Free Prostate Cancer Screening

The James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, along with the Department of Urology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, will be hosting their annual Free Prostate Cancer Screening day on Friday, September 5th from 8 AM – 4 PM at Ohio State’s Eye and Ear Institute, 915 Olentangy River Road, 2nd Floor Urology Clinic. The screening will include a Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test and a Digital Rectal Exam (DRE).

The screening is recommended for men 50 years and older and as young as 40 years old if in a high risk group: African-American men and men who have first-degree relatives (father and brother, or two brothers) who have had prostate cancer.

The participants will receive a letter with their results and guidance if they need to follow up with a urologist or they can be seen here at Ohio State by one of our fellowship-trained urologists specializing in prostate cancer.

Appointment times can be made starting August 8th by calling The JamesLine @ 614-293-5066 or 800-293-5066.

First Annual Community Urology Update

The First Annual Community Urology Update, presented to community urologists, is coming October 4, 2014. Featured speaker is Manoj Monga, MD, Director, Center for Endourology and Stone Disease at the Cleveland Clinic.

For more information, visit urology.osu.edu/education
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If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, have any comments or suggestions for future newsletters, or you would like to report an address change, please send an email to janet.mcgarr@osumc.edu.
Kamal S. Pohar, MD was installed as the Julius and Diana Skestos Chair at a reception on June 26, 2014. The chair was a generous gift by George A. Skestos, a longtime friend of the department and a grateful patient of Dr. Pohar.

Mr. Skestos is the founder of the Columbus-based building firm, Homewood Corporation. He earned a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree, a Master of Business Administration degree, and a law degree from the University of Michigan. He has served on the Ohio State University Board of Trustees, including one year as president. He asked that the chair, named for his grandchildren, be used to support a nationally recognized faculty member in the Department of Urology.

Dr. Pohar is such a physician. He is an associate professor with expertise in bladder cancer. He is a member of the Bladder Cancer Think Tank, which is composed of more than 100 leading doctors, researchers, patient advocates and industry representatives who meet regularly to improve bladder cancer care.

Dr. Pohar has over twenty-five peer reviewed publications and five chapters in edited books. He has received grant support from the American Cancer Society, the University Urology Education and Research Fund, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the American Foundation for Urologic Disease. In 2013, residents voted him Urology Teacher of the Year.
HENRY A. WISE II, MD PROFESSOR
BODO E. KNUDSEN, MD

Bodo E. Knudsen, MD was installed as the Henry A. Wise II, MD Professor in Urology at a reception on June 26, 2014.

Dr. Wise completed his urology training at Johns Hopkins. He started his career in the Division of Urology at Ohio State in 1972 as an assistant professor and rose through the ranks of associate professor, division director and clinical professor. He is currently a clinical professor emeritus. Dr. Wise was instrumental in setting up one of the first mobile stone machines in central Ohio. It is only fitting that the first Wise Professor should be a urologist whose area of expertise is management of kidney stones.

Dr. Knudsen is an associate professor, director of the OSU Comprehensive Kidney Stone Program, medical director of the Health System Outpatient Urology Services and vice chair of Clinical Affairs in the Department of Urology.

He has authored forty-two abstracts, six chapters, thirty-seven conference papers and proceedings, fifty-eight journal articles and more than one hundred scholarly presentations. He has served as editor or reviewer on ten journals. He has been an advisor in the Medical Student Learning Communities since 2009. He is a member of the prestigious ROCK (Research on Calculus Kinetics) Society, a group of international investigators who focus on kidney stone research.
Dr. Pohar joined the faculty of The Ohio State University in January 2003 after completing a three-year basic science and clinical urologic oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He chose Ohio State because of its strong reputation to advance patient care through innovation and discovery and this complemented his desire to be a surgeon scientist.

As his clinical reputation for excellence in surgical outcomes grew he focused his clinical and research effort exclusively in the area of his greatest interest, bladder cancer. He has performed almost 500 radical cystectomies since joining the faculty and his surgical approach emphasizes the importance of extent and completeness of lymph node dissection, lowering positive surgical margin rates in advanced disease and offering the majority of patients the option of a continent urinary diversion to provide the best oncologic care.

