IN THIS ISSUE:

- New Faculty Member
- Robotics at OSUMC
- Resident Education
**OUR SUPPORTERS**

All gifts, great or small, make a difference.

**GIVING BACK**

Dr. Louie and Dr. Chapman completed their residency training at the Department of Urology at The Ohio State University in 2007. Since then, both of these outstanding physicians have maintained ties to the department via collaborations and contributions.

**Michael Louie, MD**

Dr. Louie is currently an assistant clinical professor of urology at the University of California, Irvine. He is the co-director of the robotic surgery steering committee and the urology residency program director. “The urology residency at Ohio State University made a significant impact on my career. I use the knowledge I gained from my residency every day in both the operating room and in the clinic. The variety of diseases and complexity of patient care challenged me to learn more than I ever would about the urological disease states and helped me become more empathetic and compassionate towards my patients. The experience is one I will always cherish and never forget; it’s the same experience that I reach to when I teach my own residents. The only advice I can tell the residents is that the journey is long, so take it one day at a time. Try to help as many patients as you can, learn at least one new thing a day either in the OR or in the clinic, and listen to your mentors and patients as they are the most invaluable teachers. I donate back to the residency program because it’s the least important thing to take away from your residency. It is why my practice has succeeded, and it is why I donate loyally to the program.”

**Darren Chapman, MD**

After residency, Dr. Chapman moved to Fort Worth to go into private practice. It was during the initial few months that he found out who he wanted to be as a urologist. He credits Dr. Bahnson and his staff with teaching him how to practice medicine with an ethical, patient-centered, pragmatic, cost-effective strategy. “There was no alternative”, stated Dr. Chapman. As he started his career, it became apparent to him that the approach taught at Ohio State is practiced by the minority.

“You have to choose how you want to practice.” His advice to residents would be this: you have to choose how you want to practice medicine. You can choose a path that puts your interests first, or you can follow the teachings of Dr. Bahnson and the rest of the staff at OSU and choose to put your patients’ interests ahead of your own. He further states that, “When you leave OSU, nobody will be looking over your shoulder to make sure you do the right thing. I recommend you look to the guidance given to you by your mentors to help you stay on the right path. This ethos is the most important thing to take away from your residency.”

**How to Give**

Gifts to the Department of Urology at The Ohio State University help us to further our goal of continuously being recognized as a leader in patient care, education and research. Checks payable to: The Ohio State University, Department of Urology. Gifts are tax deductible in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts can be mailed to: 456 West 10th Ave, Columbus, OH 43210

**Bladder Cancer Research Fund (Fund # 312290)** Dr. Kamal Pohar.

**Endourology Urologic Surgery Research and Education Fund (Fund # 313015)** Dr. Bodo Knudsen.

**Jack Taylor M.D. Urology Lectureship Fund (Fund # 607129)** This fund supports an annual lecture (or lectures).

**Michael W. Curran Research Fund (Fund # 660588)** This fund was established to support prostate cancer research.

**Minimally-Invasive/Robotic Urologic Surgery Research and Education Fund (Fund # 313014)** Dr. Geoffrey Box.

**Oncologic and Molecular Urology/Robotic Surgery Research & Education Fund (Fund # 313013)** Dr. Ahmad Shabsigh.

**Robotic Urologic Surgery Research & Education Fund (Fund # 312951)** Dr. Ronald Abaza.

**Ronald and Ernesta Fay Endowment Fund to Support Research in Prostate Cancer and Brachytherapy (Fund # 662122).**

**Sara Lee Youngs Memorial Fund (Fund # 311931)** This fund was established to support a bladder cancer lectureship.

**Trauma & Reconstructive Research and Education Fund (Fund # 313491)** Dr. Christopher McClung.

**Urology Education Fund (Fund # 306315)** This fund is used for teaching and for partial funding of urology research projects.

