New State of the Art Home for The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center’s Department of Urology
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Faculty In Focus

Frank Begun, MD

Frank Begun, MD, joined the Ohio State’s Department of Urology faculty in 2009 to serve as director of Urologic Services at Ohio State’s University Hospital East. He grew up in New York City, then attended the University of Michigan where he earned his bachelor’s, master’s, and medical (1979) degrees. Dr. Begun completed his urological residency at the University of Michigan as well. In 1984, he joined the faculty of the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, where he served for 24 years until he assumed the position here at Ohio State.

While at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Dr. Begun specialized in the evaluation and treatment of patients with kidney stone disease. He also had an interest in laparoscopic surgery and was one of the country’s first urologists to perform cryoablation of small renal tumors. Dr. Begun was involved in the research and development of two early second-generation shockwave lithotripter machines. He also conducted basic science research in the development of monoclonal antibodies. His laboratory work in this area resulted in published manuscripts about growth factors in the prostate that helped urologists to better understand the pathophysiology of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).

As Director of Urologic Services at Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center University Hospital East, Dr. Begun enjoys the opportunity to provide excellent care to underserved and uninsured patients. Currently his practice involves general urology with a focus on kidney stones. He appreciates being able to draw on his previous 25 years of urologic experience to help in the diagnosis and treatment of a variety of urologic disorders. “I enjoy the daily challenge of never knowing exactly what types of problems I will encounter. This keeps me on my toes!”

Dr. Begun also enjoys participating in resident and medical student education. He serves as a faculty mentor in the Learning Community Program for medical students at The Ohio State University. His original group of 12 medical students is now completing its third year. These students meet regularly at his home to discuss topics that impact their development as healthcare professionals. Starting this fall, Dr. Begun will also begin serving as a governor to one of the six medical society organizations around which the Learning Communities are organized.

In his spare time, Dr. Begun commits his energies to several volunteer and recreational pursuits — taking an annual medical mission to Honduras, judging with Destination Imagination competitions and enjoying nature photography.

Medical Missions

Every year since 2005, Dr. Begun has been a member of a team of healthcare professionals who travel to Juticalpa, Honduras, to provide urologic services to residents of the region. The population of the area is approximately 50,000 and the nearest urologist is located more than three hours away in the nation’s capital of Tegucigalpa. The team consists of two urologists, an anesthesiologist, nurses, a nurse anesthetist, a translator and at least one urologic resident. The team brings a large amount of medical equipment and donated medical supplies. The week involves 12-14 hour days performing urologic procedures. The most common surgery is a transurethral prostatectomy (TURP). The team has also performed open prostatectomies, nephrectomies and nephrolithotomies. Their greatest challenge is being able to diagnose and treat urologic problems without the availability of the tests and technology available here in the United States.

Dr. Begun and the other team members volunteer their services and pay their own travel expenses to make the trip each year. “It’s a humbling experience to serve these people who lack access to specialty medical care that matters so much in terms of their quality of life,” he says.

Destination Imagination

The Destination Imagination organization is an international non-profit creative problem-solving program for elementary through college-aged students. Each year, tens of thousands of youth participate on teams to solve complex challenges in their home communities. Their activities are showcased in local, state and international competitions where Dr. Begun serves as a judge. He first became involved in the organization when his two daughters competed on teams that made it to the international level of competition. Since that time, he has served on the Board of Trustees for the organization and helped to develop some of the challenges. “It is amazing to me each year what seven dedicated kids can create using enough duct tape and hot glue!” he remarks.

Nature Photography

The Begun family members are all certified SCUBA divers. They enjoy traveling to dive sites around the world. Dr. Begun combines his passion for diving with his love of nature photography as an underwater photographer. When he is not diving, he spends time locally and on vacations taking photos of wildlife.

PATIENT PROFILE

Rhonda Dick

Rhonda Dick started seeing Frank Begun, MD, in September of 2010 for treatment of her bladder cancer. She saw him every three months for a cystogram, each one of them showing new tumors. She also had five surgeries and five chemotherapy treatments while under his care.

During her treatment, Rhonda grew fond of Dr. Begun and his entire staff.

Rhonda says, “I feel like God placed Dr. Begun in my life for a reason. He and his staff went out of their way to make sure I was involved in making decisions about my treatment plan.”