Dr. Pohar has been named on Best Doctors every year since 2007 and he is recognized as one of a select group of physicians at Ohio State with patient satisfaction scores consistently in the 90th percentile nationally. As a national expert in bladder cancer he was invited in 2010 to join an exclusive group of physicians and researchers committed to stimulating new discoveries and standardization of care in bladder cancer (Bladder Cancer Think Tank). Dr. Pohar was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2013 and recently named the inaugural Julius Skestos and Diana Skestos Endowed Chair in Urology.

Despite his busy clinical practice Dr. Pohar has invested a large amount of time and effort in establishing a laboratory focused on modeling the genetics of bladder cancer. His lab is studying the hypothesis that E2F3, a transcription factor, is responsible for activating an invasive cancer program in almost 1 in 3 patients and a newly available drug may halt the activation of this program in bladder cancer.

Recently the lab also completed a comprehensive characterization of the commonly deleted 9g34 locus in bladder cancer, of both promoter methylation and deep sequencing of the genes for mutation, and identified a possible new candidate tumor suppressor gene that may be responsible for TGF-B regulation in a large number of bladder tumors of varying stages. It is anticipated these studies will open the door to new avenues of investigation and successful acquisition of NIH funding to support further research activity. Several outstanding undergraduate and medical students have worked in the lab and received prestigious awards including the Roessler Scholarship, Pelotonia Research Award and a Denman Award.

In addition to his research activity in the lab, Dr. Pohar is the principal investigator at OSU for a phase III national surgical study that is randomizing radical cystectomy patients in the operating room to two different extents of lymphadenectomy (standard versus extended) to measure effect on cancer outcomes. Surgeons selected to participate in the study underwent an extensive credentialing process that reviewed surgical quality by submitting intra-operative photographs of the lymph node dissection, pathology reports and case logs. This is a pivotal trial that promises to provide conclusive answers to an age-old question in bladder cancer. Dr. Pohar was recognized by the National Cancer Institute as being one of the leading physicians in the United States who enrolled patients on a clinical trial during the year 2012.

Dr. Pohar credits his success in clinical care and research to his environment. He feels privileged to be a member of the Department of Urology, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. He is optimistic that his research program and others will soon make new discoveries in bladder cancer that will allow him to further his ability to take exceptional care of his patients.
Patient Profile
Sharon Dozer

Sharon has been a patient of Dr. Pohar for two years and was delighted to share her story.

Dr. Pohar will always be my hero. During my two year battle with bladder cancer he was my supporter.

After an unsuccessful attempt of surgery by a local urologist in March of 2012, I decided to contact The James at The Ohio State University. I met with Dr. Pohar in late March and was immediately drawn to his pleasant nature and the plan of action he had for me. He sent me to a wonderful oncologist, Dr. Mortazavi, and they worked together with the goal in mind to shrink the tumor which had attached to the wall of my bladder and was starting to grow through.

After ten months of chemotherapy and radiation, numerous MRI and CAT scans, countless tests and many visits, Dr. Pohar informed me they could no longer see the tumor (January 22, 2013). Dr. Pohar was a great communicator and always took the time to explain every detail of my progress. He was smiling as he gave me the news and seemed as happy as I was.

During a follow up visit in October of 2013 I told Dr. Pohar I could feel something wasn’t right in the area of the tumor. He examined me in the office, said he wanted to do a more elaborate examination and would like to make an appointment to schedule me as an outpatient to do this.

During my next visit, after the exam, my worst thoughts were realized. The tumor had indeed returned. Dr. Pohar, however, stated the tumor wasn’t as attached to the wall as before and we should look at this as an opportunity. He stated we had a small window in which we could get this done. He again went over the details of the surgery and stated it was a big surgery and he wouldn’t recommend it unless he was sure of a cure. He would not only be removing my bladder, building a new pouch or bladder, but removing anything with cancer nodes. He would need to perform a complete hysterectomy as well as remove my appendix. I will never forget his words, “Let me do this for you”.

The operation was performed on December 11, 2013. Twelve hours later Dr. Pohar spoke with my son and my sister. The news was good, the operation was a success and the new bladder, known as an Indiana pouch, looked great.

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Dr. Pohar came to see me in the hospital and answered my questions and concerns. He then gave us his cell phone number and urged us to call him with any concerns, as he had a scheduled vacation to go home for the holidays. This was comforting. I always felt his warm sincerity but giving me his cell phone number over the Christmas holidays far exceeded any expectations I had of a surgeon.

