The Distinguished Faculty and Residents of
the **Department of Urology** at
The Ohio State University
Wexner Medical Center
Bodo E. Knudsen, MD, was invited to join the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Endourology*. This invitation was issued because of his great reviewing and contributions to the Journal for many years. The position carries with it the necessity to review eight papers each year, including revisions of those papers.
Faculty In Focus

Christopher D. McClung, MD

Urologic trauma and reconstruction is a small subspecialty of urology. Only a handful of fellowships exist in this unique area of urology across the world. The focus of this field is to surgically repair the urinary and genital tract to normal function after an injury, or as a result of congenital malformation.

Two years ago Dr. McClung joined the faculty of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Dr. McClung, who grew up in Dayton, Ohio, feels privileged to come back to his home state. He completed his fellowship at the University of Washington under the direction of Jack McNinch, MD, who is considered by many to be the “father” of modern urologic trauma and reconstruction. Dr. Wessells is a thought leader in this field, and is currently the chairman of the University of Washington’s urology department. Dr. McClung is the only fellowship-trained physician specializing in adult reconstruction and trauma in central Ohio.

One of Dr. McClung’s main interests lies in the area of urethral reconstruction. A urethral stricture, an area of narrowing in the urethra obstructing the flow of urine, is often treated with endoscopic interventions. The commonly accepted paradigm is to attempt, at most, one endoscopic intervention such as a Direct Visual Internal Urethrotomy (DVIU) or dilation. The best success rate of an endoscopic intervention for a short stricture is commonly accepted paradigm is to attempt, at most, one endoscopic intervention such as a Direct Visual Internal Urethrotomy (DVIU) or dilation. The best success rate of an endoscopic intervention for a short stricture is usually achieved with one attempt. However, if the endoscopic intervention fails, patients should be offered the opportunity for definitive urethral reconstruction.

An urethral stricture is repaired with a surgery called an urethroplasty. Urethroplasties can be accomplished in several different ways. In some instances, the stricture can be excised and the urethra can be sewn back together. For longer strictures or for strictures in the penile urethra, tissue grafts or flaps are often required. Common sources of tissue grafts are buccal mucosa (inside of cheek) or penile skin. The success rates of an urethroplasty can be as high as 95 percent. For urethral reconstruction, the first surgery is the best chance the patient has for a durable surgical repair.

In addition to stricture disease, male stress incontinence is another area of Dr. McClung’s clinical interests. Male stress incontinence is almost always secondary to an iatrogenic injury, or due to a side effect from another surgical procedure such as a prostatectomy. The surgical options for male stress incontinence are slings or an artificial urinary sphincter. A sling is a piece of mesh that buttresses the urethra to act as “road block” to prevent the leakage of urine. Slings are generally reserved for patients with low amounts of stress incontinence, while artificial sphincters are reserved for high magnitudes of stress incontinence. An artificial sphincter is a mechanical device that is surgically inserted into the body. A cuff is placed around the urethra that is connected to a pump in the scrotum. At rest, the cuff stays shut. When the patient needs to void, the pump is pressed and the cuff is opened. All components lie within the body and are not visible externally.

External genital reconstruction involving free tissue transfer such as skin grafts is another area of Dr. McClung’s surgical forte. These surgeries are most commonly used in situations of genital skin loss. Genital skin loss can occur from a traumatic injury, from the surgical treatment of masses, concealed penis repair, genital lymphedema, or soft tissue infections such as Fournier’s gangrene.

The acute management of urologic trauma continues to grow at Ohio State. Any part of the urinary and genital tract can be injured with trauma, whether it is the result of a penetrating injury such as a gunshot wound or a blunt injury such as a motor vehicle accident. Interesting cases managed by Dr. McClung in the last year include bladder and urethral injuries from complex pelvic fractures, gun shot wounds to the genititals and bladder, and renal injuries. In many cases, he has been able to manage renal injuries conservatively and to preserve the kidney function.

