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DEPARTMENT DEBUTS NATION'S FIRST SCORED ROBOTICS PROGRAM



On July 18, the UI Hospital and Health Sciences System's Department of Urology became the first urology program in the country with a mandatory, scored robotics training program.

The program, which trains residents in minimally invasive procedures, will also lead to safer surgeries for patients.

Simone Crivellaro, MD, who leads the program with Michael Abern, MD, compared learning laparoscopic and robotic surgeries to learning to fly.

"Just like a pilot has to go through a long process using controlled reality to fly," a more structured, scored training process allows "residents to increase their skill and be ready to operate on patients," he said. "It's a very good thing for patients because it's a way to guarantee that surgeon has had the necessary training."

Laparoscopic and robotic surgery—less invasive than open surgery—tends to be a better option for patients, with less bleeding during surgery, less hospitalization and a shorter recovery time.

"Less invasive means the patient goes back to normal life in a shorter time," Dr. Crivellaro said. "You have the clear advantage of 3D vision and a very modified vision so you can have tiny details right in front of you that are not usually available if you do an open procedure. You can see better, so you can do a better job."

The robotics program began in July and will meet monthly for one year.

Currently, residents practice surgery under another physician, who oversees the resident until he or she is able to operate without supervision. "That's a good way of training people," Dr. Crivellaro said, "but it's not scientific, measurable or standardizable."

Scored training is already common in Europe's best urology programs, where residents have to pass the European Basic Laparoscopic Urologic Skills (E-BLUS) test. The assessment tool is the gold standard of training and similar to what will be used in Dr. Crivellaro's UI program, he added.

All residents participate in the program, where they learn laparoscopic and robotic skills for surgeries that involve removal of all or part of the kidney or draining and decompressing the kidney.

Continued on page 2

DR. NIEDERBERGER'S CORNER



The Department of Urology at the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System is a leader in medical innovation. In

this issue you'll read how the Department thrives on and drives technological progress in its pursuit of excellence in patient care.

In our first newsletter, you'll learn about some major changes within the Department, including new clinic locations and several new physicians. This summer we debuted the country's first scored robotics training program for urology residents, headed by Simone Crivellaro, MD.

We've been busy researching too: take a look at what our faculty has published since January.

We also said goodbye to our recent resident graduates, Mark Lindgren, MD and Sam Ohlander, MD. The two will continue their urologic education at Baylor University in Houston, Texas.

Craig Niederberger, MD
Urology Department Head

UROLOGY FACULTY

DEPARTMENT HEAD

Craig Niederberger, MD

CLINIC FACULTY

Michael Abern, MD
Y. Zaki Almallah, MD
Joel Cornfeld, MD
Simone Crivellaro, MD
Daniel Garvey, MD
Emilie Johnson, MD, MPH
Ervin Kocjancic, MD
Stewart Lipson, MD
Dennis Liu, MD
Nadine Nguyen, APN
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Peter Gann, MD, ScD
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Gail Prins, PhD

DEPARTMENT DEBUTS NATION'S FIRST SCORED ROBOTICS PROGRAM

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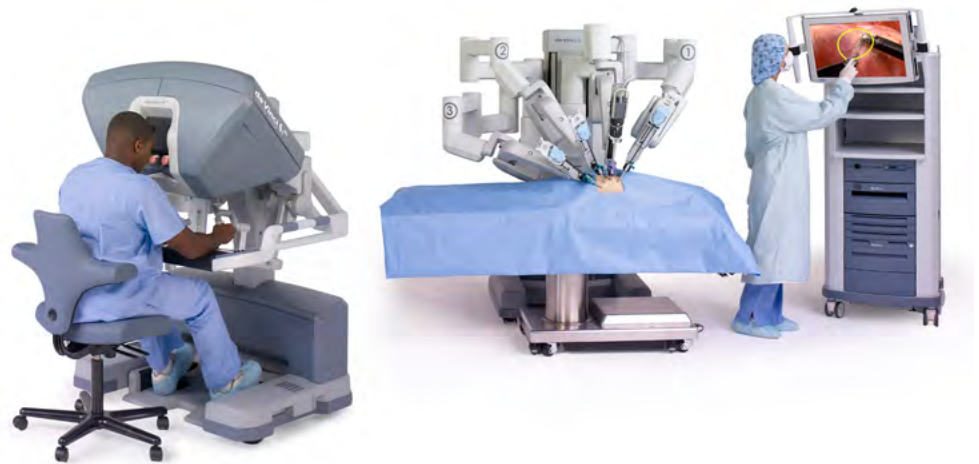
The students use both dry and wet labs to practice different skills and procedures, as well as virtual reality software. At the end of the year, residents will have to pass a standardized test based on their year of residency and will receive a certificate of proficiency affirming their robotic skills.