**Urologic Oncology/Robotic Surgery Research and Education Fund (Fund # 313017)** Dr. David Sharp.
Dr. Ronney Abaza joined the faculty of OSU Urology in February of 2008 to serve as Director of Robotic Urologic Surgery. He is currently the most experienced robotic surgeon in the state of Ohio across all surgical specialties and is among the top 5 surgeons in the country in the number of robotic procedures he performs. Unlike most surgeons who offer patients robotic surgery, Dr. Abaza’s practice is dedicated solely to robotic surgery, performing 10 or more robotic surgeries weekly for patients from all corners of the state and even for some patients traveling from across the country or from other countries. “The James as an institution, and the remarkable robotics team, I have the honor of working with truly allow us to offer world-class robotic surgery that endures even now.”

During his residency training in Toledo, Dr. Abaza learned basic robotic surgery skills from a vascular surgeon, Dr. Bernardo Martinez, who trained him to perform the first ever robotic aortorenal bypass in a pig, a procedure of such complexity that it has yet to be performed in a human even now years later. “I was fortunate to learn robotic surgery from the kindness of strangers, so to speak, surgeons who really had no duty to train me but generously did so for no other reason,” he said. Dr. Abaza was then allowed to train with surgeons at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit to learn how to apply robotic surgery to prostate cancer even while still a resident in Toledo. “At a time when robotic prostatectomy was still being learned by my own teachers in Toledo and hadn’t even yet been seen at most training programs, I was fortunate enough to learn it from those who pioneered the procedure and then bring back what I learned to Toledo. With a strong foundation in the basics and then learning robotic surgery for prostate cancer from the best in the world, it wasn’t hard for me to then apply robotic surgery in new ways that I had never seen and had been done by very few surgeons at that time, including for kidney and bladder cancer.”
Erectile Rehabilitation

Patrick DiMeo, RN, Program Manager

Men who undergo surgery for prostate cancer face the unsettling side effect of loss of natural sexual function for a limited period of time and, in some cases, permanently. Fortunately, they have a unique resource at the James Comprehensive Cancer Center to help them with this challenging part of recovering from prostatectomy.

Patient Profile

JIM LUKEN

Jim Luken is a 56 year old man who was found to have an abnormality on his prostate during his yearly checkup. When the biopsy revealed prostate cancer, he embarked on a search for the best surgeon around.

His initial decision was to have the procedure done robotically as it was less invasive than the traditional approach. He next decided on the Ohio State Center for Advanced Robotic Surgery as it offered the highest level of robotic surgery expertise and offered a comprehensive recovery program to reduce the side effects of erectile dysfunction and incontinence. His final decision was for Dr Abaza to perform the surgery as he was the Co-director of the OSU program and his practice was completely dedicated to robotic urologic surgery.

Today Jim is fully returned to normal function and is cancer free. He feels he definitely made the right choice. “Dr Abaza did an excellent job as evidenced by my outcome, and isn’t that what really counts,”

Web-based Tracking System to Help Teach Robotic Surgery

Given the growing number of robotic surgeons at OSU Urology and the expanding residency training program, a new project was developed for this academic year to help in the mission of education and training. A challenge often encountered by teaching surgeons is understanding the background experience and skill level of an individual resident trainee when embarking upon a particular surgical procedure together, especially if it is the first time they do that procedure together. This can lead to less than optimal learning experiences if the resident is not given sufficient challenge in the operating room or is not able to build upon their experience from one surgery to the next.

In robotic surgery, this challenge is amplified because only one person at a time controls the robotic instruments inside the patient’s body. Therefore, only the teaching surgeon or the resident are ‘in control’ of the robot at any given time. “I think all of us as robotic surgeons here have had some level of apprehension when we turn over the controls to our residents because we don’t always know whether they are ready to perform a step or whether they have done it before. There are so many of us surgeons they are working with and so many of them that we needed to develop a tool to track their experience and then be able to come back and rate how well they did on a particular surgery,” said Dr. Ronney Abaza who helped develop the new tool under direction from senior systems consultants at OSU Medical Center, Ravi Dyta and Ryan Deiter.

This new web-based system going into effect this academic year allows residents to track the robotic procedures they participate in and then allows the teaching surgeon to rate their performance on each step. A teaching surgeon will then be able to generate reports on how many procedures any resident has participated in, how many times the resident has performed any given step, and which steps they have done well or need more work on during an upcoming procedure. “This is powerful information for us to have as educators because we can now better tailor the level of responsibility we give our residents during robotic surgery and challenge them in addition to targeting areas where they need improvement and taking extra time during surgery to teach them these steps. This is something we can now do in real time using this web-based system such that I can look up the data on the resident who is helping me today in surgery from the operating room just before we start,” said Dr. Abaza.