Dr. McClung’s area of clinical research reflects his clinical practice. He is currently collaborating with eight other reconstructive surgeons across the country looking at outcomes of urethral surgery and male incontinence surgery. Previously, the available data on adult reconstructive surgeries has largely been the result of single institution series with variable definitions of success. Dr. McClung’s research group has created a central database in which anonymous patient information is collected. They have created one of the largest registries in existence pertaining to reconstructive surgical outcomes. With the large number of patients, the group aims to track outcomes to a more precise level. This will eventually allow reconstructive surgeons to deliver more successful surgeries with lower side effects.

Dr. McClung’s research practice continues to blossom and flourish at Ohio State. He states, “I am proud to be a Buckeye and to be back in my home state delivering care to those in need.”

After a recommendation from a friend, he made the decision to seek treatment at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center with Robert Bahnson, MD. After Dr. Torsell met with Dr. Bahnson, he felt better informed about recovery techniques and was presented with more options and in greater detail than his previous urologist. Dr. Bahnson referred Torsell to Christopher McClung, MD. Dr. Torsell met with Dr. McClung and after discussing many options, they decided that the best option for him would be an Advance male sling placement. Dr. McClung made him feel “very confident that the procedure offered a better quality of life.” He answered all of his questions. The support staff in the department was most helpful and he felt very positive about his association with them. The surgery in October of 2010 was successful.

Torsell considers the sling surgery to be a “remarkable type of surgery.” After the surgery, he only needs to use one small thin pad all day primarily to avoid small drips, which are infrequent. One thing he regrets in his overall experience is that he didn’t ask enough questions or do enough research before the original surgery, such as asking the urologist who performed his robotic prostatectomy how many surgeries he had performed before or about his success rate. He feels that he, and other people, need to ask questions and often may need help in doing so. Torsell considers the sling surgery “life changing.” He says he is now able to live an active life. “I am reminded each day of the importance of this surgery as i live a much more normal life now than before.” He is still working with Ohio State urology experts on improving his incontinence issues and says they are making important strides there as well.
Outpatient Surgery Center

The Outpatient Surgery Center (OSC) at Ohio State’s Eye and Ear Institute is proud to be providing service to the Department of Urology. The majority of same day urological surgeries can be provided at the OSC including:

- Cystourethroscopy
- Stent placement/exchange
- Holmium laser lithotripsy
- Neurostimulator placement
- Vasectomy reversal
- Sperm harvesting
- Prosthesis placement

We are excited to have state-of-the-art technology including the Siemens UROSKOP Omnia System. This is a highly flexible built-in surgical table designed with clinical workflow in mind. The table allows the surgeon to have an exceptional HD radiologic image. The OSC also has a 100-watt Lumenis holmium laser to supply controlled energy directly to kidney stones causing them to fragment.

To date, over 300 urologic surgeries have been performed in this new setting. The goal of the OSC is to provide a convenient and comfortable environment for both our patients and their families that support them throughout the surgery process.

We strive to provide personalized healthcare. This begins with the team of surgeons within the Urology Department specializing in areas such as kidney stones, sexual health and prostate health. Our next step is a call to the patient from a registered nurse, who will provide specific instructions and explain what the patient can expect. When the patient arrives at the OSC, they will be greeted by a staff who enjoys working in this setting and helping people. The operating room staff is made up of a team that is familiar with the specialty and the outpatient procedures performed. All surgery patients receive a Press Ganey patient satisfaction survey a couple of weeks following their procedure. The OSC has received an overall score for patient satisfaction in the 99th percentile. Our visitors have access to free parking, computers, Wi-Fi, and onsite Seasons express. The OSC has a total of seven operating rooms, one of which is dedicated solely to urology. Other specialties operating at this location include hand and upper extremity, ophthalmology, otolaryngology and plastic surgery. The OSC looks forward to growing with the Department of Urology and providing the quality service their patients deserve.
Dr. Robert Ruberg named Vice Chair of Academic Affairs