I could go on and on about the after care, the many visits to the office, the phone calls I made while learning to catheterize my new bladder. Through it all, Dr. Pohar has been constant. His staff is outstanding and Amy should get an award and be canonized for sainthood with Dr. Pohar.

Dr. Pohar has had a significant part in my being able to get through the last few years with cancer. He is the most unselfish and considerate person I have ever met. The Ohio State University is lucky to have such a wonderful surgeon on staff. I’m sure there are a lot of good surgeons on staff but to be a great surgeon and have the qualities Dr. Pohar has is very rare.

Again I would love to state “Dr. Pohar is a saint and is my hero.”
New Faculty Member
Dr. Megan Merrill

We are thrilled to announce that starting in September 2014, Dr. Megan Merrill will be joining the faculty of the Department of Urology after completing a two year fellowship in Urologic Oncology at The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Her research there was conducted under the mentorship of Christopher Wood, MD, and involved using mouse renal cell carcinoma (RCC) xenografts to investigate the role of miRNA signaling in acquired pathways of resistance to Sunitinib. During her lab year, she also designed a translational miRNA serum profiling project, with the goal of identifying a miRNA signature to predict disease recurrence in patients with RCC. In addition to her basic science research, Dr. Merrill had the opportunity to be involved in several clinical research projects, which focused on patient characteristics and clinical predictors of survival in patients with RCC and sarcomatoid dedifferentiation.

Her interest in basic science research began during her undergraduate years at the Pennsylvania State University in University Park, PA, where she earned a BS in Biology-Vertebrate Physiology and a minor in Neuroscience. During that time, Dr. Merrill was awarded a REU research grant, which funded her work as a research assistant in Dr. Charles Fisher’s lab. There she participated in a project investigating the physiological and biochemical characteristics of hemoglobin in the hydrothermal vent tubeworm Ridgeia pisceae.

This experience provided the foundation for her to apply for a research grant in 2001 at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, GA. During that period she investigated the role of the ORF2 and ORF3 proteins in the antigenicity of Norovirus under the guidance of Steve Monroe, PhD.

The timing of her lab work at the CDC coincided with both the September 11th attacks and the multiple occurrences of bioterrorism that shattered our country during that year.

Dr. Merrill volunteered to be a part of the biologic weapons team that was established in response to these events. She was chosen to be a CDC Field Representative and worked alongside the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Florida Coast Guard, and the U.S. Army’s biological weapons unit (USAMRIID) in conducting an epidemiological investigation of the first case of bioterrorism-related inhalation anthrax. This work earned her a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary’s Award for Distinguished Service in 2002.

Although she enjoyed basic science research, her true desire was to practice medicine. In June of 2006, Dr. Merrill received her Doctor of Osteopathy from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia, PA. She was inducted into the Sigma Sigma Phi Honors and Service Fraternity (Osteopathic counterpart to Alpha Omega Alpha - AOA) during her medical school training, and also had the honor of being included in the Cambridge Who's Who Executive and Professional Registry: Osteopathic Women Physicians, 2006-2007.

Upon graduation she completed a Traditional Osteopathic Rotating Internship Year at Christiana Care Health System in Newark, DE. A year of general surgery was performed at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. Her urology training was completed at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Stratford, NJ under the guidance of Dr. Gordon Brown.

During her pursuit of excellence in urologic oncology, she is grateful for the adventure of taking the road less traveled. With her research and clinical ventures, she recognized the value of each of her opportunities. She learned early on that flexibility, hard work and perseverance were qualities necessary for success. Dr. Merrill looks forward to continued ambition and productivity as she begins her career at The Ohio State University.

To make an appointment, call 614-366-8560.
New Technology - Cysview
Treating Bladder Cancer With An Advanced Approach

Bladder cancer is the second most common urologic cancer after prostate cancer in the United States. Of all cancers it is the sixth most commonly diagnosed and has the highest recurrence rate of any form of cancer.

Some of the risk factors associated with bladder cancer include tobacco exposure, industrial exposure (aniline dyes, rubber and textile printing, manufacturing), chemotherapy, Schistosoma parasite, chronic infection and irritation of the bladder, genetic predisposition, pelvis irradiation, intake of such agents as arsenic, phenacetin, bracken fern and the Chinese herb, Aristolochia fangchi.

