunity, both in the OR and clinic, wet and dry lab exposure, and simulated robotic surgery opportunities.
Dr. Isla Garraway, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Urology, University of California, Los Angeles, presented the Bloch Lecture on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 on "Stem Cells in Human Prostate Development and Cancer." This presentation gave the residents understanding of the strategies to isolate and characterize human prostate stem cells. Dr. Garraway also presented on the human prostate tissue regeneration models used to test stem cell candidates and identify issues related to identification of prostate tumor-initiating cells and cancer stem cells. She presented some of the basic research from her laboratory. This is a novel topic in basic prostate cancer research. This presentation gave insight in how the future treatment of prostate cancer will change.

Innovations in the Management of Non-muscle and Muscle-invasive Bladder Cancer

Dr. Yves Fradet, MD, Professor of Surgery at Universite Laval presented the Sara Lee Youngs Visiting Professor lecture on Tuesday, May 03, 2011 on "Innovations in the Management of Non-muscle and Muscle-invasive Bladder Cancer." This presentation gave an insight into the diagnostic innovations and the risk of stratification of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. Dr. Fradet discussed various intravesical therapies for management of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. He later shared some new information from experimental approaches emanating from his laboratory research. Finally he discussed some of the controversy and rationale for the optimal timing of surgery and systemic chemotherapy for the treatment of higher risk muscle-invasive bladder cancer. After completion of the presentation there were three case discussions with the visiting professor covering various controversies and newer developments in the management of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. Some of the new recommendations from the Canadian urology and European urology societies were also discussed.

Dr. Chris McClung is the second recipient of the Jack N. Taylor, MD Distinguished Teaching Award. He is pictured here with his wife Becky at the award ceremony that was held this past June. The award is bestowed to the faculty member deemed most outstanding teacher by the residents. Dr. McClung thanked the residents for this recognition. Good job Dr. McClung and congratulations!
The 15th Annual Winter Visiting Professor Lectureship took place on September 16th at the Ohio State University Medical Center. Dr. Pearle presented two lectures entitled “Ureteroscopic Management of Renal Calculi” and “Role of Diet in Calcium Stone Formation”. The lectures were followed by case presentations. Following the lectures the traditional dinner was at Smith & Wollensky’s. The Department is thankful to Dr. Pearle for the outstanding presentations. They were well received by the faculty and residents.
Reconstruction Database

Dr. Christopher McClung is involved in a study called, A Multi-Institutional Urologic Reconstruction Database. The goal of this project is to establish a multi-institutional database for the outcomes of urologic reconstruction. Currently, there are only nine centers offering fellowship training in reconstructive urology. The hope is to improve patient safety by defining the success and complications of reconstructive urologic surgeries by tracking outcomes from nine separate institutions.

Dr. McClung is enrolling patients now. For further information call Laura at 614-293-3648.

Renal Cell Carcinoma

Dr. Robert Bahnson is embarking on a multi-center study entitled “A Phase 2 and Biomarker Study of Tivozanib in Subjects With Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma” sponsored by AVEO Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

This study on patients with advanced renal cell cancer has four goals. Tivozanib is an anti-angiogenesis medicine that fights cancer by cutting off a tumor's blood supply, so that it does not get the blood and nutrients it needs to grow.

The main goal of this study is to see if there are changes in proteins in blood or tumor tissue that may be caused by tivozanib and also see if there are genetic markers that may be related to how the disease responds to tivozanib.

The second goal of this study is to determine how well tivozanib can slow the growth of or shrink the cancer.

The third goal of this study is to evaluate the safety and tolerability of tivozanib and assess how patients feel during treatment with tivozanib. This includes studying any side effects.

The final goal of this study is to measure the levels of tivozanib in the bloodstream over time. These samples will be used to determine how much of tivozanib enters the blood; how the body uses tivozanib; any by-products the body makes from tivozanib; how the body gets rid of tivozanib and any of its by-products; and how this might affect the changes in proteins in blood or tumor tissue (biomarkers).

Patients are now being enrolled. For further information call Katie Warden Grand, Clinical Research Coordinator at (614) 293-4235.