For more information on Jim, visit http://medicalcenter.osu.edu/patientcare/healthcare_services/center_for_robotic_surgery/patient_stories/jim.
This year some of our residents were able to attend the Up on the Roof event. The resident participation was made possible by a donation from the McCoy family.

"We would like to purchase a table for the use of the Urology Department. We so much appreciate what you have done for us." — John B. McCoy

I can think of no one who better demonstrates citizenship, collegiality, and humanity in the practice of medicine than Dr. Greg Lowe. Congratulations to him on a well-deserved recognition for his character and caring nature in patient care. — Dr. David S. Sharp

Graduating Chiefs

"Asha was excellent at being accessible and helpful to the junior residents, whether it was helping with work on the floor or answering any question you may have. I probably wouldn’t have survived my first few months without her.”

— Dr. David Ludlow

Greg was always patient-centered in all that he did and went out of his way to teach and assist other residents. He was truly passionate about his work and it rubbed off on those interacting with him.”

— Dr. David Ludlow

Incoming Chiefs

My time here has been a life changing experience. I have been fortunate to be a part of the program during the recent rapid and exceptional growth. I have had the privilege of working with many of the up and coming and established experts in the field. The Department demands strict adherence to the core competencies implemented by the ACGME, rigorous independent as well as community academic development and personal character maturation. Resultant from this philosophy is that when our time at OSU is through we have the groundwork necessary to deliver the highest level of patient care. Finally, despite our recent growth as a Department we have been fortunate to maintain a tight community which facilitates our achievements of goals within our field and beyond. — Benjamin Gibson, MD

I received my Masters in Nursing from the University of Florida. After working as a Family Nurse Practitioner 10 plus years and having two children, I obtained my Medical Degree from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. At the completion of my residency I plan to return to my hometown, Jacksonville Florida, to join a private practice with an emphasis on robotic/laparoscopic surgery. The Ohio Urological Society selected my paper entitled “Histologic Impact of Dual Modality Intracorporeal Lithotriptors of the Renal Pelvis” as the 2010 winner of the Resident Research Presentation. I was awarded $1,000 as well as a trip to the North Central Section Meeting in Chicago IL. I chose urology because of its integration of medical and surgical treatment modalities as well as its variety of patients, challenging problems, and surgical procedures. I believe the diverse training from the fellowship trained faculty in the Department of Urology at Ohio State have given me a strong foundation in open, robotic/laparoscopic and endourologic surgery. — Mary Ann Kenneson, MD

When medical students ask me why they should come to Ohio State for their Urology residency, I tell them it is because the theme here is to be the best. Every year we have grown larger and become stronger as a department. During my time, we have added five new faculty that deliver high quality patient care and at the same time push the residents to critically think during clinic and in the operating room. Not only are we trained to be great surgeons and clinicians, but we also have the opportunity to add to the field of knowledge in Urology. Most, if not all the residents are presenting scientific and clinical research at national conferences and publishing papers in peer reviewed, highly regarded scientific journals. I will leave here feeling exceptionally trained as a surgeon and as a clinician. — Achal Modi, MD

Up on the Roof Event Attended by Residents

This year some of our residents were able to attend the Up on the Roof event. The resident participation was made possible by a donation from the McCoy family.

"We would like to purchase a table for the use of the Urology Department. We so much appreciate what you have done for us." — John B. McCoy

Some of the faculty tagged along too...

Dr. Gregory Lowe was the recipient of the Robyn D. Howson Humanism Award. This annual award is given to an outstanding housestaff for recognition in Citizenship, Collegiality, and Humanism. Housestaff are nominated by fellow housestaff, faculty members, nursing staff or other medical center staff members.

