Message from the Chair

I hope you enjoy this update of our activity in the Department of Urology at The Ohio State University Medical Center. In November 2006, just two years ago, this department was established from the existing Division of Urology. Since this change, collaborative research and educational efforts between basic science and clinical departments continue to be enhanced. Philanthropic support from friends of the Department has aided our considerable growth. We recognize the significance of these gifts with brief accounts of their largesse.

We also introduce our newest faculty and highlight some recent scholastic activity in the Department. Our newsletter presents updates on how we are constantly striving to obtain our mission of educating medical residents by recruiting more urologists with diverse interests for faculty positions, and by sponsoring visiting professorships; conducting and supporting more research in the field of urology; and striving for excellence in patient care by utilizing advances in educational resources and research.

We appreciate your interest and support. Should you return to see our famous football team, we would welcome your visit to our department.

Robert Bahnson, M.D.
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. All gifts great or small make a difference.

Sara Lee Young’s Memorial Fund (Fund # 311931) This fund was established to support a bladder cancer lectureship for Department of Urology.

Bladder Cancer Research Fund (Fund # 312290) This fund was established to support bladder cancer research as directed by Dr. Kamal Pohar.

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

Jack N. Taylor M.D. Urology Lectureship Fund (Fund # 607129) This fund was established by the family, colleagues, patients and friends of the late Jack Neely Taylor, M.D. Income supports an annual lecture (or lectures).

Michael W. Curran Research Fund (Fund # 660588) This fund was established with gifts from Dr. Ann Salimbene, her family, friends, and associates in the memory of her husband Dr. Michael W. Curran of Columbus, Ohio. Income supports prostate cancer research.

Ronald and Ernesta Fay Endowment Fund to Support Research in Prostate Cancer and Brachytherapy (Fund # 662122) This fund was established with a gift from Mr. And Mrs. Ronald Fay of Heathrow, Florida. Income is used to support research in prostate cancer and brachytherapy.

Checks payable to: The Ohio State University, Department of Urology. Gifts are tax deductible in accordance to the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts can be mailed to the address on the back of this newsletter.

Chester C. Winter, M.D.
Library Endowment

In 1960, Chester C. Winter, MD was named professor and director of the Division of Urology. He was appointed to the Louis Levy Professorship of Urology in 1975.

As chief of the Department of Urology, Dr. Chester Winter knew first hand the importance of endowed funds to support key areas of the department.

“It was with gratitude to The Ohio State University and its College of Medicine that I established two endowments in 1985; the Annual Visiting Professorship in Urology (Fund # 607739) and the Cary Winter Library for Urology (Fund # 607738). During the past two decades it has given me immense pleasure to meet some of the distinguished visiting professors and witness their contributions to the education of residents in urology at the University.”

Henry A. Wise III, M.D.
Emeritus Professor Gives Back

The Henry A. Wise III, M.D., Emeritus Professorship Fund in Urology (Fund # 627615) was established in February of 2007. Gifts were received from the Urology Education and Research Foundation, Inc., and friends of the Department of Urology, with support from the College of Medicine. This fund was given in honor of Henry A. Wise, II, M.D. Dr. Wise is currently a clinical professor emeritus and has held the positions of assistant professor, associate professor, division director and clinical professor in Urology from 1972 through 2000.
Longaberger Endowment
Established Chair Held by Director

In September 1998, Ohio State received a gift of $5 million from The Longaberger Foundation, $1.5 million of which established the Dave Longaberger Endowed Chair in Urology (Fund # 644278). At the time, the chair’s namesake-founder and former CEO of the successful Longaberger Company in Newark, Ohio, was recovering from surgery for a serious form of kidney cancer. Despite the devastation this prognosis had on their lives, the Longaberger family saw their good fortune having The James and the Department of Urology as resources. Their gift came as a natural expression of their gratitude. The endowment provides salary and program support for the work of a distinguished urologist whose focus includes the advancement of medical knowledge through research and treatment in urologic diseases with preference given to urologists with interest in oncology. Dr. Robert R. Bahnson has held this position since its creation in 1998. “We are honored to have Dr. Bahnson named the first holder of the Longaberger Chair.” said Longaberger Company CEO Tami Longaberger, a former Ohio State trustee. “We have witnessed his dedication and expertise first hand. It gives us a way to say thank you, and to extend and strengthen our relationship with Ohio State.”