Robert Ruberg, MD has joined the Department of Urology as the Vice Chair of Academic Affairs. Dr. Ruberg will chair the department appointments, promotion and tenure committee as well as serve as a formal mentor to all faculty members. This role will include assistance with academic career planning and with promotion and tenure actions. He will participate in the development of policies and procedures that facilitate department strategic growth as part of annual strategic planning and will assist with administrative activities and resident teaching. “My door will be open”, states Dr. Ruberg.

Dr. Ruberg is a native of Philadelphia. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Haverford College and his medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He completed residencies in general surgery and plastic surgery at the hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Ruberg has a long history of contributions to the educational, research and clinical missions of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. An Ohio State faculty member since 1975, he led the Division of Plastic Surgery from 1985 until 2004, and is currently a Vice Chair in the Department of Surgery. Dr. Ruberg had been a member of the College of Medicine’s Executive Curriculum Committee for nearly 20 years, serving as committee chair from 1985 until 1998. He has also served on the college admissions committee, the Med III/IV committee and the Academic Review Board, and directed the college’s student learning communities from 2008 to 2011. Among his many other contributions, Dr. Ruberg has chaired the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education’s Residency Review Committee for plastic surgery and served as president of the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation and the American Association of Plastic Surgeons. Dr. Ruberg most recently served as Interim Vice Dean for Education at the Ohio State College of Medicine.

Healthcare Hero

Healthcare Heroes is a program that honors those Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center caregivers who go above and beyond to deliver care that makes a difference. A letter is sent to patients about two months post-discharge inviting them to nominate a doctor/nurse/other caregiver who really made a difference during their stay. They are also asked to make a gift in their honor. Geoffrey Box, MD, was nominated for this award by a patient who was grateful for the care he received. Within 24 hours of going home after surgery he developed a fever and had to return to the hospital. He stayed for three days and is really grateful to Ohio State that things are now going well.

Dr. Box was presented with the award by Elaine Pierce, a program director with the office of Development.

Champion of Nursing

On May 8, 2012, Kamal Pohar, MD, was awarded the Physician “Champion of Nursing” Award from The James. He was nominated by Amanda Calhoun, CNP, “for consistently maintaining high standards in teamwork, knowledge and leadership in supporting and promoting excellence in the care of patients, families and staff.” This award is given annually during Nurses Week to identify and recognize a physician who epitomizes the term “champion of nursing” by demonstrating support of The James Nursing Value Statements — WE CARE: World class nurses, Empowered nurses, Compassionate care, Accountable team members, Respectful team members, and Excellence in nursing. Dr. Pohar is pictured with Susan Brown, Chief Nursing Officer and Amanda Calhoun.
The American Urological Association held its 2012 annual meeting in Atlanta. Among the invited faculty was Ronney Abaza, MD, Director of Robotic Urologic Surgery and Co-Director of Ohio State’s Center for Advanced Robotic Surgery, who performed a live surgery as part of the program. The procedure was performed in one of the operating rooms at Ohio State and transmitted via satellite to the attendees at the Atlanta conference center where moderators were on hand to discuss the procedure live with audio connections between the two sites.

Dr. Abaza performed a robotic partial nephrectomy, removing a cancerous tumor from a kidney while preserving the normal portion of the organ. Highlighted during the procedure was new technology that allows visualization of the blood flow to the kidney and separation of the tumor from normal tissue using near-infrared fluorescence. This technology uses a laser wavelength of light to cause kidney tissue to fluoresce or “glow” green after an intravenous injection of a special compound that has no side effects for the patient.

Dr. Abaza traveled to Atlanta for the rest of the meeting to serve as course director for a hands-on course and to present his research, which included one study performed at Ohio State using the near-infrared fluorescence system to characterize types of kidney tumors.