Dr. Lowe is a model resident and an example for his peers. He is not only extremely capable as a clinician and surgeon, but he carries himself with the utmost humility. He is widely regarded as a moral individual of the utmost character, and beyond that he is a delight to be around. I cannot think of another resident more deserving of this award than Greg Lowe. — Dr. Ronney Abaza

I can think of no one who better demonstrates citizenship, collegiality, and humanity in the practice of medicine than Dr. Greg Lowe. Congratulations to him on a well-deserved recognition for his character and caring nature in patient care. — Dr. David S. Sharp

Left to right: David Prall (PGY4) and wife Jana, Matthew Johnson (PGY3) and Mary Ann Kenneson (PGY5), Benjamin Gibson (PGY5) and Cate Olson, and David Shore (PGY4) and fiancee, Allison.
Many thanks to all who participated in our 3rd Resident Pig Lab on Saturday, June 12, 2010! We had a group of younger residents who still performed admirably...very nice work everyone. (FYI- Wisconsin hats have now been banned from any future labs). Thanks to all who gave up their Saturday morning to help out: Drs Abaza and Sharp, Mike and Josh with Intuitive, Colleen with Teleflex (Weck clips), and John for providing support for all the sutures. We also appreciated all the work Sarah and Lisa (Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery, OSU) put in getting the lab organized and to John with Storz for bringing all the vascular clamps and needle drivers. As always, very special thanks to the folks from Covidien for making the lab possible....Buzz and Stephanie, this is really invaluable experience for the residents and is greatly appreciated!!

—Geoffrey N. Box, MD

The next Skills Lab is scheduled for SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2011. Faculty will be working on a way to more objectively evaluate the performance in the animal lab to see how this translates into performance in the real OR.

Urologic Trauma:
Common problems in urologic trauma include the management of injuries to the kidney, bladder, urethra, and external genitalia. The goal of dealing with any one of these problems is to restore the urinary tract to its state prior to injury so that urine can drain appropriately. The most common ways that the urinary tract is injured include blunt trauma (car accidents, falls, etc) and penetrating injuries (firearms and stab wounds). When the injured urinary system cannot be managed with conservative or non-operative measures, urologic reconstruction is necessary.

Urologic Reconstruction:
The goal of urologic reconstruction is to surgically restore the urinary tract to a functional state after it has been injured. Urologic reconstruction may also be required with congenital abnormalities, spinal cord injuries, and after urologic cancer surgeries. These are situations in which the urine cannot store or drain appropriately. Common surgical problems include the management of urethral stricture (anterior or posterior urethral strictures) and male incontinence. For more information please visit: http://urology.osu.edu/16746.cfm

Christopher D. McClung, MD

Chris McClung, MD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Urology. He completed his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2003. He completed his residency at Loyola University Medical Center under the direction of Robert Flanigan, MD, in 2009. Dr. McClung then completed a fellowship in Urologic Trauma and Reconstruction in 2010 at the University of Washington in Seattle under the guidance of Hunter Wessells, MD. His clinical interests in urology include the acute management of GU trauma, urologic reconstruction, urethral stricture disease, male incontinence, erectile dysfunction, and Peyronie’s disease.

Urology Grand Rounds

Dr. Philipp Dahm is an Associate Professor of Urology at the Department of Urology, University of Florida. He presented a lecture entitled “Evidence Based Urology” at the August 10th Urology Grand Rounds. Dr. Dahm serves as the Associate Residency Program Director and also as the Director of Clinical Research.

It was an interesting and informative overview lecture. The main points I took away were how to read a scientific paper and what you should consider when evaluating its validity and its potential for practical application. — Yasser Ads, MD (PGY1)

I thought the articles by him that Dr. Box assigned us to read were beneficial. I felt the lecture itself did a good job of reinforcing some of the principles in his articles. — David Ludlow, MD (PGY2)

Philipp Dahm, MD, MHS
Associate Professor of Urology

To schedule an appointment with Dr. McClung please call Laura at 614-293-3648
**Recognition**

**Research Day Award Winner**

Benjamin Yuh (OSUCOM Class of 2011)

Mr. Yuh received a travel award at April’s OSUMC Research Day for his presentation entitled “Obesity is associated with favorable tumor characteristics in patients with renal cell carcinoma.” Each year, Research Day participants compete for travel awards by submitting their research in poster format for review and judging. Winners of the poster competition are selected, based on a given set of criteria, as determined by pre-assigned judges who are experts in the presenter’s research area.