The presenting symptoms include microscopic or gross hematuria, which can present as a darker color to the urine. Patients may also have irritative bladder symptoms such as increased frequency or urgency to urinate. Some patients feel the sensation to urinate without actually doing so. Pain on urination and general pain in the back and abdomen are also possible.

Bladder cancer is graded pathologically by the depth of invasion from the cells lining the bladder; through the connective tissue; to the inner half of the muscle layer; to the outer half of the muscle layer; to the fatty tissue surrounding the muscle layer; and finally to surrounding organs and tissues.

The diagnosis is made by tissue biopsy done traditionally through a procedure called cystoscopy, where a scope is put through the urethra into the bladder. Traditional cystoscopy involves a cystoscope with a lens and a white light for visualizing suspicious lesions. Once lesions are identified, doctors can biopsy or surgically remove cancerous tissues through a procedure called a transurethral resection of the bladder tumor (TURBT). It is estimated that 10-20% of bladder tumors may be overlooked or not visible.

Blue Light Cystoscopy with Cysview is a new method that has improved the treatment of bladder cancer. Cysview is an optical imaging agent that is introduced into the bladder and is absorbed by cancerous tissue, making the naturally occurring molecule in the malignant tissue fluoresce. Using Cysview with the KARL STORZ D-Light C Photodynamic Diagnostic (PDD)™ device, doctors are able to view comparative white and blue images that may make hard-to-see tumors more visible (see illustration) thereby increasing the detection of non-muscle invasive papillary cancer of the bladder (NMIBC).

The increased detection leads to improved tumor resection, since every tumor detected can be resected in the same TURBT. This allows for better patient management decisions and has the potential for reducing overall cost of managing NMIBC. This technique is approved by the FDA for the detection of non-muscle invasive papillary cancer of the bladder. It is not a replacement for random bladder biopsies or other procedures used in the detection of bladder cancer and it is not for repetitive use.

This technology is not available everywhere. Dr. Kamal Pohar and The James Cancer Hospital will be the first center in Central Ohio and just the second institution in all of Ohio to offer this blue light technology to patients with bladder cancer. To make an appointment with Dr. Pohar, call Amy at 614-293-4885.
Department Highlights

Patient Satisfaction - 90th%

Patient satisfaction is of the utmost importance at Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center. The goal is to reach the 90th percentile in the next two years. Based on returned patient satisfaction surveys, more than 180 Faculty Group Practice physicians are already in the top ten percent nationally for patient satisfaction for this past fiscal year. Three of them are urologists, Drs. Bodo Knudsen, Christopher McClung and Kamal Pohar. They are recognized as positively impacting the OSU patients and their family members with their exceptional service. These three have earned the 90th Percentile Pin. Congratulations!

Developing Professional Experience

As part of developing professional experience, Bob LaFollette, Department Administrator, gave some individuals a wonderful opportunity to showcase some of their projects. Karen Allan, patient services supervisor, and Vishal Bhatt, MHA intern for the department, presented at the Ohio MGMA (Ohio Medical Group Management Association) on March 14, 2014.

Vishal Bhatt presented on “Patient Throughput and the Effects on Patient Satisfaction.” Karen Allan presented on “Atypical versus Typical Organization Structure.” All of the participants enjoyed a great experience throughout the entire process.

‘13 Best Doctors in America

Only five percent of physicians in the United States are named a “Best Doctor”. Among those representing the OSU Department of Urology are Drs. Robert Bahnson, Frank Begun, Kamal Pohar and Rama Jayanthi, Chief of Pediatric Urology at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

Patient Satisfaction

The physicians of the urology team have met or exceeded the patient satisfaction target for the first quarter of FY 2014. The award is based on actual scores received from patient satisfaction survey data. This could not have been accomplished without the exceptional help of the urology nurses and office staff.

Knudsen Named Top 10

Dr. Bodo Knudsen was named one of the Top 10 Reviewers in 2013 by the Journal of Endourology. For the year he reviewed twenty-four papers.
Department Highlights

Doctors with Talent

Staff urologist Dr. Frank Begun and his wife, Audrey, have enjoyed many years with their hobby of nature photography. Recently, six of their images were on display at the High Road Gallery in Worthington. They currently have four photos on exhibit at the Riffe Gallery in downtown Columbus.