Julius & Diana Skestos Chair
$1,000,000 Endowment

George A. Skestos of Bexley, founder of the Columbus-based building firm Homewood Corp and a former Ohio State University Board of Trustee member has donated $500,000 for the development of The Julius Skestos and Diana Skestos Chair Fund in Urology. (Fund # 480979) The $500,000 gift was matched by Ohio State University Urology, LLC. Mr. Skestos asked that the chair be named after his grandchildren Julian and Diana Skestos and that the fund be used to support a chair position in the Department of Urology of a nationally recognized faculty member undertaking clinical and educational activities in Urology.

Mr. Skestos has been a longtime friend of the Department of Urology. A previous $500,000 gift made the successful recruitment of four new faculty members possible.
Welcome New Faculty

Ronney Abaza, M.D...
...is an assistant professor in the Department of Urology. He received his medical degree from Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, Illinois. He completed his residency at the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio. As Director of Robotic Urologic Surgery, Dr. Abaza, has a practice dedicated to robotic surgery and is one of few surgeons in the country with experience in robotic surgery not only for prostate cancer but also for bladder cancer, kidney cancer, reconstructive kidney and ureteral procedures, adrenal tumors, urinary diversion, as well as other new and innovative procedures.

Geoffrey N. Box, M.D...
...is an assistant professor of urology. He completed his residency training at OSU 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. He is currently the Director of Laparoscopic Urology Surgery and will be responsible for the development and oversight of educational and research programs in this area. In addition he will be establishing and providing oversight of a Minimally Invasive Urologic Surgery Fellowship. His clinical interests include the minimally invasive treatment of genitourinary disease using laparoscopic and robotic techniques with a focus on kidney and prostate cancers.

Ahmad Shabsigh, M.D...
...is assistant professor of urology at The Ohio State University. He is a board-eligible urologist, subspecialized in urologic cancer. After obtaining his medical degree, Dr. Shabsigh, joined the molecular urology research team at Columbia University in New York. He worked extensively on understanding the impact of androgen deprivation on angiogenesis and prostate cancer. He continued his medical training in the department of surgery and the department of urology at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. He then joined the fellowship program at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. His clinical interest is urologic cancer where he brings high standards of excellence to our department.

David Sharp, M.D...
...is an assistant professor of urology. He obtained his medical degree at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. He completed his residency training at Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Glickman Urological Institute in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Sharp recently completed fellowship training in urologic oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, before joining OSU Medical Center and bringing his expertise in open, laparoscopic and robotic urologic cancer surgery to the James. His clinical interests are urologic oncology, renal oncology, minimally invasive and robotic surgery.
Lectureship Speaker Announced

Anthony Atala, M.D.

This year the chief residents, Dr. David Mues and Dr. Hugh Lavery have chosen Dr. Anthony Atala to speak. Dr. Atala is the W.H. Boyce Professor and Chair of the Department of Urology and Director of the Institute for Regenerative Medicine at Wake Forest University. Dr. Atala is a surgeon in the area of pediatric urology and a researcher in the area of regenerative medicine. His current work focuses on growing new human cells, tissues and organs.

“The Winter visiting professorship has been a great tradition in the Urology Department here at Ohio State,” said chief resident Adam Mues, M.D., “The event centers around an expert in the field of urology who spends a full day with the residents and faculty discussing interesting and challenging cases as well as providing insight into their specialized area of urology. It serves as a unique opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and scholarship both for the department and the individual who is selected.”