Currently, a residency graduate gets a certificate signifying "that the resident is surgically independent and he or she is able to perform a given procedure," Dr. Crivellaro said. "But there's no information on the quality of these procedures."

He said the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) will create an assessment tool that scores residents on their performance.

"That way you can measure the laparoscopic skills for every resident by an objective assessment tool which will allow us to certify every specific laparoscopic or robotic skill with a score," Dr. Crivellaro said.

He said this type of training is also a better approach than starting in the operating room. "That way when you approach the patient for the first time, you already have the background, you already have something to stand with."



UPCOMING EVENTS

October

7
Indications Conference - 7 am
Male Infertility Seminar with Dr. Niederberger - 6 pm
14
Indications Conference - 7 am
Journal Club - 8 am
21
Indications Conference - 7 am
Faculty Awards Reception
28
Indications Conference - 7 am

Chicago Urological Society:
Prostate Cancer - 1 pm
Male Infertility Seminar with Dr. Niederberger - 6 pm

30
Movember Kick-Off

November

4
Indications Conference - 7 am
10-14
89th Annual Meeting of the North Central Section of the AUA, Amelia Island, FL

11
Indications Conference - 7 am
Journal Club - 8 am
18
Indications Conference - 7 am
25
Indications Conference - 7 am

December

2
Indications Conference - 7 am
Chicago Urological Society:
Men's Health - 1 pm

9
Indications Conference - 7 am
Journal Club - 8 am
16
Indications Conference - 7 am
23
Indications Conference - 7 am
30
Indications Conference - 7 am

NEW FACES AND PLACES



The new UI Urology clinic is located at the intersection of Roosevelt Road and Wood Street.

The first half of 2015 produced a whirlwind of activity for the Department, with two new clinic locations and four new faculty members. We now offer clinic services at 900 N. Michigan Avenue, and on July 1 the UI Urology clinic moved to 1220 S. Wood Street.

We are also excited to welcome Zaki Almallah, MD, Daniel Garvey, MD, Emilie Johnson, MD and Nadine Nguyen, APN, to UI Urology. They bring a wide range of experiences to the Department, from clinic practices to urologic nursing and private practice.

Dr. Almallah is a Visiting Assistant Professor. Joining the Department after many years in the United Kingdom, Dr. Almallah directed the Birmingham Bladder Clinic for ten years and was the lead urologist for voiding dysfunction and urinary incontinence at the Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre. He has a special expertise in managing patients with urinary incontinence following prostate cancer treatment. Dr. Almallah has been featured in several national media outlets, including the UK's Channel 4 "Embarrassing Bodies." He also speaks regularly at American Urological Association meetings.

Dr. Garvey is a Visiting Assistant Professor. Previously, he worked in Chicago's northern suburbs for 25 years in private practice.

While practicing general urology, he's especially interested in inflammatory and infectious conditions of the urinary tract. Dr. Garvey is passionate about patient education. He is also active in urologic societies and has served on the executive boards for the Chicago Urological Society and the Illinois State Urologic Society.

Dr. Johnson is a Visiting Clinical Physician. Dr. Johnson specializes in pediatric urology and mentors residents in research. She is an Assistant Professor of Urology at Northwestern University's medical school and is a physician at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Dr. Johnson is active in organized urology and reviews for several urology publications, including the *Journal of Urology* and the *Journal of Pediatric Urology*. She completed her medical and general urology training at University of Michigan and Boston Children's Hospital, and received a Master of Public Health degree from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Nadine Nguyen, APN, is a Visiting Clinical Associate. She practiced urologic nursing for six years prior to joining the UI team, working at a private practice and at major research hospitals. She will assess, diagnose and treat patients as well as assist other faculty and residents in the clinic. Nguyen plans to pursue her doctorate in nursing.



Inside the UI Urology clinic at 900 N. Michigan Avenue.

UI UROLOGY FRIENDS AND ALUMNI WELCOMED HOME IN THE BIG EASY

UI Urology faculty, residents and alumni gathered at the American Urological Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans the weekend of May 16. The Department hosted an alumni reception that Saturday, where 40 alumni and friends of the department gathered. UI Urology was well represented throughout the weekend, with several faculty and residents presenting research:

Dr. Michael Abern presented three abstracts: Weighing In on Active Surveillance: Impact of Obesity on Patient Counseling; Long Term Oncological Outcomes of Apical Positive Surgical Margins at Radical Prostatectomy in the Shared Equal Access Regional Cancer Hospital (SEARCH) Cohort; and Impact of Blood Transfusions on Oncological Outcomes of Surgically Treated Localized Renal Cell Carcinoma.