Frank is showing one picture of a 10-day old baby humpback whale surfacing for air. This came from a diving trip to the Silver Banks near the Dominican Republic. His second photo is a super-macro close-up of a small green bee’s face as it looks out from a flower in his front yard. Audrey is exhibiting a landscape image of sunset at Clingman’s Dome (Great Smoky Mountains National Park) and an underwater picture of sharks from a diving trip in Honduras.

Describing their passion for nature photography, Frank says: “This is a great hobby. It gets us outdoors and allows us to explore new places and to have encounters with some amazing creatures.” The two have enjoyed many adventures while pursuing opportunities for “shooting” nature, along with their fair share of misadventures. “Nature does not always cooperate or behave as predicted,” says Audrey. The two have occasionally presented slide shows with their work to schools, zoos, photographers, and other groups. The gallery showings were collections of work from members of the Westbridge Camera Club where Frank and Audrey each serve in leadership positions.
Education

From the Desk of our Program Director —

Geoffrey N. Box, MD

The end of the academic year has been a busy time for the students and residents in the Department of Urology. The residents presented their scholarly work at the Ohio Urological Society meeting. One of our residents, Dr. Abhi Patel, competed successfully in the Resident Bowl at the North Central Section and the AUA meeting.

We had two stimulating visiting professors: Mani Menon, MD, the Bloch lecturer and Bernard Bochner, MD, the Sara Lee Youngs Distinguished Lecturer. Both were informative and thought provoking. We look forward to our 18th Annual Chester C. Winter, MD Visiting Professor in October, Dr. Kevin McVary.

We are saying goodbye to the current chief residents and looking forward to the new group of residents. Drs. Abhi Patel and Adam Howe will assume the leadership role of Chief Residents. We welcome a new PGY-4, Dr. Tim McClure, to join Drs. Zach Gordon and Firas Petros. Drs. Brent Carlyle, Aron Liaw and Jason Orien have matured into capable PGY-3s, while Drs. Chad Gridley, Tariq Khemees and Andrew Todd take on urology full time as PGY-2s.

With the start of the new academic year come the challenges of teaching the new medical students interested in urology. The interview season for those fourth year students interested in applying for our 3 residency slots will take place in December.
In 1988, Drs. Arnold and Sandra Gold of the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons in New York established the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that seeks to instill in doctors in training the “habit of humanism”. By placing people and relationships at the center of doctor patient interactions, patient care and healthcare outcomes will improve.

There is a chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Every spring the society recognizes three 3rd year students, two faculty members and six residents that exemplify the qualities of integrity, excellence, compassion, altruism, respect, empathy, and service.

Dr. Aron Liaw was voted by the current 3rd and 4th year students to receive this award based on his commitment to teaching, and his compassionate treatment of students, patients and their families.

Dr. Liaw is a second year resident in urology. He did his undergraduate studies in Sydney, Australia and his medical school at the University of Indiana. He hopes to ultimately practice in an academic institution where he can continue to work with medical students and residents. This is the first time he has ever been “accused” of integrity, excellence, compassion, altruism, respect, empathy and service.

In addition to receiving the award, Dr. Liaw was inducted into the GHHS. Recipients were asked to make remarks to the students.

Dr. Liaw had this to say.

“There are five basic rules you should follow while on the wards, and into your residency and beyond.

The first is: Never pass up a free meal. You never know where your next is coming from.

The second is: Your team is your lifeline. Their job is your job, and their problems are your problems.

The third is: Laugh long, loud and often. There is nothing so difficult and so grim that the willingness to approach it with humour will not stand you in good stead.

The fourth is: Always take on the responsibilities of those above you in the hierarchy, but never forget what it’s like for those below you.

And the last, and the most important, is this: Always leave something better than you found it.”
Incoming Chief Residents

Adam Howe, MD

I was born and raised in Schenectady, NY. I attended Union College where I majored in biochemistry. After graduation I worked in an infectious disease lab and later attended Albany Medical College. I am very glad I have had the opportunity to train at OSU. I am very much looking forward to the chief year and running the urology service alongside my co-resident and good friend, Abhi Patel. After residency I will do my pediatric fellowship at Cohen Children’s Hospital at Long Island Jewish in New York.