Dr. Abaza performed live surgery for the annual meeting of the American Urological Association. The surgery was performed at Ohio State and transmitted to the full auditorium with standing room only in Atlanta.

The OSU Urologist Performs Live Robotic Surgery
for Annual Meeting of AUA

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Robotics Corner

Visiting Expert in Robotic Surgery
Shares Wisdom with OSU Residents

In July, Sam B. Bhayani, MD, was invited to spend two days with Ohio State Urology sharing his experience and knowledge as a visiting scholar. Dr. Bhayani is Associate Professor in the Division of Urology at Washington University in St. Louis and a world-renowned expert in robotic surgery. He is also Chief Medical Officer of Barnes West Hospital in the Barnes-Jewish network of hospitals.

Dr. Bhayani was one of the first surgeons to develop techniques for robotic partial nephrectomy, a procedure where a tumor is removed from the kidney while saving the remaining normal portion instead of removing the entire organ. One of his earliest and most recognized technical contributions to the operation is the sliding-clip renorrhaphy, which is a technique using clips on sutures and sliding them against the kidney tissue to tighten the stitches. Virtually every surgeon performing robotic partial nephrectomy today uses this technique, allowing reconstruction of the kidney after tumor removal with enough pressure to prevent bleeding.

During his two-day visit, he spent the morning in surgery with Ohio State urologist Ronney Abaza, MD, Director of Robotic Urologic Surgery and Co-Director of Ohio State’s Center for Advanced Robotic Surgery. During an afternoon session with Ohio State Urology residents, he gave a lecture entitled, "What Surgeons Can Learn from the Space Shuttle Challenger." In this lecture, Dr. Bhayani shared wisdom he has gained from his role as a hospital administrator in working to improve processes, safety, and efficiency in patient care.

He was then presented a series of cases of patients treated at Ohio State to share his opinions and advice with the residents on managing patients with kidney tumors. Finally, Dr. Bhayani presented examples of complications from his vast experience performing robotic partial nephrectomy to demonstrate the many pitfalls of this complex operation. On the second day of his visit, he shared his expertise with the chief residents and robotic urology fellow in the animal lab where they performed robotic partial nephrectomies in a porcine model.

Dr. Bhayani’s visit was sponsored by Ohio State’s Center for Advanced Robotic Surgery in coordination with the Center for Minimally-Invasive Surgery. Funds for visiting scholars like Dr. Bhayani are supported by philanthropy and through proceeds from educational programs for surgeons coming to Ohio State to learn robotic surgery.

Robotic surgery and anesthesia team in the operating room at Ohio State immediately after live surgery was broadcast to the annual meeting of AUA in Atlanta.

Dr. Abaza performed live surgery for the annual meeting of the American Urological Association. The surgery was performed at Ohio State and transmitted to the full auditorium with standing room only in Atlanta.
OSU Team Invited to Demonstrate Robotic Surgery at International Conferences

Ohio State urologist, Ronney Abaza, MD, and robotic surgery fellow, Jordan Angell, MD, traveled to Istanbul, Turkey in September to perform a live robotic surgery at a local hospital for attendees of the 30th World Congress of Endourology. The Congress is the annual meeting of the Endourological Society, an international organization of urologists who specialize in minimally invasive surgery and the largest organization of its kind in the world.

While local surgeons were concerned that the entire kidney would need to be removed, the robotic surgical procedure to remove a central 5.5cm tumor from the patient’s right kidney was successful in preserving the normal portion of the organ. Expert robotic surgeons from academic institutions around the world were on hand in the auditorium to moderate the session and communicate with Dr. Abaza during the actual surgery. Dr. Angell served as the bedside assistant during the robotic surgery and shared his knowledge with the local team in the operating room in addition to playing a critical role in the success of the operation.

