

IN THIS ISSUE

Ribereños	1
ICS Conference	2
Exchange Program	3
Fertility Speaker	4
Dr. Prins' Award	4
Publications	5

DR. ROSS BRINGS THE AMAZON TO THE WINDY CITY



Photos by Larry Ross, MD.

A young Ribereños boy smiles big for Dr. Ross's camera.

Five years ago Larry Ross, MD, traveled to the Peruvian Amazon to photograph an indigenous community known as the Ribereños, people who live along the banks of the great river. This past November, Dr. Ross debuted 29 of nearly 1400 photos from the trip in an exhibit at the Instituto Cervantes in Chicago, drawing a crowd of 150 on opening night, including the Consul General of Peru.

Dr. Ross said he'd wanted to travel to the Amazon for years, and chose Peru because he was able to find a local guide and naturalist to help him. Before the trip, he made sure to research the area and the people he would be photographing. Ribereños are known for their subsistence farming, resilience, and resourcefulness in surviving in the rugged, unpredictable surroundings of the Amazon.

Although his profession is surgery, photography and art are a bit more than a hobby for Dr. Ross, who studied drawing and painting at the Art Institute of Chicago as a teenager, and later studied sculpture.

"The camera became my tool of choice," he said, adding that to him the camera is the best way to capture images in remote locations, like the Amazonian jungles where easels and paint would be cumbersome.



A Ribereños family sits in a boat along the banks of the Amazon River.

DR. NIEDERBERGER'S CORNER



Chicago has long been considered an international city, filled with people and ideas from around the world. This same multicultural atmosphere pervades the

Department of Urology at the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System, where we share a global vision for urological excellence.

This year our faculty traveled to numerous countries as visiting professors, students and even photographers! We've also welcomed Ettore Dalmasso, MD, as our first visiting resident from the University of Torino in Italy, part of the new exchange program spearheaded by Simone Crivellaro, MD.

In the midst of all this travel, we've still made an impact here at home. We launched another successful "Movember" campaign with team UIC Got Mustache?, and Gail Prins, PhD, received the prestigious Innovator of Today Alumni Award from the UI College of Medicine.

We've also been busy interviewing many high-quality candidates for our 2016 residency program. We look forward to welcoming our matches this fall!

In the coming year we'll launch the first ever Master Update in Rome. Participants will learn from global urologic leaders, try their hand at Italian cooking and explore the Eternal City.

I look forward to the year ahead and all the progress and innovation it will bring!

Craig Niederberger, MD
 Urology Department Head

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Gail Prins, PhD

Former Urology Fellow Wins Best Poster

Yoshitomo Kobori, MD, brought back the top award for posters at the American Urological Association Meeting this May in San Diego for his work on a smart phone lens that could aid in semen analysis.

The lens, invented by Dr. Kobori, functions as a microscope when attached to a smart phone. When a semen sample is inserted into the lens, it can then be viewed and recorded on the smart phone screen. This could allow men to conduct fertility tests at home, "making it much more convenient and economical than current practice," according to the abstract.

AN INTERNATIONAL CONTINENCE SHOWCASE UNITES DIVERSE MEDICAL EXPERTS TO BRING CARE TO THE WORLD



Dr. Ervin Kocjancic leads a meeting at the 2015 ICS Meeting in Montreal.

Ervin Kocjancic, MD, was more than a participant at the 2015 International Continence Society Meeting, held in Montreal Oct. 6-9. A longtime ICS leader, over the years Dr. Kocjancic has learned the importance of a multidisciplinary and multinational approach to urologic care and training. During the years he's been active in ICS, Dr. Kocjancic has also seen the field of continence expand significantly, drawing medical experts and health care providers from outside urology, such as neurologists and OB-GYNs, he said.

Urologists can better care for patients "if we learn how to work together with other colleagues from different specialties," as well as other care providers such as nurses and physiotherapists, he added.

Dr. Kocjancic served in leadership roles with ICS for seven years and chaired two committees determining educational and scientific programming at the annual meeting. He currently sits on the Fistula Committee and Strategic Review Board.

The ICS annual meeting is "the moment where the hard work of a previous year is shown," he said.