“Dr. Atala’s research transcends the field of urology and is likely to be the future of medicine,” said chief resident Hugh Lavery, M.D. “His work has the potential to revolutionize not only the treatment of urologic issues but many other chronic medical conditions.”

Anthony Atala, M.D.

“I have had the luxury of watching our graduating residents, Drs. David Arend and Ashay Patel, progress through our Urology residency program. I can genuinely say that we were blessed with two extraordinary young men whose attributes are essential to being a successful physician. David and Ashay both carried themselves as professionals at all times and consistently showed compassion to patients and their families. Beyond simply their skills as physicians, both are exceptional human beings on many levels. Of the entire North Central Section [ND, SD, MN, IA, WI, IL, MI, IN and OH], Dr. Arend was awarded the prestigious John D. Silbar Award ‘outstanding qualities in clinical ability, high ethical and moral standards, compassion for patients, and outstanding bedside manner’. As a department, we wish both Ashay and David nothing but the best in all their future endeavors.”

- Jason P. Gilleran, M.D.

“During my residency, I learned various attributes that help define being a complete physician. My experience went far beyond academic excellence and working with great physician scientists. It went beyond developing fine surgical skills and competent medical decision making. The world class faculty pushed me to become a better academician, a better surgeon, and perhaps most importantly, a better person. Patient care is the epicenter of our training model, and I learned from some of the best in the business. I leave feeling exceptional trained as a physician with a complete skill set. I am proud to be a Buckeye.”

- David Arend, MD

Congratulations Graduating Residents
Neurogenic Bladder Study
Jason Gilleran, M.D.
Currently seeking patients interested in participating in a research study with urinary incontinence due to a “neurogenic bladder.” We are specifically requesting individuals with multiple sclerosis (MS) or spinal cord injury (SCI) and urinary incontinence. This is an industry-sponsored study to test the effects of botulinum toxin (BoTox) on treating this type of incontinence. Find out more about the study at www.dignitystudy.com, by contacting our office at 293-8155, or contacting Study Coordinator Lisa Hafer at 293-7877.

Interstitial Cystitis Study
Jason Gilleran, M.D.
Enrolling patients in an IRB-approved study on interstitial cystitis (IC), also known as “painful bladder syndrome.”
The study involves completing a set of questionnaires, providing blood and urine samples, and having vital signs (heart rate, blood pressure, temperature) measured. We are also asking healthy women who do not have IC and women with other bladder problems, such as recurrent urinary tract infections (UTIs) and overactive bladder (OAB), to participate as controls.
For more information, contact Dr. Gilleran’s administrative assistant, Jennifer Theodore, at 293-3648.

Renal Tumor Imaging Study
Robert Bahnson, M.D.
Seeking participants for a renal tumor imaging study sponsored by Wilex. The study will determine whether PET/CT imaging with a “radioactive” antibody will help in the diagnosis of clear cell renal cell cancer compared to the current standard, CT scan. Patients with renal masses undergoing a surgical resection of the mass are eligible for the study. Patients participating in the study sign an informed consent form before receiving the “radioactive” antibody. The PET/CT and CT scans are done before surgery and patients return to the clinic for follow-up evaluations. Patients who qualify to participate in the study are compensated for their travel expenses.
To learn more about the clinical trial, please contact Cathy Mojzisik, RN, MS (614-366-7937).

