Report from the Chair

Dr. Robert R. Bahnson

The Department of Urology had a very successful 2010-2011 academic year. The growth in our clinical services was matched by an equally impressive increase in our educational platform and scholarship.

The faculty in the department have developed into a highly differentiated urologic services delivery team. Three of our faculty are focused specifically on urologic oncology and function with a multi-disciplinary team of surgeons, medical oncologists, and radiation oncology physicians to deliver outstanding and personalized care of patients with urologic malignancies. We have a world class robotic urologic team that has advanced the utility of the robot not only in our own specialty of urology but in other areas of surgery as well. We offer a comprehensive approach to the management of patients with kidney stones including not only the treatment of acute episodes of renal colic but dietary and metabolic prevention for recurrent stone formers. We have been delighted with the addition of a fellowship trained expert in lower urinary tract reconstruction which provides the expertise for patients who suffer from acquired structural abnormalities of the lower urinary tract.

This past year marks the very first year that we had an entire complement of three residents per year in training. We have created a didactic platform for education in urologic surgery that will ensure the acquisition of the ACGME core competencies. The department sponsors two fellowships in both pediatric urology and robotic surgery. The pediatric urology fellowship has been accredited by the Residency Review Committee for Urology from ACGME. Several of our faculty are intimately involved with our medical students. They have provided input into the new curriculum and function as hosts for small groups of medical students in their homes. Our educational platform was also enriched by visits from three outside speakers. Dr. Christopher Kane, Professor and Chairman of Urology at the University of California, San Diego was our 14th Annual Winter Visiting Professor. Dr. Isla Garraway was our first Bloch lecturer. Dr. Garraway performs prostate cancer stem cell research at the University of California, Los Angeles. Finally, Dr. Yves Fradet was our Sara Lee Youngs Bladder Cancer lecturer. Dr. Fradet has had a distinguished career in bladder cancer research at Laval University in Quebec, Canada.

The scholarship of the department has progressed and added to our growing national reputation. This is reflected in the number of publications appearing in peer reviewed journals and our growing number of clinical studies, including a recent NIH funded trial.

The department has been busy planning for the relocation of our ambulatory clinical services from Cramblett Medical Clinic to the Eye and Ear Institute on Olentangy River Road. This location will dramatically improve access for patients seeking urologic care. It will provide access for us to the ambulatory surgery center in that building which should relieve some pressure on the utilization of operating rooms in the James Cancer Hospital and OSU Hospital. The department also welcomed back Greg Lowe who completed a fellowship in Men's Sexual Health at the University of Virginia. We anticipate extending our clinical, educational, and research contributions in 2011-2012.
Ronney Abaza, MD

Dr. Ronney Abaza is director of robotic urology surgery and continues to dedicate his practice and research to robotic surgery. In addition to performing more than 400 major robotic procedures this year, Dr. Abaza also made several educational and academic contributions in his field. He made more than 20 research presentations on robotic surgery at national or international scientific meetings during the year, with some of this work selected for awards from the American Urological Association and the Ohio Urological Society.

Additionally, he was the primary or senior author on 11 publications in major journals, with two of these making the covers of European Urology and The Journal of Endourology. Among his groundbreaking work in robotic surgery this year was development of the first-ever application of robotic surgery to treat kidney cancers invading the vena cava, which Dr. Abaza also performed for the first time ever as a live surgery that was transmitted from Ohio State to the International Robotic Urology Symposium in Las Vegas. He initiated five new IRB-approved research protocols as primary investigator this past year and secured over $70,000 in grants to support his ongoing research in robotic surgery.

In addition to being invited to give lectures or serve as course faculty at events around the country as well as internationally this year, he also organized and was course director for two robotic surgery courses at Ohio State (one for residents and one for practicing physicians) and for courses at the annual meetings of the American Urological Association and the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Abaza was also invited to moderate sessions at the World Congress of Endourology and the annual meeting of the North Central Section of the AUA and was appointed to a three-year term on the American Urological Association Urologic Diagnostic and Therapeutic Imaging Committee. He continues to serve on the American College of Surgeons Committee on Emerging Surgical Technology and Education and was selected for the 2011 “Best Doctors in America.”

Robert R. Bhahnson, MD

Dr. Bahnson served as visiting professor at both the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI in February and Loyola University, Department of Urology in Chicago in June. He also completed his term as the President of the Society of University Chairpersons and Program Directors. Dr. Bahnson serves as a trustee of the American Urological Association and the Ohio Urologic Society. Dr. Bahnson is the principal investigator of a Phase II Biomarker Study of Tivozanib in subjects with advanced renal cell carcinoma.

Frank P. Begun, MD

Dr. Begun continues to build his practice in general urology at the OSU Hospital East Hospital. In addition to his clinical activities Dr. Begun has continued his medical mission work in Honduras and hosts a medical student group with his wife, Audrey, in the Medical Students Learning Community program. Dr. Begun serves as a consultant to the Ohio Urologic Society and is a past president of the North Central Section of the American Urological Association.