Also while at the meeting, Dr. Abaza presented his experience in “Expanding the Indications of Robotic Surgery in Urology” during one of the plenary sessions where he included discussion of several robotic procedures that were pioneered at Ohio State. Dr. Angell and Dr. Abaza also presented five research projects from their work at Ohio State in the field of robotic surgery at various sessions.

Later in September, Dr. Abaza and Dr. Angell traveled to London to perform another live robotic kidney surgery for the annual European Robotic Urology Symposium, organized by the robotic surgery section of the European Association of Urology.

Local High-School Honor Student Receives Prize for Robotic Surgery Project at Ohio State

New Albany high school student, Morgan Moroi, did a minimally invasive robotic surgery internship at Ohio State. She and four other students presented their projects at the Senior Seminar Jeffrey C. Stuart Exhibition of Finalists in front of a jury of community and academic leaders held May 22, 2012. Moroi won first prize for her internship presentation. Moroi is pictured here with Drew Dollmatsch, Lynda Jayjohn, and Ronney Abaza, MD.

Education

Welcome

Our New Chiefs

Ryan Novak, MD
Ryan Novak, MD, received his PharmD degree and then continued on to receive his medical degree at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Dr. Novak plans to return home to Minnesota and join Grand Itasca Hospital located in Grand Rapids, Minn. He is excited about the autonomy of running a solo urology practice in a small town and plans to spend much of his free time fishing with his wife of 13 years, Amilee, and his 3-year-old son, Maximus.

Matthew Johnson, MD
Matthew T. Johnson, MD, received his undergraduate degree from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn. Prior to medical school he completed a master’s degree in biochemistry, molecular biology and biophysics through the University of Minnesota. He earned his medical degree from the University of Iowa in 2008. He is joining the Lahey Clinic after completing residency. The education he received in the Department of Urology at The Ohio State University has been excellent in preparing him for the next step after residency and he is very excited to embark on the next phase of his career.

Humberto Martinez-Suarez, MD
Humberto Martinez-Suarez, MD, looks forward to the challenges of his chief year and the completion of his urology residency at Ohio State. In addition to the urology education he has obtained, he feels that the experiences and lessons learned will serve him well throughout his career. He feels fortunate to have been given the opportunity to further his surgical training next year in the areas of endourology and laparoscopy at the Department of Urology at the Loyola University Medical Center.
David Prall, MD, is excited to start private practice in St. Paul, Minn. He enjoyed residency at The Ohio State University and knows he received excellent training. “The attendings are dedicated to teaching and push you to be your best,” states Dr. Prall. He felt he gained a solid clinical and operative foundation and looks forward to applying what he has learned.

David Shore, MD, feels very lucky to have trained in urology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. “Not only did I learn the technical skills that one needs to be a urologist, but I also developed the ability to think critically about urological problems,” he says. He feels that the variety and number of robotic procedures that he participated in at Ohio State set him up to offer his patients state-of-the-art therapies that they otherwise would not have access to. As he grows his practice in Chicago, he remains close with many of his colleagues from Columbus, both former co-residents and attendings.

Ketul Shah, MD, feels proud to have trained and graduated from a nationally renowned urology program. He states that the highly skilled and motivated faculty trained him to be a competent and well-rounded urologist and he feels comfortable to deal with most urologic conditions. “The urology clinic and surgical staff are very talented and dedicated and work hard to provide the best care to their patients,” states Dr. Shah. He enjoyed his time at the The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and worked with great co-residents and faculty. He is currently pursuing a fellowship in male and female incontinence and pelvic reconstruction at the University of Colorado. He intends to bring this training and expertise back to Columbus when he joins the faculty in 2013.

Taylor Award Winner - 2012

“It was an honor for me to receive the Taylor Award this past year. Having been a resident in the program I know the type of information I could bring back from my fellowship to share with the residents. I enjoyed teaching the residents on male infertility, low testosterone and sexual health issues. I returned to an academic practice specifically for the joy and importance of teaching and it has been a great pleasure to work with our residents.”