Kidney Stones

Dr. Bodo Knudsen, together with our Department Research Coordinator Dr. Janet McGarr, are currently enrolling patients in a multicenter clinic trial evaluating a new medication that might improve the chances of a kidney stone passing. The medication is called silodosin (Rapaflo) and the study is sponsored by Watson Pharmaceuticals. Silodosin has been used to treat men with urinary difficulties related to an enlarged prostate. However, it is also thought to relax some of the smooth muscle fibers in the ureter (the tube connecting the kidney and the bladder) where stones often get stuck. By relaxing the tube, the patient may have a higher success rate of passing the stone on their own without the need for surgical intervention.

Dr. Knudsen was asked about the benefit of the study for OSU Medical Center patients who have stone disease. “There have been a number of smaller studies evaluating the use of alpha-blockers for spontaneous stone passage. Many of these studies placed patients on multiple drugs, while others enrolled only a small number of patients, both of which make interpretation of the results challenging. This multicenter trial is designed to avoid these pitfalls and provide an answer as to whether giving patients silodosin will increase their chance of passing a kidney stone. This information will help future patients who seek treatment for their stone disease.”

Patients who are seen by Dr. Knudsen in the Stone Clinic are automatically considered for entry into the clinical trial which is discussed with patients at the time of their visit. Entry into the study is up to the individual patient.

Dr. Knudsen’s research program relies in part on the support of grateful patients and their families. If you would like to make a contribution to his research program to further the treatment of stone disease, this can be done by donating to the Endourology Urologic Surgery Research and Education Fund (Fund #313015).

Bladder Cancer

Dr. Kamal Pohar is involved in a study called “Imaging of Bladder Cancer Using Clinical 3 Tesla MRI and Ex-vivo Ultra-High-Field MRI”. The study is a multidisciplinary effort between the departments of Urology, Radiology, Medical Oncology and Pathology. The 3 Tesla magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has recently been approved for clinical use as it provides greater resolution and anatomic detail and may lead to improvements in patient care. Current imaging modalities of the bladder, including CT and 1.5 Tesla MRI, are inaccurate in assigning tumor stage in patients diagnosed with bladder cancer and better methods are needed to improve patient care. The introduction of the 3 Tesla MRI provides a novel opportunity to study an imaging tool that provides high soft tissue contrast and functional imaging of the bladder tumor including dynamic contrast enhanced and diffusion weighted images. The primary objective of the study is to evaluate whether 3 Tesla MRI can accurately determine primary tumor (T) stage and pelvic lymph node (N) stage by comparing the MRI images to the surgically removed bladder specimen (pathologic stage) following radical cystectomy. A secondary objective of the study is to determine whether 3 Tesla MRI can visualize whether the primary bladder tumor is responding to neoadjuvant chemotherapy, an important prognostic endpoint. Since the study opened in 2009, 56 patients have agreed to participate, and the early results are encouraging.
RECOGNITION

**Bodo Knudsen, MD**

Best Reviewer Award - Engineering and Urology Society - American Urological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 2011. It was felt that Dr. Knudsen received this award because of his hard work and accurate judgement.

Dr. Knudsen currently serves as the Secretary for the Ohio Urological Society.

**Ahmad Shabsigh, MD**

As a part of a multicenter collaboration, Dr. Shabsigh will be the primary investigator at the Ohio State University Medical Center Department of Urology of the first multicenter randomized clinical trial for Open vs Robot-Assisted Radical Cystectomy for patients with bladder cancer. Thirteen medical centers will be participating in the NIH/NCI funded research under the leadership of Dr. Dipen J. Parekh from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The trial will cover the next 5 years and will enroll 320 patients into the two arms of the study. This is a great opportunity for our patients to participate in cutting edge research that we hope will shed light on the role of robotic surgery for advanced bladder cancer.

**Guang Jia, Ph.D.**

Guang Jia, PhD, an instructor in the Department of Radiology, Division of Imaging Science, has been named the American Urological Association (AUA) Foundation 2011 Outstanding Graduate Scholar and was honored at the AUA Annual Meeting on May 16 in Washington, D.C. The AUA Foundation and EUSA Pharma (USA) Inc. are supporting his research and selected it as particularly worthy of merit after reviewing interim report packages from all of this year’s graduate scholars. Jia gave a brief presentation about his project, “Phase 0 MRI Study to Detect In Vivo Protein Levels in Prostate Cancer,” at the annual meeting. Jia's mentors at Ohio State are Michael Knopp, MD, PhD, of the Department of Radiology, and Robert Bahnson, MD, chair of the Department of Urology. Dr. Jia's goal is to refine MR imaging to advance prostate cancer detection, staging and therapy.