Geoffrey N. Box, MD

Dr. Box was selected through a competitive process to represent the American Urological Association as a visiting scholar in India this past January. He and Dr. David Bahner of the Department of Emergency Medicine were awarded a competitive $25,000 grant from the Society of University Chairpersons and Program Directors to develop a curriculum for ultrasound training for residents in urology. In addition Dr. Box is part of a working group for the American Urological Association along with Dr. Bodo Knudsen to develop a program for simulators for validity testing in residency training in urologic surgery.

Dr. Box has successfully developed a program in minimally invasive urologic surgery and has taken on the important role of leading our Journal Club and selecting the articles for discussion in this important didactic monthly conference.

Bodo E. Knudsen, MD

Dr. Knudsen was exceedingly busy with his clinical and investigative career during the past twelve months. His focus is on stone disease and he is a member of the Research on Calculus Kinetics (ROCK) Society which is an invitation only group studying new methods for the management of patients with calculus disease. This year he gave a talk on "New Developments in Laser Fibers in Urology". He serves with Dr. Box on a select sub-committee for the AUA investigating simulation tools in resident education. He also serves as the Secretary on the Board of Directors of the Ohio Urological Society. Dr. Knudsen was a visiting professor to the University of Manitoba where he...
Lowe has completed a fellowship during the last year. Dr. Gregory J. Lowe, MD, as host for the Medical Students Learning Program at the Eye and Ear Institute. Along with his wife, Dr. Eunice, he facilitated the move of the department from Cramblett Hall to its new location in June of 2012. Dr. Lowe worked extensively with our department administrator, Bob LaFollette, to help develop outpatient services and to facilitate the move of the department. Dr. Lowe and his wife, Nazek, serve as hosts for the Medical Students Learning Community program.

Christopher McClung, MD

2011 was a great year for Dr. McClung and urologic trauma and reconstruction at The Ohio State University Medical Center. 80 new urethral stricture patients were seen by our faculty. In addition, we have seen significant growth in the areas of Peyronie’s disease, ureteral strictures, male stress incontinence, and erectile dysfunction. Dr. McClung’s goal when joining the faculty was to establish OSU as a center of excellence for urologic reconstruction, and he has made significant progress towards reaching this goal.

The new influx of reconstructive cases has been not only beneficial to patient care, but it has also made a significant contribution to resident education. He presented two Grand Rounds lectures on urologic reconstruction to the residents this year, and was elected by the residents to receive the intra-departmental excellence in teaching award. Dr. McClung was active in the 2011 national AUA meeting. He moderated a reconstructive podium session and was asked to give the take home message for urologic trauma and reconstruction. He is currently participating in a multicenter registry that takes a look at the outcomes of urologic reconstruction. OSU is one of eight centers participating in this multicenter project.

Kamal Pohar, MD

Dr. Pohar’s lab continued to model genetic changes identified in human bladder tumors in mouse models to better recapitulate the human disease and identify novel therapeutic targets. The lab was added to the Basic Science Program in Solid Tumor Biology in the Comprehensive Cancer Center to foster collaboration with basic scientists and expand funding opportunities. Dr. Pohar’s research team presented clinical and basic science research findings in bladder cancer at the annual meetings of the Society of Urological Oncology, American Urology Association and American Association of Cancer Research. The clinical program in bladder cancer continued to see a high volume of patients and was recognized by the Medical Center as having the highest patient satisfaction ratings. Dr. Pohar was listed in Best Doctors in America for the fourth consecutive year.

Ahmad Shabsigh, MD

Dr. Shabsigh was awarded, along with several of his fellow investigators in multiple medical centers, a NIH Clinical Trial to investigate the value of a robotic cystectomy in patients with invasive transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder. This trial should be ready to recruit patients very soon. Dr. Shabsigh serves as an editor of the News and Topics section of the Journal of Urologic Oncology. He has had a very important and successful role in bringing this section of the journal to fruition. In addition to his busy clinical efforts Dr. Shabsigh also serves on the institutional review board for our cancer hospital and is working with Dr. Tom Rosol in the Veterinary School of Medicine on a model of prostatic carcinogenesis in dogs. He is actively involved in a unique redesign of the medical school curriculum at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. He is also working on the new AUA urology curriculum. Dr. Shabsigh and his wife, Nazek, serve as hosts for the Medical Students Learning Community program.