When a mass was found in her uterus Dr. Begun worked closely with her OB/Gyn to coordinate her care. During her treatment, Rhonda developed a special relationship with Dr. Begun and his staff. “When you have to face an illness, it is nice when you have someone there who really cares. Dr. Begun and his staff really got to know me as a person, which made it much easier to deal with my illness,” she says.

Recently, because of the advancement of the cancer, Dr. Begun referred her to one of his colleagues, Kamal Pohar, MD, a nationally recognized bladder cancer specialist. During her recent surgery with Dr. Pohar, she looked up to see one of the residents, David Ludlow, MD, assisting on the surgery. She had met Dr. Ludlow through Dr. Begun and was grateful to see a familiar face. “Dr. Ludlow recognized me right away, which was comforting to me since I knew he was familiar with my history,” Rhonda says.

When she first started seeing Dr. Pohar she was nervous about having a new doctor, but Dr. Pohar quickly put Rhonda and her husband at ease. “He spoke to us in terms we could understand, and he didn’t jump straight into treatment options,” says Rhonda. He did an operative assessment to determine the advancement of her cancer and is now discussing her treatment plan with Dr. Pohar. While she will miss Dr. Begun and his staff, she’s confident that Dr. Pohar will continue to provide the same focused, attentive care that she received with Dr. Begun.
Urology Medical Student Learning Communities

Approximately five years ago, the Ohio State University College of Medicine began a program for first-year medical students, called “Learning Communities.” Each Learning Community is comprised of 12 medical students and a faculty member who acts as a mentor. The groups meet monthly during the first two years of medical school and then quarterly during the third and fourth years. The meetings are held at times outside of regular medical school activities, often in the evenings and often off campus.

The meetings allow students to discuss topics that are outside of the normal medical school curriculum. The topics for the meeting tend to be open-ended and are outside of the normal medical school curriculum. The meetings allow students to discuss topics that are off-campus.

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While the learning Communities are designed to help the students during the journey through medical school, the faculty mentors also derive benefit. “Being involved in the Learning Communities has been one of the most rewarding experiences that I’ve had since joining Ohio State over seven years ago. I especially like having the students over to our home, as it gives me an opportunity to host the students in our own surroundings and give them some insight into life after medical school and residency,” says Dr. Knudsen.

Dr. Knudsen’s wife, Eunice Oppenheim-Knudsen, MD, who is a physician with the Department of Family Medicine, also has her own Learning Community group. “While we could have shared the duties of mentoring one group, she felt strongly that she would like to work with her own Learning Community Group.”

Since the inception of the Learning Community Program at Ohio State, two additional Urology faculty members have become involved. Frank Begun, MD, and Ahmad Shabsigh, MD, both lead their own Learning Communities and provide their own unique perspectives to their groups.

Ahmad Shabsigh, MD, is the most recent faculty member to participate in the Learning Community program. His first group of students is currently in their first year of medical school. Dr. Shabsigh says, “I enjoy the off-campus non-medical interaction with the medical students outside the formal structure of the medical school. This allows for a freer interaction with the students and you get to know them on a more personal level.” Dr. Shabsigh also noted that his group had several excellent meetings where discussion revolved around topics such as medical student finances, medical education and building a medical practice.

Dr. Begun recently commented that he enjoys the opportunity to be a mentor to the students and to help them out like surrogate parents. He has committed to remaining in the program for the long haul and was recently appointed as a Governor to the newly established Learning Societies, which are groups of six Learning Communities.

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Under Construction

The Department of Urology will be moving to 915 Olentangy River Road this summer. The clinic will be located on the second floor and will offer patients full urologic services at one location. Faculty offices will be located on the third floor. Urology residents will also have a space with individual workstations as well as a conference area where they can work on research projects.

This new location offers free parking and an outpatient surgery center located on the first floor. There will also be a separate procedure area that will offer a full range of urologic procedures. The new urologic center will allow the staff to continue to provide world-class service to patients in a top-notch facility.

Urologists offer ED treatment options

Except for television commercials, men’s sexual health remains a topic that’s seldom discussed — even during doctor visits. Ohio State physicians Gregory Lowe, MD, and Christopher McClung, MD, would like to change that. Drs. Lowe and McClung are central Ohio’s only fellowship-trained urologists specializing in men’s sexual health. They encourage men who are experiencing sexual dysfunction to talk with their physicians because erectile dysfunction (ED) may be a symptom of a more serious underlying illness and because there are many treatment options for ED.