Abhi Patel, MD

Prior to residency, I lived in St. Louis and did my undergraduate study in philosophy, biology and physics at Saint Louis University. I then attended medical school at University of Missouri-Columbia. I was fortunate to come to OSU and am looking forward to a great chief year working with our fantastic faculty and my co-residents! I am excited to pursue a fellowship in Andrology/Infertility after graduation at the University of Virginia.

New PGY 4

Timothy McClure, MD

Dr. McClure graduated from the University of Washington Medical School. He completed a surgical internship followed by three years of a urology residency at UCLA. He switched to Diagnostic Radiology, completing a fellowship and residency, also at UCLA. We are excited to welcome Tim to the program to complete his urology training. His maturity and expertise in interventional radiology will benefit the department.
Incoming Interns

Joshua Ebel, MD

Josh Ebel was born in Marion, OH, played high school lacrosse for the Blue Aces in Granville, and was voted all-conference in MCLA lacrosse at Miami University. He graduated from Miami University in Oxford, OH with a BS in Engineering Physics and a BA in Biochemistry, Mathematics and Statistics. He attended The Ohio State University College of Medicine, where he was busy completing ten abstracts, three journal articles, one web contribution and one patent. He has participated in multiple long-distance and competitive cycling events including the 180 mile race, Pelotonia, which benefits cancer research. He has been part of a weekly trivia team, winning hundreds of dollars in prizes over the course of three years.

Kristin Ebert, MD

Kristin Ebert was born in Milwaukee, WI, and received a BS in Biology and Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Madison, WI where she was also a competitor in the 2011 USA Triathlon Collegiate National Championship. She also spent a semester at the University of Westminster, London studying Psychology. She attended medical school at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison, WI where her research contributed to two oral presentations and a journal article. She also coordinated a biweekly free psychiatry clinic for Madison’s underserved and contributed to program sustainability by coordinating fundraising events and training future program leaders.

Joseph Wan, MD

Joseph Wan, born in Columbus, OH, is a classically trained pianist and guitar player and graduated from The Ohio State University with a major in business and a minor in life sciences. He then graduated with honors from the OSU Fisher College of Business. He attended The Ohio State College of Medicine and produced one journal article and organized a basketball league for medical students and residents in his spare time.

We are thrilled to have these three accomplished individuals join the OSU Department of Urology Flagship!
Graduation 2014

The Jack N. Taylor, MD Award 2014
David S. Sharp, MD

“One of the greatest joys I have in my position is watching residents mature from a fresh and wide-eyed intern into a competent physician with developed surgical skill. Being recognized as a contributor to the residents achieving these skills is truly an honor. I continue to be humbled by the dedication each resident has to becoming the best urologic surgeon they can be.”
- David S. Sharp, MD

Previous winners of the Teacher of the Year (Taylor) Award, as voted on by the residents, include Drs. Kamal Pohar, Gregory Lowe, Christopher McClung and Jason Gilleran.

2014 William Neeley Taylor, MD Award
Josh Ebel, MD

At the honors ceremony on May 1, 2014, Dr. Geoffrey Box presented Josh Ebel with the William Neeley Taylor MD Award. This award is given to the graduating medical student who has excelled in the field of urology.
Graduation 2014

Graduating Fellow
Daniel Robertshaw, MD

Daniel Robertshaw, MD, a graduate of Ohio State University College of Medicine, returned to Columbus and completed a six month fellowship in robotic surgery. Dan is currently practicing in Cincinnati, OH with The Urology Group.

Dr. Robertshaw contributed meaningfully to our educational program for residents and medical students during his time with us and we are most grateful. We wish him every success.

Graduating Residents

Drs. David V. Ludlow, Jeffrey R. Wilson and Andrew Z. Smock are headed to private practice.
Distinguished Visitors
2014 Sara Lee Youngs Distinguished Lecturer
Bernard H. Bochner, MD

Coordinator of the Bladder Cancer Multidisciplinary Working Group
Co-director of the Pelvic Reconstruction/Surgery Group at
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Dr. Bochner completed his medical school education at UCLA.
Following his urology training at USC, he pursued his fellowship training at the Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center at USC.

On March 27, 2014, the Department of Urology was honored to hear his talk on “Urinary Tract Reconstruction After Radical Cystectomy”.

Pictured with Dr. Bochner is Dr. David Sharp, one of our Urologic Oncology surgeons and Dr. Kamal Pohar, our bladder cancer specialist.