David S. Sharp, MD

Dr. Sharp’s practice focuses on urologic oncology with surgical expertise in both open and minimally-invasive surgery for urologic cancers. His team continues to receive very high marks due to their dedication to patient care. Currently about a third to one-half of Dr. Sharp’s surgical volume is performed robotically or laparoscopically while advanced disease or other open techniques are needed for the remainder. Dr. Sharp’s recent accomplishments include an invitation to be a discussant at national meetings on renal cancer. He is Principal Investigator at OSU in an adjuvant trial of pazopanib for the treatment of locally-advanced renal cancers following renal surgery. He is working on research into prognostic factors in kidney cancer and ways to decrease loss of renal function with kidney cancer treatments. The team of physicians including urologists, medical oncologists, pathologists, and radiation oncologists treating genitourinary cancers at OSU lead in accrual to intergroup clinical trials. Dr. Sharp hopes to continue this trend by continuing to support this and other trials to offer his patients the most recent advances in the multidisciplinary treatment of urologic cancers.

In addition Dr. Sharp and his wife, Karla, are the proud parents of a new baby girl, Michelle, born in March of 2011.

Dr. Sharp spearheaded the urology team effort for Pelotonia this year. The Pelotonia was extraordinarily successful raising a total of thirteen million dollars for cancer research here at the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.
As a part of a multicenter collaboration, Dr. Shabsigh will be the primary investigator at the Ohio State University Medical Center Department of Urology of the first multicenter randomized clinical trial for Open vs Robot-Assisted Radical Cystectomy for patients with bladder cancer. Thirteen medical centers will be participating in the NIH/NCI funded research under the leadership of Dr. Dipen J. Parikh from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The trial will cover the next 5 years and will enroll 320 patients into the two arms of the study. This is a great opportunity for our patients to participate in cutting edge research that we hope will shed light on the role of robotic surgery for advanced bladder cancer.

**Featured Publications**

This year, two journal publications by OSU Urology faculty were highlighted on the covers of major medical journals. Dr. Ronney Abaza published the first ever description of robotic surgery for kidney tumors invading the vena cava. This was featured on the cover of the April issue of European Urology. Another publication, authored by OSU urologists Dr. Romney Abaza and Gregory Lowe, was featured on the cover of the July issue of the Journal of Endourology and was the first to describe robotic lymph node dissections for kidney cancers.
Robert C. Walter

The department established the Robert Cecil Walter (pictured at left) Fund in Urology. He was an extraordinary man, who along with his wife Elaine have deep Ohio roots and a passion for the people of the state. Mr. Walter was born in Mansfield, Ohio, a community about an hour north of The Ohio State University. His wife Elaine was from Cleveland and together they raised four children in Mansfield before relocating to Columbus, the center of his food brokerage business. He was recognized by his peers and served as President of the Ohio Wholesale Grocers Association. His company sold to many businesses in the State including the Ohio State University, supplying food and beverages to OSU faculty and students.

He was relocating to Columbus, the center of his food brokerage business. He was married to Elaine and had four children in Mansfield before relocating to Columbus. Together they raised their family and continued to support the community.

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John E Robbins
Lisa A Ross
Lynn L Salem

Our Alumni Contributors
The Department of Urology would like to recognize our past residents who continue to contribute to the department.

David Arend
Geoffrey Box
David H Brown
Darren M Chapman
Andy Cho
Michael R Gigax
Michael Louie
James H Nelson
John W Peck II
Paul A Peller
Augustinus Rushanaedy

Dr. Darren Chapman currently is in private practice in the Fort Worth area.

Dr. Michael Louie is currently an assistant clinical professor of urology at the University of California, Irvine.

Our Benefactors

No gift is too great or too small

Contributors

Russ and Joyce Gertmenian - established donors to The Department of Urology

Erv & Bonnie Babbert pictured with Urology residents and residency coordinator

Contact Information

Robert R Bahnson, MD
Department of Urology
Ohio State University Medical Center
1550 Madison Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210
(614) 293-1234
info@urology.osu.edu
The residents have many opportunities to participate in hands-on skills labs.

Resident Pig Lab

Ureteroscopy-OSATS Lab

Ultrasound Course

Robotic Preceptor Course
Yves Fradet, M.D., FRCSC
Professor of Surgery
Universite Laval

Dr. Yves Fradet, MD presented the Sara Lee Young Visiting Professor lecture on Tuesday, May 03, 2011 on "Innovations in the Management of Non-muscle and Muscle-invasive Bladder Cancer".

Isla Garraway, MD
Assistant Professor of Urology
University of California - Los Angeles

Dr. Isla Garraway, MD, PhD, presented the Bloch Lecture on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 on "Stem Cells in human prostate development and cancer".

Dr. Christopher J. Kane 14th Annual Winter Visiting Professor

On October 15, 2010 Dr. Kane, a Professor of Surgery at University of California, San Diego presented two lectures entitled "Indications, Technical Tips and Outcomes of Robotic Pelvic Lymphadenectomy for Prostate Cancer" and "Partial Nephrectomy, the Standard of Care for Most Stage 1 RCCs".

Sara Lee Youngs Lectureship

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Honorary Buckeyes!

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456 West 10th Avenue, Room 3142
Tel: 614-293-9253    Fox: 614-366-8028