**Daniel Mulligan, MD**

Dr. Mulligan completed a one year robotic fellowship with Dr. Ronney Abaza. He and his wife Sarah have relocated to Ashland, Kentucky where he is in private practice.

**Ashay Patel, DO**

After finishing a 5 year residency, one year on faculty and a two year pediatric fellowship we say a fond farewell to Dr. Patel. He, his wife Ann and their son Devon are happily settling into life in the Little Rock, Arkansas area.

**Graduating Residents**

This year’s graduating residents, Dr. Benjamin Gibson, Dr. Mary Ann Kenneson, and Dr. Achal Modi were honored at a dinner this past June. Dr. Gibson has joined a private practice in Zanesville, Ohio. Dr. Mary Ann Kenneson will continue with the Department as a Clinical Assistant Professor. Dr. Modi joins a private practice in the Dallas, Texas area. He and his wife, Dr. Jaina Modi, recently welcomed a baby girl, Sonya, into the family.
Tariq Khemees, MD

Dr. Khemees received a one year renewal of his fellowship from the Institute of International Educations’s Iraq Scholar Fund.

Dr. Khemees will be presenting an abstract entitled “Standardized Reporting of Early Post-Operative Outcome of Robotic vs. Open Nephroureterectomy for Upper Tract Urothelial Carcinoma” at the 2011 Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons.

Frank Begun, MD

Dr. Frank P. Begun currently serves as a consultant for the Ohio Urological Society

Robert Bahnson, MD

Dr. Bahnson is the First Vice President-Elect of the American College of Surgeons. He was elected by fellows of the American College of Surgeons at this past Clinical Congress.

Stephen Koff, MD

Dr. Koff was recognized as the 2010 Recipient of Pediatric Urology Medal. His picture appears on the cover of the Vol. 186 October 2011 issue of The Journal of Urology.

Now Offering Specialized Treatment for Men’s Health Issues

In July the Department of Urology began to offer a new level of expertise to patients with fertility problems and sexual dysfunction. Greg Lowe, MD joined the faculty at The Ohio State University Medical Center after completing a fellowship in male infertility and andrology at the University of Virginia. Prior to fellowship, Dr. Lowe completed his urology residency at Ohio State. He received the Humanitarianism Award voted by his peers. Male infertility is a subspecialty that has been lacking in central Ohio and is involved in nearly 50% of all infertile couples. Dr. Lowe has expanded operations to provide comprehensive fertility diagnostics and treatments for the male patient. Many treatments available for men provide a lower cost approach to infertility than typical IVF. However, it is expected this service will enhance the availability of couples to pursue IVF as well. Patients previously found to have no sperm present on a simple testicular biopsy are ideal candidates for micro-dissection TESE, a procedure allowing for the recovery of small numbers of sperm for IVF in approximately half of patients. This involves the use of an operating microscope and expertise on regions most likely to harbor foci of sperm. Often the idea of having a child together is limited by the man having had a previous vasectomy. Some of the surgical options Dr. Lowe will offer are vasectomy reversal (vasovasostomy or vasoepididymostomy); and varicocelectomy, a simple microscope operation to remove a varicocele which may inhibit testicular growth. Patients are able to return to normal activities in 4-5 days.

Dr. Lowe is helping men struggling with low testosterone, BPH, erectile dysfunction, abnormal penile curvature and other sexual disorders. In some situations, these problems indicate a more serious underlying disorder such as silent cardiovascular disease. BPH treatments including Greenlight Laser Vaporization of the prostate allow men to return home the same day as surgery. Many patients with diabetes or metabolic syndrome have associated low testosterone, which can lead to fatigue, low sexual drive and poor erections. Some men are dealing with a curvature to the penis (Peyronie’s disease) that limits sexual activity and satisfaction. These patients will now have the option of surgical repair or medical therapy necessary to manage this disorder. Men who undergo prostate or bladder surgery, or prostate radiation therapy have a unique cause of their erectile dysfunction. As men are surviving longer after therapy, managing side effects of treatment is gaining greater importance. Dr. Lowe is offering these patients options to preserve as much erectile function as possible and to maximize their quality of life after treatment.

Dr. Lowe has resources available for patient education on our website (www.urology.osumc.edu). To schedule an appointment call Kim at (614) 293-4696.
New James Chief of Staff

On July 1, 2011 Dr. Robert R. Bahnson assumed his duties as the new Chief of Staff for the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute. He will serve a two year term.