A grateful patient of Dr. Robert Bahnson and an international businesswoman, Sara Lee Youngs made a difference in the lives of many. The Sara Lee Youngs Distinguished Lectureship in Bladder Cancer was made possible by her generosity.
Chairman of the Department of Urology, Henry Ford Health System
The Rajendra and Padma Vattikuti Distinguished Chair in Oncology
Director of the Vattikuti Urology Institute.

4/3/14
"I was honored to be the Bloch lecturer, and enjoyed talking to your residents. I took some liberties and gave a stream-of-consciousness presentation starting with random thoughts about NEJM articles, to how to develop surgical techniques, to the myths behind screening tests. I finished with the transplant talk, but I really did not know what new information I could give these young individuals who have been exposed to so much that is great about Urology at Ohio State."  Mani Menon, MD

"I was extremely enthusiastic to attend Dr. Menon's lecture. The moment he began his talk I became stunned by the way he thinks and his genuine ambition for innovation. This passion reflects profound contributions to urology in general and robotic surgery in particular. Having said that, he presented a novel technique for state-of-the art Robotic Kidney Transplantation with Regional Hypothermia: Utilizing the IDEAL Guidelines, followed by another presentation regarding PSA screening test. I had not realized how time passed by so quickly and wished to continue listening to Dr. Menon. Nevertheless, it's an opportunity to thank our department for continued support of education and learning during our training."
Dr. Firas Petros, PGY 3

Michael and Janis Bloch, longtime supporters of the James Cancer Hospital and OSU, have generously donated funds for the creation of the Janis B. and Michael D. Bloch Endowment Fund in Urology.
Scholarship and Research
OSU at the AUA

Allen J, Sarhan A, Shabsigh A. Predictors of Early Post-operative Readmission After Open and Robotic Radical Cystectomy for Patients with Bladder Cancer.

Bahnson R. ABU Update.


Box G. Urology Ultrasound Training Protocol and Assessment Program (2011).


Engineering and Urology Society (EUS) - Section of the Endourological Society
Welcome – Program Chair, Knudsen BE.
Moderator, Knudsen BE.
Session 1: Current Status of Lab Training in Urology
Moderator, Knudsen BE. Innovations in Urology Forum

Knudsen BE, Moderator. Stone Disease: Evaluation I.


Patel A. Resident Bowl

Patel A. Award Winning Video: Completely Intracorporeal Robotic Renal Autotransplantation


Vieweg JWG, Moderator. Affirmative: Schlegel PN, Negative: Bahnson RR. Point-Counterpoint: Is There A Role for a Dedicated Research Year in Urologic Residency Training?

The ACGME is responsible for the accreditation of post-MD medical training programs within the United States. One of the Common Program Requirements for the Practice-based Learning and Improvement Competency is to systematically analyze practice using quality improvement methods, and implement changes with the goal of practice improvement. To this end the department has identified two problems and designed studies with the goal of implementing change that would improve the problems.

The first is a prospective study being done by Dr. Geoffrey Box to evaluate a new type of suction-irrigation device. The suction/irrigation devices that are currently employed in robot assisted surgery were originally designed for laparoscopic surgery and require the surgical assistant to insert and manipulate the rigid suction probe within the surgical field. The surgeon must communicate with the assistant to influence the suction/irrigation process.

The VTI suction-irrigation system allows the console surgeon to independently control the suction and irrigation process. Additionally the VTI suction irrigator has a flexible distal probe that is inserted into the surgical field through a laparoscopic port and then grabbed and navigated with a robotic instrument allowing for an expanded range of motion within the surgical field.

The anticipated benefit is the possibility of more surgeon autonomy with improved precision and better exposure of the surgical field during robotic procedures.