“Studies show that ED often precedes heart disease symptoms and diagnosis by two to four years. Those under age 55 who experience repeated episodes of ED should talk to their physician about whether a cardiac evaluation would be beneficial and whether preventive therapy is indicated,” says Dr. Lowe. “This may aid ED treatment and help prevent a serious heart event that could lead to permanent heart damage.”

Certain urologic conditions can also contribute to ED. These conditions may require treatment before oral medications for ED can be used effectively. Drs. Lowe and McClung specialize in treating a variety of urologic problems specific to men, including urethral strictures, male incontinence, ED, Peyronie’s disease, sexual disorders, low testosterone, BPH, male infertility, varicocele, vasectomy, vasectomy reversal, disorders of orgasm, hidden penis, low sperm count and low sexual drive.

Four oral medications — Cialis, Levitra, Staxyn and Viagra — are approved by the Food and Drug Administration for ED treatment. These drugs work by increasing the flow of blood into the penis so that when a man is sexually stimulated, he can get an erection. Drs. Lowe and McClung discuss with their patients the use of these medications and whether any conditions or other treatments might interfere with their use.

While most men are aware of drug treatments for ED, there are many more options available. Ohio State urologists can help each patient select the most appropriate treatment for his condition. “Patients are often surprised to learn that there are several therapies to choose from and that these can be successful even with patients whose ED is related to prostate surgery,” says Dr. McClung.

Treatment may include oral medications, natural remedies, vacuum erection devices, penile injection therapy, intra-urethral suppositories and penile prostheses. Although occasional ED is normal, men who have repeated difficulty getting or sustaining an erection should talk with their physicians or contact an Ohio State urologist.

Visit urology.osu.edu and search for Men’s Sexual Health for more information. To schedule an appointment or evaluation, call Dr. Lowe at 614-293-4996 or Dr. McClung at 614-293-3648.

Metastatic Modeling
Working to Fight Prostate Cancer

Ahmad Shabsigh, MD, Assistant Professor of Urology at The Ohio State University, has been working alongside Thomas Rosol, DVM, PhD, Professor of Veterinary Biosciences, to find a solution to bone metastasis, and to ultimately improve the imaging of localized prostate cancer. There have been a few breakthrough discoveries in regards to prostate cancer. In 2007 when a dog was brought into Ohio State’s College of Veterinary Medicine Hospital for Companion Animals to have its leg amputated, malignant cells were harvested from the cancerous leg and were developed into cells that could lead to new treatments for prostate cancer.

Metastatic cells, the cells that remain in the body even after chemotherapy, radiation and target agents, are not very well understood. Dr. Rosol says, “In general, once cancer metastasizes to bone, it is incurable.” The reason prostate cancers often metastasize to bone is not fully understood, and is one of the larger gaps of knowledge. Prostate cancer cells can cause osteoblastic metastasis (bone production), which, in turn, causes pain and disability. “Bone metastases can be devastating and painful. They can destroy bone and lead to fractures. In the spinal column, they can cause vertebrae to collapse and lead to paralysis. In the leg, arm or ribs, they can cause fractures that won’t heal because of the cancer. They can be very debilitating,” said Dr. Rosol.

To improve treatment of localized disease and prevent metastasis from occurring, Dr. Shabsigh, along with Tariq Khemesis, MD, Michael Knopp, MD, PhD, and Michael Tweedle, PhD, have been researching to reach their goal. “If we can do a better job of treating localized disease, perhaps we can prevent metastasis from occurring,” says Dr. Shabsigh. In addition to achieving their ultimate goal, Dr. Shabsigh’s team hopes to develop an animal model that will help develop techniques to identify exactly where tumors are within the prostate, thus eliminating the need to extract the whole prostate gland.

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Robotic Urologic Surgery Fellowship Seeks Fourth Fellow

Ohio State’s Department of Urology is currently accepting applications for the fourth year of its one-year clinical fellowship dedicated to robotic surgery. Candidates will interview for the position this spring for the position to begin in July of 2013.

“There are very few clinical fellowships around the world that are dedicated solely to robotic surgery, so we are pleased that we are able to fund this opportunity,” says fellowship director, Ronney Abaza, MD. “Urology graduates who wish to specialize even further before beginning their practices are able to spend a year with us doing only robotic surgery. When they leave us, they can advance the level of technology and techniques wherever they decide to start their careers.”