— Gregory J. Lowe, MD

Previous winners of the award were Drs. Jason Gilleran and Chris McClung.
On May 8, 2012, the Department of Urology had the distinct pleasure of hosting Colin P. Dinney, MD, as our 6th annual Sara Lee Youngs Visiting Professor. Dr. Dinney, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Urology, Division of Surgery at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, presented a talk titled “Molecular Prognostic Factors for Bladder Cancer.”

Dr. Dinney received his MD from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. He completed an internship, a research fellowship, and became a member of the faculty of medicine in the Department of Surgery at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Dr. Dinney also completed a fellowship at the Department of Urology at MD Anderson in Houston. He is certified by the Royal College of Physicians and has published extensively in the field of urologic oncology. In addition to being the chairman of the Department of Urology, Dr. Dinney is also a professor at M.D. Anderson’s Department of Cancer Biology, Division of Basic Science Research. His list of awards and honors includes: 2009 Houston Texas Top Doctors, Houston Texas Magazine; 2008—2009 One of America’s Top Urologists, Consumers Research Council of America; and 2005—2006 Selected — Best Doctors in America.

Our sincerest thanks go to Dr. Dinney for providing our residents and faculty with this educational opportunity.
New Program Director

It is with great enthusiasm that we name Geoffrey Box, MD, as our new Vice-Chair of Education! His new appointment began on July 1, 2012 and with it he assumes all responsibility over the resident training program and medical student urology education. Dr. Box is pictured at left with Katie Garcia, Education Coordinator, for the department.

Prior to Dr. Box’s appointment, Robert R. Bahnson, MD, The Dave Longaberger Chair in Urology, oversaw the educational program as well as serving as our department chair. Dr. Bahnson has done an exemplary job of improving the education program since his arrival in 1996. He leaves a legacy of high expectations and big shoes to fill.

Dr. Box completed his residency training at The Ohio State University in 2006. He then went to the University of California, Irvine, where he completed a two-year fellowship in Laparoscopy, Endourology, Image-Guided Therapy and Robotic-Assisted Laparoscopy. Since starting here as an attending, he has improved the educational platform as the director of the Urology Journal Club, co-creator of an Urologic Ultrasound Curriculum, and as instructor and organizer of animal labs. He is familiar with the day-to-day life of a resident here and will bring a fresh perspective to the program.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Box in his new role. To help him get off to a good start, please consider donating to the Urology Education Fund (Fund # 306315). All donations big or small make a difference.

We wish you the best of luck, Dr. Box, and are behind you 100%!

AUA Best Poster Awardee

Tariq A. Khemees, MD, won the 2012 AUA Best Poster Award for his abstract, “Viability of Glomeruli Adjacent to Tumor in Partial Nephrectomy Specimens for Renal Cell Carcinoma.” It will be presented at the 2012 Best of AUA Annual Meeting held in Tokyo in October, 2012.

Fall Presentations

We are privileged to have many members of our faculty and resident staff presenting their research initiatives at regional and national meetings this fall:

**North Central Section of the American Urological Association**

| Andrew Smock | Obesity is Associated with Favorable Tumor Characteristics in Patients with Renal Cell Carcinoma. |
| Humberto Martinez-Suarez | Deep Split Thickness Skin Grafts for Penile Skin Loss Repair. |
| Jeffrey Wilson | Does the Implementation of Electronic Medical Records Affect Billing? |
| Ronney Abaza | Integrated Robotic Near-Infrared Fluorescence during Robotic Partial Nephrectomy: Correlation with Tumor Histology. |

**North Eastern Section of the American Urological Association**

| Bodo Knudsen | Is ESWL Dead? |

**American College of Surgeons**

| Tariq A. Khemees | Early Postoperative Complications After Robotic Versus Open Radical Cystectomy. |
Christopher McClung, MD is collaborating with investigators at eight other academic institutions to establish a multi-institutional database for urologic reconstructive surgeries. Urologic reconstruction is a rare subspecialty within urology with a goal to restore the normal flow of urine once the urinary tract has been altered or injured due to trauma, iatrogenic injury or congenital anomalies. This database will track outcomes, complications and side effects of these procedures at each institution.