The second study is also a prospective study. A small percentage of men undergoing prostate biopsy will become infected after the procedure. Dr. Robert Bahnson, in collaboration with Northwestern University, is proposing to follow the infection rates of men who undergo prostate biopsy after receiving preoperative antibiotics specifically aimed at treating the organisms found on rectal culture done pre-op. This is a large prospective study to determine whether a targeted approach to TRUSP antimicrobial prophylaxis is warranted.
Tell me about your training years at OSU?
I completed my undergraduate degree and medical school, both at The Ohio State University. I was influenced early on by my father who is a urologist and during rotations with the late Dr. Andrew Novick from The Cleveland Clinic. When Dr. Henry Wise II invited me into the OSU program, I declined an acceptance to go into Ophthalmology in New York City. We were the first class of urology residents when Dr. Bahnson arrived as chairman. I remember a lot of reprimanding about: not wearing ties, not being in the OR 15 min early, wearing scrubs to clinic, calling the clinic a “clinic”. His strict discipline and leadership helped with our development into the latter years. In my 4th year, I spent much time at Children’s Hospital and was highly influenced by Drs. Stephen Koff and Rama Jayanthi. Highlights from the year included winning the Nike Flag Football National Championship during our free time, attending an “Up on The Roof” event and presenting at the AUA meeting in San Diego.

In my chief year, we were entrusted to literally function like “mini” attendings. I recall that I was the one reprimanding the medical students and junior residents about: not wearing ties, not being in the OR early, wearing scrubs at the clinic and talking too much during surgery. I was honored to actively participate in the care of the late benefactors Dave Longaberger and Sara Lee Youngs (Bladder Cancer Lectureship) who were both from my local area of Ohio. Endourology techniques were refined by Dr. Todd Cohen. I enjoyed the camaraderie with my fellow co-residents and staff in urology as well as other departments. These moments were tremendous and fondly remembered. A picture of my graduating residents and staff still hangs in my office today.

Life after residency?
After residency, I contemplated staying on staff at OSU but one of our visiting professors from John Hopkins wrote me a personal influential letter saying he regretted not working with his father. I decided to return to my hometown of Cambridge, Ohio in 1999. My father, Dr. Zosimo Maximo, had been the only urologist in town since 1973. An initial 2 year contract with the local hospital now has become 14 years and I do not regret the decision. I am proud to say we provided the full scope of urologic oncology including radical cystectomy and partial nephrectomy fully utilizing my training.

Today, I continue to have a very busy practice as the only urologist covering an excellent hospital with a multi-county demographic. My interests have evolved but still consist of endourology, oncology, men’s health and incontinence. Treatment is offered close to home such as radiation.
therapy and cryotherapy. Interestingly, I have a historically high detection rate for prostate cancer here. I enjoy teaching osteopathic medical students who rotate thru my practice. I continue to adopt new surgical technology. I am proud I have been able to practice evidenced based ethical medicine. I continue to evaluate new career opportunities. In the coming years, I will have continued the legacy of providing urology services in southeast Ohio for the past half century. My office staff is highly trained and the facilities are exceptional.

I happily live in Cambridge, OH near Muskingum University with my supportive wife Jessalin and children, Marlee age 3 1/2 years and Lilee 7 months old. As all urologists, I am mainly busy with work and family. However after a minor health scare, I decided to concentrate on health and not wealth. I returned to running as I did during residency. I am hoping to complete my first olympic triathlon and second half marathon this summer. Taking a break from work, I recently enjoyed vacationing with my family and friends in Hawaii and Napa Valley in April and the AUA meeting and Disney in Orlando in May.

Over the years, I have learned the importance of philanthropy. I have been able to make several gifts to my local hospital, church and schools. This included water fountains in the lake at our local park and to The Ohio State University.

Anything else you would like to say?
In summary, my training years were some of the most memorable moments in my life. Dr. Bahnson always spoke highly of family and I hope to continue making memories with my family. I have to say Dr. Bahnson has been the most influential mentor in my life other than my parents. Words are difficult to express, but I am very grateful to him and all of my mentors. I am very proud of my training at OSU. When I heard OSU Urology became a department, I sent Dr. Bahnson a case of wine the next day. My advice to upcoming and recent graduates is to maintain the high standard of care and moral compass passed on to you from Ohio State while maintaining a healthy balance in life.

Thank you for the opportunity. One day, I hope to return to visit the department. I look forward to hearing many updates from other former alumni.

Alumni Reunion at the 2014 AUA, Orlando, FL

Attending the OSU Department of Urology Reunion at this year’s AUA Meeting in Orlando, FL are Drs. Geoffrey Box (2006 and current faculty,) Hugh Lavery (2009), Jordan Allen (4th year med student), Bodo Knudsen (current faculty), Abhi Patel (current PGY-5), Matthew Johnson (2013), Ahmad Shabsigh (current faculty), Firas Petros (current PGY-4) and Mary Ann Kenneson (2011).
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