Upon completion of his fellowship, current fellow, Praneeth Vemulpalli, MD, has already accepted a position in New York where he will be the primary robotic surgeon in his area. The third fellow since the program began will start in July of this year. Jordan Angell, MD, has already indicated his excitement to begin and will join Ohio State after completing his residency training at Emory University in Atlanta.

Ohio State Urologist Contributes to Robotic Surgery Propagation in India

The Vattikuti Foundation, based in Southfield, Mich., was instrumental in the development of robotic surgery through its philanthropic gift over a decade ago to support the pioneering work of Mani Menon, MD, in robotic urologic surgery. Now, the Foundation and its founder, Raj Vattikuti, plan to bring robotic surgery to his native country of India.

In January, the Foundation held the first ever robotic surgery symposium in India and invited Ronney Abaza, MD, the Director of Robotic Urologic Surgery at Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center to participate as part of the international faculty of nearly 20 robotic surgeons. The conference took place in New Delhi with nearly 200 Indian and other Asian surgeons in attendance. “Robotic surgery is still very new in India with less than 25 robots in the entire country as compared with over 1,400 in the U.S.,” says Dr. Abaza.

“It was an honor to be involved, even if just in a small way, in this effort to bring robotic surgery to the second most populous country on earth, and it speaks volumes about what one generous person can do to help others. The vision of the Vattikuti Foundation is to make robotic surgery accessible to all Indians and not just the privileged, making it even more gratifying to have been invited,” adds Dr. Abaza.

New Robotic Fellow

Jordan Angell, MD

Born in Baltimore to Dr. Charles Angell and Sandra Angell, I attended Colgate University and George Washington Medical School. I am currently finishing my residency in Urology at Emory University in Atlanta. I was married last May to my lovely wife, Laura Bassell. Laura is the head of the investment management division of Okapi Partners, which is a New York-based investor relations firm. I enjoy golf, fly fishing and running.

Unique Robotic Mini Fellowship Program Continues with Success

A unique educational program offered only by Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center Department of Urology allows visiting chief residents from urology training programs across the country to spend a week at Ohio State to improve their training in robotic surgery. This week-long mini fellowship program began this academic year and is the first program of its kind in the country.

Residents from other urology training programs as close as Michigan and as far as Louisiana, Arkansas and New York have participated. Visiting residents have unanimously voiced their appreciation for the program and the impact it will have on their future careers, strengthening their ability to provide minimally invasive robotic techniques to their patients.

The program was the vision of Ronney Abaza, MD, Director of Robotic Urologic Surgery, but has only been possible with collaborative work between Ohio State’s Center for Advanced Robotic Surgery and Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery. The week of intensive training dedicated to robotic urologic surgery includes observation of more than 10 robotic surgeries from inside the operating rooms at Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center and hands-on training in the lab, on a robotic surgery simulator and in an animal lab. Ongoing philanthropic support allows the program to be offered at no cost to the visiting residents.

This program is specifically designed for chief urology residents interested in a concentrated experience in robotic urologic surgery. It will provide exposure to residents in state-of-the-art robotic surgery for urologic conditions with the opportunity to be a part of 10-15 robotic cases of various types during the week-long visit as well as a robotic dry lab and robotic simulator curriculum with a robotic animal lab.

This program is offered free of charge, including registration and hotel. A twenty-five dollar meal voucher will be provided for the week, in addition to one dinner with faculty. Attendees will be responsible for their travel to and from Columbus, Ohio and for other meals beyond what is provided.

Applicants must be in their chief year of residency and currently in a Urology training program in the U.S. or Canada. For information about how to apply, visit urology.osu.edu > Education > Fellowships. The deadline to apply for a fellowship week from August 2012 through May 2013 academic year is June 29, 2012. For questions, please contact Heidi Pieper at (614) 293-9072.

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Teaching Abroad

Ohio State’s Department of Urology Takes Advantage of Technology to Teach Across the Pacific

The first of several planned transpacific teleconferences between Ohio State’s Ronney Abaza, MD, and colleagues learning robotic surgery in Asia took place on January 26. After serving as a visiting surgeon to teach robotic techniques to surgeons in Hong Kong and later being invited to speak at the first ever Asian Robotic Urology Symposium in South Korea, Dr. Abaza was invited to continue offering educational opportunities to budding Asian robotic surgeons even if not physically on the other side of the Pacific.

The teleconference included a live lecture by Dr. Abaza detailing specific fundamentals of anatomy and key steps in performing robotic prostatectomy. The teleconference was simultaneously broadcast to surgeons in the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. While Dr. Abaza gave the lecture at the end of a day of performing robotic surgery at Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center, the surgeons on the other line were just starting their day and watched the telecast over breakfast from their institutions.