Currently there is a lack of multi-institutional data and literature on these reconstructive urologic surgeries. By collaborating, the investigators plan to use the data to study success rates, failure rates, complications and practice patterns both at the institutional level and collectively. The outcome goals of this project include improving patient safety, physician-patient consultation about potential surgical complications and improved outcomes for patients with these specific needs.

According to Dr. McClung, establishing this database will prove to be monumental in furthering progress towards improvement in treatment of patients requiring reconstructive surgeries. Dr. McClung has been very successful thus far in recruiting for this project and hopes to enroll and collect data from approximately 500 of his patients in the next four to five years.

Bodo Knudsen, MD, and Geoffrey Box, MD, are collaborating, on behalf of the Department of Urology, with 10 other AUA (American Urological Association) member institutions on the Basic Laparoscopic Urologic Surgery Skill Tasks (BLUS) project. The BLUS project was initiated with a goal to gather, organize, and analyze learner performance and demographic data for the purpose of curriculum evaluation and publication of surgical education-based research. Specifically, residents, medical students, faculty and staff will have the opportunity to participate in this study and, as such, enhance their skills at performing four laparoscopic urologic surgery skill tasks including clip applying of a pulsatile arterial model, suturing, transferring and cutting using a novel new simulator system.

To date, most surgical simulator systems have collected results from simulations by paper documentation or video recordings. However, the EDGE simulator, which includes an internet-based data collection system as part of this project, will electronically transfer test results to a central repository. This plays an important role not only in the expedited analysis of results, but also will allow for data to be transmitted in a more accurate and confidential manner. Both institutions and the AUA collectively will benefit from this approach to evaluation of learner performance of residents and ultimately improve assessment of urologic surgical skills.

Ronney Abaza, MD, continues his collaborations with multiple institutions on a study to validate the RoSS robotic surgery simulator, which is a VR (virtual robotic) simulation for robotic surgery. Urology residents at Ohio State are required by the department and program director to complete a robotic basic skills curriculum before they are given permission to participate in robotic cases in the operating room.
Annual Prostate Screening

The James, with the help of the Department of Urology, has hosted a free prostate cancer screening for the public since 2000. This has grown from 60 attendees the first year to around 500 the last 3 years. This has proven to be a tremendous benefit to the community. Community members are screened by medical professionals and if any abnormalities are present, they have the opportunity to discuss the best medical guidance they can receive. Seventy-five percent of the participants attend year after year. Each participant receives a letter from The James to let them know their results and provides them peace of mind knowing that they have Ohio State looking after their best interests.

Prostate Cancer Support Group

Just the Guys

This group began in 1989 under the direction of an urologist and his administrative assistant. In 1991, the Department of Social Work was solicited to provide ongoing services to its members. Also at that time, Patrick DiMeo, RN, (pictured) joined the team as an oncology nurse whose experience was with men with prostate cancer. Initially, this was a lecture format to provide information to patients every other month. In 1995, some of the members wanted to discuss more emotional issues related to treatment and side effects. The group then began to meet monthly to address all treatment options – surgery, radiation therapy, hormonal therapy, chemotherapy, side effects and any other issues related to prostate cancer.

The group consists of men who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer and are looking to decide what treatment is best for them, men who have already had treatment and looking for better coping mechanisms and survivors who advise men as advocates to help other survivors in their needs. We have men travel from all over the state of Ohio to attend the group. Some men have attended the group on and off for over 15 years and some men just come once. We have urologists and other health care professionals from Ohio State speak to the group to address a specific specialty a few times a year. We also watch DVDs from other urologists throughout the U.S. who speak at national conferences to get a different perspective of issues and we thoroughly enjoy the annual presentation given each December by Steven Clinton, MD.