Dr. Zaki Almallah presented a lecture: Post-prostatectomy Urinary Incontinence.

Dr. Craig Niederberger presented two lectures: Infertility Update 2015: A Comprehensive Approach to the Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment of the Infertile Male, and State-of-the-Art Lecture: Hormone Therapy for Men with Infertility.



UI Urology residents Dr. Mark Lindgren, Dr. Sam Ohlander, Chris Vendryes, MD and Tony Nimeh, MD

UI UROLOGY FRIENDS AND ALUMNI WELCOMED HOME IN THE BIG EASY

Continued from page 3

Dr. Gail Prins moderated a session for the Society for Basic Urologic Research/The Society of Urologic Oncology Joint Session and presented a lecture: Supplementation of Cryomedium with Catalase and N-Acetyl Cysteine Improves Human Sperm Post-thaw Motility.

Dr. Ervin Kocjancic presented four posters: PLung as a Surrogate Measure for Abdominal Pressure in Urodynamics for Patients with Stress Urinary Incontinence—Preliminary Data; Management of Complications in Use of Urethral Bulking Agents in Women for Stress Urinary Incontinence—a Meta-analysis; Transvaginal Approach to Urethral Reconstruction After Midurethral Sling Complication; and Urethrolysis for Synthetic Peri-urethral Bulking Agent Collection.

Dr. Carol Podlasek lectured on: Nanotechnology for Erection Dysfunction: Are We Ready for Clinical Trial; and an abstract: Mechanism of Cavernous Nerve Regeneration by Sonic Hedgehog.



UI Urology resident Harpreet Wadhwa, MD, doctoral candidate Shrikant Pandya, Dr. Ervin Kocjancic, fellow Marty Kathrins, MD and resident Dr. Tony Nimeh

RESIDENCY GRADUATES REFLECT ON CLOSE TIES, FOND MEMORIES



Resident Mark Lindgren, MD



Resident Sam Ohlander, MD

Dr. Mark Lindgren and Dr. Sam Ohlander were on top of the world as they graduated from the urology residency program Tuesday, June 9, 2015. Seventy people attended the graduation ceremony, held in the Signature Room on the 95th floor in the John Hancock Building, overlooking the city and Lake Michigan.

Following their graduation, both Dr. Lindgren and Dr. Ohlander will head to Houston for a one-year fellowship at Baylor University in male infertility.

Urology's impact on quality of life and its ever-changing technology were what first drew the two to urology. "We help drive the technology forward based on what we need to better take care of our patients," Dr. Lindgren said.

It also doesn't hurt that urologists know how to crack a joke. "We have the best sense of humor among physicians," Dr. Lindgren added. "And we probably need it to deal with all of the wacky pathology and situations we encounter."

"There comes a point when you've been peed on so many times that it doesn't really faze you anymore," Dr. Ohlander agreed.

Dr. Ohlander and Dr. Lindgren said the Department's sense of humor and its overall camaraderie made their residency very enjoyable. "I was always impressed with the unity of the residents," Dr. Ohlander said.

"They seemed to genuinely enjoy each other... the whole department seems to genuinely enjoy each other."

Dr. Ohlander, who went to medical school at UIC, found a mentor early on in Dr. Niederberger, who he said was always there to help him even before he became a resident.

"He helped me in the application process to urology, helped me through my residency, and I'm sure will be there throughout my career," Dr. Ohlander said.

Dr. Lindgren was also struck by the Department's closeness. "It's collectively an outstanding group of people," he said. That's not to say their six years were without challenges. "Missing birthdays and holidays never gets easy," Dr. Ohlander said.

Dr. Lindgren summed up his own challenges with "the second year. I believe most residents would agree."

Still, Dr. Ohlander and Dr. Lindgren will head to Texas with plenty of fond memories.

For Dr. Ohlander, his best memories are of his fellow residents. "I've got a unique memory of all of them," he said. "Mark dancing with a street performer on the streets of New Orleans may be the tops on the list. Having a video of it ensures that memory will stay with me forever."