“It is amazing how far technology has come to allow a lecture and slide presentation with video clips to take place at Ohio State, but be seen at multiple hospitals on the other side of the planet. Participants were even able to ask questions during the session,” says Dr. Abaza. The next session is already being planned and will continue to cover details of robotic prostatectomy with future sessions on other procedures like robotic kidney surgery.

First Skills Lab of 2012

Another successful training lab for the residents was held on February 5th. All but one of the residents were able to attend ... even all who were on call where able to come for at least part of the lab. The residents were able to complete their expected laparoscopic surgery (L/S nephrectomy for juniors and L/S partial for seniors). The addition of the ileal conduit at the end went very well even if most weren’t able to complete every step due to lack of time.

Drs. Sharp, Abaza, Love and Kenneson gave up part of their Saturday to offer up their expertise.

“This really takes many people to do successfully and I would like to give a special thanks to Heidi with MIS as I think this was the most organized lab since we started holding them. Also, as always, Buzz with Covidien has been an invaluable contributor to the success of this lab. Many thanks to you both!”

— Geoffrey N. Box, MD

Feedback

I think the animal labs are well organized and very beneficial. Obviously, you hate to have to sacrifice a Saturday morning, but they aren’t too often and it’s well worth it. I feel like the pig labs give me a lot of motivation to continue self-directed skill development. I also feel it gives me more confidence to participate in actual laparoscopic cases in the OR. I think it’s important for us to realize that these courses are only a springboard to further self-directed study. — David Ludlow, MD (PGY3)

The animal labs allow you to reinforce laparoscopic skills. — David Prall, MD (PGY5)

Ultrasound — great for getting hands-on experience with ultrasound on volunteers. It helps to have attendings review the images and technique and give us feedback. Pig lab — we get to do the entire case and practice the surgery. Open bowel work was especially beneficial this year for the juniors to get experience before doing it in the OR. — Abhishek Patel, MD (PG2)

The pig lab is EXTREMELY beneficial. Good chance to try things out I’d never be able to do on an actual human being. Learned a lot that I immediately took to the real OR. The addition of the ileal conduit was a big plus. Appreciate the attending’s pointers. — Jeffrey Wilson, MD (PG3)
Incoming PGY2/UR01 Residents

Erin Akar, MD
Dr. Akar feels that it is an honor as well as an exciting journey to be a part of Ohio State’s Department of Urology. “The commitment faculty and residents have to both surgical and academic excellence is evident with ample operative experience early in the residency training and ongoing clinical research studies,” she says. “I look forward to developing a wide variety of operative skills and eventually a specialized knowledge base my patients can absolutely rely on.”

Zachary Gordon, MD
Zach is extremely excited to be a part of the urology family at The Ohio State University. “While the high-volume surgical caseload and busy clinics demand a strong work ethic, both the clinical knowledge and the surgical skills they provide to the residents are phenomenal,” he comments. “The atmosphere is full of support and kindness from both residents and faculty, and I am constantly motivated by the unwavering dedication to high-quality patient care. As a urology resident at Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center, I feel incredibly privileged to be given the opportunity to be trained by some of the top urologists in the country and in the world.”

Firas Petros, MD
Firas Petros was very happy to receive an invitation for an interview at Ohio State and was thrilled upon matching here. It was always his hope to develop his urology skills and learn in a program at a university setting. “This is one of the best programs in the nation, well known for compassionate patient care, robust learning experience and professionalism,” he says. He feels that the experienced and motivated faculty and staff with current technology and a friendly work environment, will contribute to create a perfect educational atmosphere and ensure a well-trained urologist who can excel to secure an advanced fellowship or an academic position after graduation.

2012 Residency Match Results

Brent Caryle
University of Buffalo
State University of New York
School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Aron Liaw
Indiana University School of Medicine

Jason Orien
University of Iowa
Roy J. and Lucille A Carver College of Medicine

First Person Med Student Rotations

“I enjoyed rotating with the Department of Urology in November and December. The balance of seeing interesting surgeries, working with attendings and residents, and learning from Dr. Bahnson in clinic on Tuesdays and Thursdays was a great experience. The entire department was extremely welcoming and made me feel like I was an important member of the team. Everyone from residents to nurses to attendings took time to teach and always asked for feedback. The surgical instruction and OR experience were a great way to see several aspects of urology. Assisting in surgeries allowed me to apply basic knowledge and motivated me to always prepare for the surgeries so I had a better idea of what to expect and how I could help. Overall, it was a great rotation and I have shared these positive reviews with my classmates who are interested in trying the rotation.”