In keeping with highest principles and standards set forth by The Ohio State University Medical Center and the James Cancer Hospital, Dr. Kamal Pohar has dedicated his career on providing the highest level of medical care to Ohioans. Dr. Pohar has focused his practice on the treatment of bladder cancer and is committed to practicing evidence-based medicine and achieving excellence in surgical outcomes, including the most complex patients. Continent urinary diversions and nerve-sparing procedures are being performed routinely.
Dr. Pohar believes the key to improving the understanding and treatment of bladder cancer is by creating partnerships with patients based on clear communication, empathy and trust. By partnering with patients, research studies are being initiated in the Department of Urology to evaluate the impact of lymphadenectomy on oncologic outcomes, studying the use of an intraoperative gamma probe in detecting known and occult cancer and exploring ultra-high field MRI for bladder cancer staging.
The partnership has grown and allowed for the establishment of a bladder cancer tissue bank to support the conduct of mechanistic and translational studies in bladder cancer. Dr. Pohar is actively involved in laboratory research focused on predicting the degree and mechanism of contribution of specific oncogenic pathways in a given bladder tumor to facilitate the delivery of a more personalized health care.
Dr. Pohar is passionate about providing the best in clinical care and seeking every opportunity to improve the lives of current and future bladder cancer patients through research.
Patient Profile

*John Robbins*

It was a rough year for long time central Ohioan, 74 year old John Robbins. Mr. Robbins was diagnosed with bladder cancer by a community urologist. The tumor had invaded the wall of the bladder and a new bladder needed to be constructed. In the course of discussing treatment options, Mr. Robbins asked who the best physician would be to offer a second opinion. Mr. Robbins, noted that the doctor immediately recommended Dr. Kamal Pohar and knew his office phone number without needing to look it up. Mr. Robbins, a former insurance agent as well as having worked in a number of service industries including the first public relations position for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, stated, “I know people and I know service. Dr. Pohar and Lisa (one of his team) are like family and they treat you so well as a person.” Mr. Robbins was particularly impressed with the patience and time Dr. Pohar took to explain the treatment options, medical reports and recommendation of a clinical trial available through the James. “He answered a lot of questions.” Mr. Robbins considers himself a jokester and coined the term “Poharism” to describe the many mannerisms of Dr. Pohar that put a smile on his face. “It’s a happy shop over there and you can tell that Dr. Pohar and his team are genuine people who care.” After the surgery and treatment, Mr. Robbins said he got his wish, “returning to a normal life again.”

New Equipment

*GE P5 Ultrasound*

In order to be able to offer patients more efficient service, the Department of Urology recently acquired a new GE Logiq P5 Ultrasound machine. The acquisition of this machine will allow us to expand our ultrasound capabilities utilizing three different ultrasound probes rather than one. This allows for additional imaging of the scrotum, testicles, and kidneys, areas our previous machine could not image. In addition, the P5 provides an opportunity to utilize color to evaluate for blood flow, a valuable indicator for a number of disorders, which was lacking in the past.
Urologic surgeons at OSU Medical Center are using the latest and most advanced surgical technology to bring the benefits of minimally-invasive surgery for even the most complex procedures to their patients. Robotic surgery provides all of the benefits of laparoscopic surgery with small incisions, less pain, shorter hospitalizations, less blood loss and faster recovery, but with a level of precision provided by robotic instruments that exceeds that of the human hand. “I believe that with this technology, we can perform any urologic procedure that was previously performed open in a minimally-invasive fashion and in some cases can do an even better job than we could do open,” said Ronney Abaza, M.D., director of robotic urologic surgery. “At OSU, we are using robotics in innovative ways for even the most challenging cases and using our experience to push the limits beyond what was previously thought possible.”

Dr. Abaza leads a team of experienced and dedicated surgeons including David Sharp, M.D., Ahmad Shabsigh, M.D., and Geoffrey Box, M.D. With minimally invasive robotics they are able to treat prostate cancer, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, reconstructive kidney and ureteral procedures, adrenal tumors, urinary diversion, as well as other new and innovative procedures.

The first da Vinci surgical robot in the country was installed at the Ohio State University Medical Center in 1999, and the first robotic surgery was performed at OSU in the same year. Since then, thousands of robotic procedures have been performed at OSU, making it the most experienced institution in robotic surgery in Ohio and one of the most experienced in the world. With our experienced surgeons, staff and nurses and now 3 clinical robotic systems and a fourth in our training center, OSU continues to be a leader in robotic surgery as well as educating surgeons in robotics from around the country and around the world.