The members of the group receive a tremendous amount of satisfaction because they get to help and guide others who once were in their shoes. DiMeo, who has facilitated the group since 1998, states, “the group is very real and what I learn from these men, I can apply it clinically to the practice of personalized care here at Ohio State.” The group has been very successful because it offers the openness to discuss real and pertinent issues that men face today with this diagnosis. The group is affiliated with US TOO, a national support group who advocates screening and guidance for men with prostate cancer. The group meets the second Wednesday of the month on the 10th floor at the Martha Morehouse Tower from 7–9 pm.

Upcoming Prostate Cancer Support Group Meetings

Nov. 14  “Just the Guys”— Round table discussion group

Dec. 12  “Prostate Cancer Update; From Prevention to Chemotherapy and Everything in Between”
Guest Speaker – Steven K. Clinton, MD, PhD, Professor, Division of Hematology and Oncology, Director, Prostate and Genitourinary Oncology, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

If you have any questions about the support groups, please contact Patrick DiMeo, RN, at 614-293-4646 or Patrick.DiMeo@osumc.edu.

Round table group topics include anything related to prostate cancer—robotic/radical prostatectomy, brachytherapy, radiation therapy, other treatment options, side effects, coping mechanisms, updates and support from survivors and health care professionals.

Beginning January 9th the location of the meetings will be changed to room 3000 of the Eye and Ear Institute location at 915 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, Ohio 43212

Just the Caregivers

This is a support group for partners of men with prostate cancer. The caregivers discuss their issues with deciding upon treatment options, side effects and coping mechanisms. They meet from 7–9 pm on the second Wednesday of the month in the lobby of the 10th floor of the Martha Morehouse Tower.
Over the years, Up on the Roof has raised more than $5 million dollars to support The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute. The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute Foundation is a charitable organization with the specific purpose of raising support for cancer research. Proceeds from this year’s event, held on August 25, support the expansion of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center which includes a new cancer hospital. The Department of Urology is proud to be a supporter of this event. Each year the department purchases a table and invites different faculty and/or residents. This event is chaired by Janis and Michael Bloch who are supporters of our department through the Michael and Janis Bloch Visiting Lectureship fund.

Pelotonia 2012 was a great success and Team Urology put in an admirable showing. There was a new route this year as Pelotonia left Columbus, wound its way to Gambier, Ohio and ended at Kenyon College. Pelotonia has grown to what is now the largest fundraising bike ride in the country. It has not only been a financial success for Ohio State and The James, but it has brought a community together with a common goal to work to end cancer. It also has had the added benefit of getting some middle-aged people out on bikes and getting in shape! The Team Urology Peloton this year consisted of Geoff Box, MD (who completed his first century), Ahmad Shabsigh, MD (who rode without food or water while fasting), Joyce Perry, CNP (who managed an amazing 77 miles), her husband Eugene Perry (admitting to not having ridden for a few decades), cancer survivor Brian Brandon and his uncle, Jeff Tuneberg, Leah Carpenter (riding for her mom), and David Sharp, MD (Captain). Urology chief resident, Humberto Martinez-Suarez, MD, also rode in honor of a good friend. It is truly an inspiring event and despite flat tires, high hills, and long miles, we had a good ride. Please consider contributing to our fundraising efforts. We would all be very grateful. Go to Pelotonia.org and search for Urology Peloton. One hundred percent of contributions go directly to cancer research at The James.
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.
- **ENDOUROLOGY UROLOGIC SURGERY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUND** (Fund # 313015) Bodo Knudsen, MD.
- **ERVIN C. & BONNIE J. BABBERT EXCELLENCE IN UROLOGY** (Fund # 240239) Supports resident education.
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- **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.

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