— Christopher Esber, The Ohio State University, College of Medicine, Class of 2013

My urology rotation was very rewarding overall. I had the chance to see many surgical procedures and also spent quality time at the clinic. The attending physicians and residents were interested in teaching. This is a well-organized rotation. There was always something to do. This clinical experience facilitated my learning.

— Richard G. Frimpong, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Class of 2013

Drs. Geoffrey Box (OSU), Mani Menon (Henry Ford Health System), Ronney Abaza (OSU), Matthew Gettman (Mayo Clinic), Jihad Kaouk (Cleveland Clinic) and Daniel Mulligan (OSU)
Distinguished Visitors

16th Annual Chester C. Winter Visiting Professor
J. Stuart Wolf, Jr., MD, FACS

After receiving his medical degree from Northwestern University in 1988, Dr. Wolf completed the urology residency program at the University of California (San Francisco) in 1994, followed by an Endourology/ Laparoscopy Fellowship with Ralph Clayman in St. Louis. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in July of 1996 as the Director of the Division of Minimally Invasive Urology (now the Division of Endourology and Stone Disease), has co-directed the Urologic Oncology and Endourology/Laparoscopy Fellowship at the University of Michigan since 2002, and is the Associate Department Chair for Clinical Operations.

As an author of more than 200 scientific articles and 125 invited publications, Dr. Wolf has served on the editorial boards of eleven journals, including the Journal of Endourology and the Journal of Urology. His research centers on the development of new techniques for laparoscopy and other minimally invasive procedures, and the critical assessment of such techniques within the spectrum of health care.

The selection of Dr. Wolf was based upon next year’s chief residents’ desire for exposure to a leader in the field of endourology/laparoscopy during their chief year. The three of them decided to invite someone they had been exposed to during their medical school rotations. “I personally had exposure to Dr. Wolf while a medical student at Michigan,” states Humberto Martinez-Suarez, MD. He further states that, “While I didn’t appreciate it at the time, watching hundreds of laparoscopic surgeries over the past several years as a resident at Ohio State has made me truly appreciate how gifted a laparoscopic surgeon Dr. Wolf is. His ability to engage residents and students in the OR was truly remarkable and something I am sure he will bring to the Winter Professor lectures this coming year.”

Sara Lee Youngs Distinguished Lecture
Colin P. N. Dinney, MD, FRCPS

Colin P. N. Dinney is the Chairman of the Department of Urology and a Professor in the Division of Surgery at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Dinney received his medical degree from the University of Manitoba in Canada and did a two-year fellowship in urologic oncology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He is the PI of the M.D. Anderson Genitourinary SPORe in Bladder Cancer Research, which was awarded in September of 2001. In addition to administrating this program, he is actively involved in SPORe-related translational research. His bench and clinical research activities have focused on understanding the biology of metastatic bladder cancer and on the development of novel therapeutic strategies for both early and advanced disease. The major focus of his laboratory investigations has been the study of the role of angiogenesis and invasion of bladder cancer metastasis.

Dr. Dinney is one of the few urologic oncologists who have successfully established a busy clinical practice and an independently funded laboratory. The residents will greatly benefit from Dr. Dinney’s visit as his research is translational in nature and he is at the forefront of investigating personalized medicine in bladder cancer. His visit will reinforce the type of knowledge that trainees and future urologists will need to embrace to provide the best quality of care to our patients.
Resident Experience
Ohio Urological Society Meeting

The 2011 Ohio Urological Society meeting was held in Cleveland this past April. My abstract, “Wolffian and Mullerian Duct Abnormalities Encountered During Robotic Prostatectomy” had been accepted, and I was scheduled to present. Unfortunately, I was scheduled to be on call that weekend, and a co-resident graciously offered to deliver my presentation.

The weekend of the OUS meeting, I started getting messages from co-residents that my abstract had won first place, earning $1,000 and a paid trip to NCS in Palm Springs. Of course I knew this was a practical joke, the same I would have played had the tables been turned. In clinic the following Monday, our chairman, Dr. Bahnson, congratulated me. “Nice try Dr. B, I’m not falling for it,” was my response. It wasn’t until I was asked for my social security number in order to issue the award check that I actually believed my abstract had won.