Attended by 3,000 delegates, the four-day meeting included a formal dinner, social events, and recreational activities, including yoga. Attendees also attended dozens of presentations and 33 workshops. Dr. Kocjancic led several programs, including a cadaver workshop and the Pan-Arab Continence Society Meeting.

"I've also learned how important the mission of sharing this knowledge worldwide [is]," he said, "bringing the technique, the care and the hope to the less privileged part of the planet."

The 2016 ICS Meeting will be held in Tokyo, Sept. 13-16.

UIC UROLOGY TEAM CASTS VISION FOR NEW YEAR



The UIC Urology team in front of the S.C. Johnson research laboratories during their February strategic planning meeting in Racine, WI.

UIC Urology started the year off with a renewed vision for the department, including a commitment to furthering innovation and technology, following a February strategic planning retreat in Racine, Wisconsin.

Led by the Team Clock Institute, a consulting firm specializing in team effectiveness, representatives from the department visited the S.C. Johnson research laboratories. Housed in a building punctuated by a tower several stories tall, the lab was rendered unusable once the sun came up and trapped heat in the building.

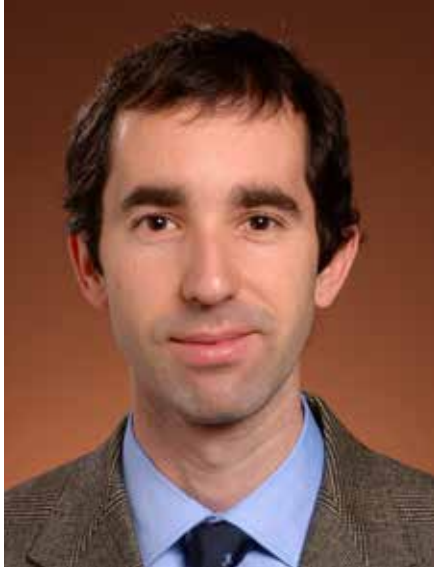
"When you don't take into account the needs of your consumers, innovation doesn't always succeed," said Steve Ritter, founder and CEO of Team Clock. However, he's not concerned that will be an issue with UIC Urology.

Of the more than 200 teams Ritter has worked with, UIC Urology is "by far the most accountable and the most innovative."

Through its focus on innovation and technology, the department aims to greatly improve patient care.

"We have a group of really smart people that are truly curious," said UIC Urology Administrator Wes Becton. "The needs of the patients are always first and foremost. And the ability to transform the way patients are diagnosed and treated is incredibly powerful."

UIC-ITALY RESIDENCY PROGRAM FOSTERS 'SPIRIT OF EXCHANGE'



Dr. Dalmasso was the first resident to participate in Dr. Crivellaro's exchange program with University of Torino in Italy.

Ettore Dalmasso, MD's first visit to the United States was not a typical study-abroad experience. Part of a new international exchange program that is the brainchild of Simone Crivellaro, MD, Dr. Dalmasso spent three months immersing himself in American culture and in the American medical system.

Begun in the fall of 2015, the program offers students from the University of Torino in Italy the opportunity to trade places with UIC Urology medical students, residents and faculty for three months, living in Chicago and learning the ins and outs of an American urology residency program. Dr. Dalmasso was the first Italian resident to participate in the program.

"They can see and understand comparative systems and come out with ideas, maybe new ideas to bring home or come out with new ideas with us," Dr. Crivellaro said.

Dr. Dalmasso said figuring out the different insurance system and improving his English were the biggest challenges. But overall his transition to living and working in Chicago was a good one.

"I just needed to find an apartment, and to become familiar with the university and the buildings," he said.

In his fourth year of residency, Dr. Dalmasso's time at UIC will focus on research. Unlike in Italy, where research is integrated into daily activity, UIC's residency focuses on research activities in the fourth year. Dr. Dalmasso returned to Italy to complete the final year of his residency.

Dr. Dalmasso conducted research alongside Harpreet Wadwha, MD. The pair studied the use of indocyanine green (ICG), a dye used for fluorescence imaging, in robotic surgery. Dr. Dalmasso said ICG magnifies the anatomy and makes surgery safer and more efficient.

Dr. Crivellaro said the program has so far lived up to his expectations and looks forward to sending UIC urology residents to University of Torino soon.

"They have a total experience about the American system here," he said. "The spirit of exchange...that's exactly what I wanted."