Mr. Yuh joined the clinical outcome research during his third year of medical school. He was mentored by Dr. Ahmad Shabsigh.

**Urology Teaching Award**

Jack N. Taylor, M.D.

The Jack N. Taylor, M.D. Urology Lectureship Fund was established October 7, 1988, by gifts to The Ohio State University Development Fund from the family, colleagues, patients and friends of the late Jack Neely Taylor, M.D. (B.A. ’40) of Columbus, Ohio. This year the department received approval for the creation of a distinguished teaching award. The residents were asked to vote for the faculty member that they felt provided outstanding teaching. Dr. Jason P. Gilleran was selected as the 1st Annual Jack N. Taylor Distinguished Teacher Awardee.

**Abstracts Presented at World College of Endourology**

Seven abstracts were presented at the Chicago meeting of the World Congress of Endourology this fall. The abstracts represent the work of residents and faculty in the OSU Department of Urology.

- Modi A, Bahnson RR, and Abaza R: Consistency of one day stay after robotic prostatectomy.
- Novak R and Abaza R: Robotic partial nephrectomy without renal ischemia.
- Shore D, Box GN, and Abaza R: Status of robotic surgical education in urology training programs.
The AIM curriculum that Drs. Bahner and Box are developing will create the infrastructure to cover the basics for kidney, bladder, scrotum and prostate. Part of what will be tracked is the change in billing for ultrasound over the next couple of years. At the completion of the course involving surveys, online modules with quizzes, work in the skills lab and finally work in the clinical setting, the resident will have a digital portfolio and a letter of recommendation to help with credentialing.

On Saturday, August 28th, there was a didactic session followed by a hands-on component involving practice on volunteers. The residents were also able to practice in the skills center at the Health Sciences Library.

Clinical image: The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute offered free prostate cancer screenings on June 11, 2010. This year’s screening was made possible by support from The Tressel Family Fund.

Annual screenings are recommended if you are: age 50 or older; age 45 or older and African-American; or age 40 or older with a family history of prostate cancer. 482 individuals took advantage of the free screening: 415 scheduled and 67 walk-ins. The free screening consisted of a digital rectal exam (DRE) and a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test. Out of the 482 screened, 14.9% showed an abnormal PSA and 8.7% an abnormal DRE.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men, but it is also one of the most curable if detected early. The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 186,000 men in the United States will develop prostate cancer and more than 28,000 will die from it this year. Yearly exams are recommended for many men as one way of detecting the disease at a stage when it can be treated successfully.

For more information about this event please contact Joe Janowiecki, James Ambulatory Administrative Assistant, at (614) 293-5378.

Dr. Geoffrey Box is working closely with Dr David P. Bahner (pictured), an Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine to put together an ultrasound curriculum for the residents. Dr. Bahner strongly supports focused ultrasound, that is, using ultrasound to answer a specific question: Is there hydrenephrosis? Is there a mass? Is there a stone? He has created an Ultrasound Academy at OSU with centralized training equipment, and a formalized teaching program. Within this Academy, introduction to Ultrasound begins at the student level. Medical students act as patients in the Ultrasound skills lab, while residents learn how to perform focused ultrasound.

Dr. Box states that more than likely the use of ultrasound will become much more commonplace in daily practice (think of an iphone-sized device that gives high quality images which could end up being part of the physical exam).
Buckeye Fan - Dave Reinhart

Mr. Dave Reinhart, a patient of Dr. David Sharp, was featured in a segment on Big Ten Network. Mr. Reinhart is a huge Buckeye fan and has not missed a Buckeye home game in 37 seasons.

He was diagnosed with urothelial cancer of his left kidney and underwent chemotherapy followed by a robotic nephroureterectomy. “A big thing that he wanted throughout his therapy was to get to the first Buckeye game”, stated Dr. Sharp.

He is pictured here with Dr. Sharp, Joyce Perry (Nurse Practitioner for Dr. Sharp) and Dr. Sharp’s son, Ryan.

To hear more about Dave’s story visit http://www.bigtennetwork.com/generic/schools/ohio-state/video?bcpid=109304510001&bclid=622697426001&bctid=622877260001