Fast forward six months and I found myself preparing for my first conference presentation. Standing in the packed main lecture hall, surrounded by the leaders in the field, I was humbled. This was not the first time I shook humility’s hand during my residency, and it likely won’t be the last. The minutes before my presentation were among the most intimidating moments of my young career. I was thankful for the opportunity to present at NCS, and thrilled when I got through it. The rest of the week was spent learning from some of the best and brightest in the field, learning about the business of urology, meeting people whose names I recognized and work I respected, and even enjoying the Palm Springs heat here and there. OUS made this experience at NCS possible.

The next OUS meeting will be held in Columbus and hosted by Ohio State. I recommend this meeting as an opportunity to present original research, practice presentation skills and potentially earn a trip to next year’s NCS meeting in Chicago. I hope to see you here in Columbus.

— Andrew Smock, MD, PGY3 resident

Video Library Grows

Check out patient-friendly videos on our website and learn about conditions many of our urologists treat by visiting go.osu.edu/urology

2012 ACRIN Young Investigator Initiative - Award. ACR Clinical Research Center ($10,000.00)

Drs. Jia and Shah won the ACRIN Young Investigators award for their proposal entitled “Prostate Cancer: Comparing the Efficacy of Endorectal MRI at 1.5 T and 3 T MRE without the Endorectal Coil”. The proposal has been accepted for the Young Investigator Initiative program. The proposal was one of six out of twenty-one proposals accepted.

Michael Knopp, MD, student mentor and principal investigator on this clinical trial says, “This is excellent, most competitive and a nice demonstration how our OSU initiatives have matured to be competitive on the national level. When we started to push the envelope in prostate imaging without the endorectal coil, there were a lot of skeptics. Now we will get great data from that comparison.”

http://www.acrin.org/-2012ACRINYoungInvestigatorInitiative-Award-ACRClinicalResearchCenter($10,000.00)

ACS Convocation 1st Vice President

The American College of Surgeons is a scientific and educational association of surgeons that was founded in 1913 to improve the quality of care for the surgical patient by setting high standards for surgical education and practice. The College currently has approximately 78,000 members, including more than 4,000 Fellows in other countries, making it the largest organization of surgeons in the world. There are presently more than 2,600 Associate Fellows.

Dr. Bahnson recently became first Vice-President of the American College of Surgeons. He will be responsible for attending meetings of the Fellows (members) of the College and will assist the President, representing the College as its second highest-ranking official.
All Gifts Great or Small

Current Donor

DAVID AREND, MD, with his family. Dr. Arend finished his residency here at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Department of Urology in June of 2008. Dr. Arend is currently in private practice in the Sioux Fall, S.D. area. He is a continuous donor to our resident education program.

Newest Additions to Our Urology Family

The children of David Ludlow, MD, a PGY3 resident, and Ashay Patel, MD, a former resident who is now a pediatric urologist practicing in the Little Rock, Ark. area.

Our Benefactors
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 directly given to any of the following funds:

BLADDER CANCER RESEARCH FUND (Fund # 312290) Kamal Pohar, MD.
ENDUROLOGY UROLOGIC SURGERY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUND (Fund # 313015) Bodo Knudsen, MD.
ERVIN C. & BONNIE J. BABBERT EXCELLENCE IN UROLOGY (Fund # 240239) Supports resident education.
JACK N. TAYLOR, MD, UROLOGY LECTURESHIP FUND (Fund # 607129) Supports an annual lecture (or lectures).
MEN’S SEXUAL HEALTH FUND (Fund 313801) Gregory J. Lowe, MD.
MICHAEL D. BLOCH AND JANIS B. BLOCH ENDOWMENT (Fund # 340533) Supports research and medical education.
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 & MOLECULAR UROLOGY/ROBOTIC SURGERY RESEARCH & EDUCATION FUND (Fund # 313013) Ahmad Shabsigh, MD.
ROBERT C. WALTER MEMORIAL (Fund # 247551) Supports faculty development and patient outreach.
ROBOTIC UROLOGIC SURGERY RESEARCH & EDUCATION FUND (Fund # 312951) Ronney Abaza, MD.
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.
TRAUMA & RECONSTRUCTIVE 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: 456 West 10th Ave (Room 5273), Columbus, OH 43210.
New Location:
Eye and Ear Institute
915 Olentangy River Road
2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43212