The graduation ceremony overlooked the city and Lake Michigan the evening of June 9, 2015.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

DR. MICHAEL ABERN

- Agent Orange and Long-term Outcomes after Radical Prostatectomy. *Urol Oncol*. May 2015.
- Cystic Nephroma/Mixed Epithelial Stromal Tumor: A Benign Neoplasm with Potential for Recurrence. *Int J Surg Pathol*. May 2015.
- Multi-institutional External Validation of Urinary TWIST1 and NID2 Methylation as a Diagnostic Test for Bladder Cancer. *Urol Oncol*. May 2015.
- Presented *High Risk Prostate Cancer* at Rush University Medical Center Urology Grand Rounds, Chicago, IL, April 2015.
- Presented *Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis and Papillary Renal Cell Carcinoma: Causal Link?* at the Central Society for Clinical and Translational Research Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2015.
- Androgen Deprivation Monotherapy for Localized Prostate Cancer: Can It Be Justified? *Eur Urol*. July 2015.

DR. ZAKI ALMALLAH

- A Report of a Regional Service for Post-prostatectomy Urinary Incontinence: A Model for Best Practice? *Therapeutic Advances in Urology*. April 2015.

DR. SIMONE CRIVELLARO

- V53 Prostatic Nucleovaporization Using Greenlight Laser for Treatment of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia. *European Urology Supplements*. April 2015.
- Multicenter Analysis of Pathological Outcomes of Patients Eligible for Active Surveillance According to Prias Criteria. *Minerva Urol Nefrol*. March 2015.
- *Male Stress Urinary Incontinence Following Surgical Intervention: Procedures, Technical Modifications, and Patient Considerations*. Springer International Publishing Switzerland.
- Spontaneous Prostatic Hematoma: An Unusual Presentation of Prostatic Cancer. *Urologia*. June 2015.

DR. PETER GANN

- Evidence that Selenium Binding Protein 1 is a Tumor Suppressor in Prostate Cancer. *PLoS One*. May 2015.
- Methodological Considerations in Estrogen Assays of Breast Fluid and Breast Tissue. *Steroids*. July 2015.
- Dietary Influences on Tissue Concentrations of Phytanic Acid and AMACR Expression in the Benign Human Prostate. *Prostate*. Feb. 2015.

DR. EMILIE JOHNSON

- Imaging after Urinary Tract Infection in Older Children and Adolescents. *J Urol*. March 2015.
- CEVL Training for Coronal/Distal Shaft Hypospadias Repair: A Guide for

Attendings, Residents, and OR Staff. *Journal of Pediatric Urology*. 2015.

- The Effect of Spinal Cord Level on Sexual Function in the Spina Bifida Population. *J Pediatr Uro*. In press.

DR. ERVIN KOCJANCIC

- Presented two posters and a video at the European Association of Urology Congress 2015, Madrid, Spain, March 20-24, 2015: Two-year Follow Up Outcomes for a Novel Single Incision Sling for the Treatment of Female Stress Urinary Incontinence; Pilot Study: Plung as a Surrogate Measure for Abdominal Pressure in Urodynamics for Patients with Stress Urinary Incontinence; Urethrolysis and Synthetic Bulking Agent Collection Removal Post Peri-urethral Injection for Stress Urinary Incontinence.

DR. CRAIG NIEDERBERGER

- Appointed to the editorial board of the AUA Update Series.
- Presented three Pre-Congress courses at the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology Annual Meeting 2015, Lisbon, Portugal, June 14-17, 2015: What Treatments are Available to Improve Fertility in the Aging Male?; The Value of Basic Semen Analysis in Altering Early Fertility Management; and Would the Presence of Varicocele Alter Fertility Management of Couples?
- Faculty at the Frontiers in Reproductive Endocrinology: A Comprehensive Review and Update, Arlington, VA, March 19-22, 2015.
- Presented at the 6th International Valencian Infertility Institute (IVI) Congress, Alicante, Spain, April 23-25, 2015: Micro-TESE to improve ART outcomes in severe male factor.
- Gave a plenary presentation and a master lecture at the 103rd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Urological Association, Kanazawa, Japan, April 18-21, 2015: Male Reproductive Medicine: the Present and the Future, and Progress in Andrology: Surgical Sperm Retrieval.

DR. CAROL PODLASEK

- Effect of Onabotulinum Toxin A on Substance P and Receptor Neurokinin 1 in the Rat Ventral Prostate. *Andrology-Open Access*. 2015.

DR. GAIL PRINS

- Identification of Secretoglobin Scgb2a1 as a Target for Developmental Reprogramming by BPA in the Rat Prostate. *Epigenetics*. 2015.
- Stem Cells as Hormone Targets that Lead to Increased Cancer Susceptibility. *Endocrinology*. 2015.
- *Accessory Sex Glands in the Male*. Physiology of Reproduction, 4th ed., Elsevier, Ch. 18, pp. 773-804. 2015.

- Life-long Implications of Developmental Exposure to Stressors and the Short-term Research Perspective. *Endocrinology*. 2015.

- Differential Expression and Regulation of Vitamin D Hydroxylases and Inflammatory Genes in Prostate Stroma and Epithelium by 1.25-dihydroxyvitamin D in Men with Prostate Cancer and an In Vitro Model. *J Steroid Biochem Mol Biol*. April 2015.

- Presented two abstracts at the Society of Toxicology 54th Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 2015: Chronic Low-Dose Bisphenol A (BPA) Exposure Alters Rat Prostate Stem Cell Homeostasis; Arsenic Dysregulates Human Prostate Stem/Progenitor Cell Homeostasis, Perturbs Autophagy and Drives Transformation Through P62 Accumulation.

- Presented an abstract at the Endocrine Society Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 5-8, 2015: Bisphenol-A Suppresses the Expression of Snords in the Prostate Spheres via Histone Modification.

- Presented two abstracts at the Central Society for Clinical and Translational Research, Chicago, IL, April 23-25, 2015: Roles for Growth Hormone/IGF-1 Axis in Prostate Stem/Progenitor Cell Amplification; Arsenic Dysregulates Human Prostate Stem/Progenitor Cell Homeostasis, Perturbs Autophagy and Drives Transformation Through Accumulation of SQSTM1/p62.

- Presented an abstract at the Society for the Study of Reproduction Annual Meeting, Puerto Rico, July 2015: Specific Deletion of LKB1/Stk11 in the Mullerian Duct Mesenchyme Drives Hyperplasia of the Prostatic Stroma and Tumorigenesis.

- Presented an abstract at the PacRim Prostate and Breast Cancer Meeting, Washington, July 20-24, 2015: Distinct Actions of ERa and ERb in Human Prostate Stem Cell Self-renewal.

- Presented an abstract at the International Gynecologic Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, June 5-7, 2015: Prostate Stem and Progenitor Cells as Targets of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals.

- Keynote speaker at the John P. Donohue Symposium, Indiana University Simon Cancer Center, Indianapolis, IN, Feb. 12-13, 2015: Estrogenic Programming of the Prostate: Influence on Cancer Susceptibility.

- Visiting professor at Wayne State University, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Feb. 18, 2015: Estrogen Signaling and Reprogramming in Human Prostate Stem and Progenitor Cells.

DR. LAWRENCE ROSS

- Prostate Cancer and Vasectomy: Déjà Vu! *J Clin Oncol*. Feb. 2015.



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MOVEMBER: UI UROLOGY LEADS CAMPUS IN GROWING AWARENESS AND BEARDS FOR MEN'S HEALTH

Just like the Chicago Blackhawks put away their razors to make their annual Stanley Cup run, facial hair will make a comeback for non-skating men this November, when UI Urology will participate in **MOVEMBER**, a global movement to raise awareness for Men's Health issues.

Men are challenged to grow a full beard throughout the month of November—no shaving allowed. The campaign aims to bring awareness to four core Men's Health issues: prostate cancer, testicular cancer, physical inactivity and poor mental health. Participants can also raise money. Since 2003, the Movember Foundation has raised more than \$650 million, which has funded more than 1,000 programs benefiting these causes.

This year the UI Urology department will join with the larger UIC community to raise awareness here in Chicago through a Movember Foundation fundraising page. The month will kick off with a lecture and free shave on October 30 at the UIC campus. Throughout the month we'll be raising more than just awareness. Last year we successfully raised \$6,000. This year, our goal is \$10,000, all of which will be donated to the Foundation.

Movember isn't just for men though. Women can join **MOVE In Movember**, a 30-day fitness challenge, and can also fundraise and spread the word about Men's Health.

Movember tackles prevalent issues. Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men in the U.S., while testicular cancer is the most common cancer in men aged 15-34. Just less than half of American men meet the federal guidelines for physical activity and one in four adults will experience a mental health problem this year.

Join us as we raise awareness for these important Men's Health issues. We hope to see you sporting your best 'stache, Van Dyke, goatee, and mutton chops (or whatever you can grow) throughout the month of Movember!

For more ways to get involved or donate money look for the UIC page at us.movember.com.