AUA RESEARCH AWARD GOES TO FIRST-YEAR UIC MEDICAL STUDENT



First-year UIC medical student Shaleen Vasavada won the AUA Herbert Brendler, MD Summer Medical Student Fellowship, in which he will participate beginning this May.

First-year UIC medical student Shaleen Vasavada received the Herbert Brendler, MD Summer Medical Student Fellowship, a prestigious American Urological Association and Urology Care Foundation award to fund his project that investigates new materials for use in temporary ureteral stents.

The product would be the only one of its kind, Vasavada said, although further details cannot yet be revealed. Currently, patients who receive a temporary ureteral stent must have a second procedure to have the stent removed. By using a different material, that second procedure might not be necessary, he added.

A panel of leading experts in urologic research reviewed Vasavada's application. His proposal was chosen for Vasavada's potential for a successful urologic research career, the scientific merit of the project, and quality mentorship from Michael Abern, MD, assistant professor of urology and Richard Gemeinhart, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceuticals and bioengineering.

"He's shown an interest in getting involved with research at a very early stage of his education," said Dr. Abern, who had invited Vasavada to a meeting at the UIC Innovation Center prior to choosing the project.

Vasavada, who studied material science engineering at Northwestern University, was intrigued by the interaction between urologists and engineers at the meeting.

"I wanted to incorporate engineering into my career," he said. "And urology is where that happens."

INTERNATIONAL FERTILITY EXPERT VISITS UI UROLOGY



Stephen W.J. Seager, M.V.B., M.R.C.V.S., pays a visit to one of his first inventions at the UIC Urology clinic on Jan. 26.

On Jan. 26, Stephen W.J. Seager, M.V.B., M.R.C.V.S., battled a blizzard in Virginia in order to give a Grand Rounds lecture to UIC Urology faculty and residents—and to visit the clinic that houses one of his first inventions.

Dr. Seager is a world-renowned veterinary expert who specializes in electroejaculation, which uses an electric current to retrieve sperm. While most of his work has centered on endangered animal species, his technology has also been applied in urology, allowing men who would not otherwise be able to reproduce to save and freeze their sperm.

Dr. Seager's technology allows for endangered species to be preserved without the detrimental effects of inbreeding. During his career, he has worked to preserve species around the world, including gorillas, whales, pandas and other species.

Residency Program Coordinator Beth Blackwell said everyone at the lecture enjoyed Dr. Seager's presentation, which he gave at Lou Malnati's.

Before his trip concluded, Dr. Seager made sure to visit one of his first patented medical devices used for electroejaculation, housed at the UIC Urology clinic.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE RECOGNIZES RESEARCHER FOR GROUNDBREAKING WORK



Dr. Gail Prins, a leader in research on the effects of natural estrogens on the prostate, was named a 2015 UIC College of Medicine Innovator of Today.

Gail Prins, PhD, Michael Reese Professor of Urology and Physiology, received the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine 2015 Innovator of Today Alumni Award on Sept. 19 for her research on the effects of early life exposure to natural estrogens on prostate disease and human sperm cryopreservation.

The award recognizes UIC alumni whose innovative ideas and approaches to patient care, research, or medical education have made a significant contribution to medicine.

"Dr. Prins has established herself as a global leader in the effects of a major kind of environmental toxin, one that doesn't show its devastating impact for decades," said UIC Urology Department Chair Craig Niederberger, MD.

"She is a treasured innovator and scientific leader at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and her great work here has been nothing short of utterly remarkable."

"This honor stresses to me the importance of our work on endocrine disrupting chemicals and the influence that it can have on people's well-being," Dr. Prins said. "Recognition motivates me to continue along this line of research."

Dr. Prins' work established that early-life exposure to natural estrogens as well as exogenous estrogenic agents such as Bisphenol A (BPA) can lead to greater risk of prostate diseases later in life. A developmental basis for adult disease is a theory that is increasingly becoming accepted in medicine, she added.

We see "a variety of agents early in life that can impact later-life diseases. This can come from nutrition, from stress, or from environmental chemicals," she said.

Dr. Prins is the principal investigator for three National Institutes of Health grants and a co-investigator on five additional grants. Her current work focuses on the role of estrogens in prostate stem cells. Dr. Prins is the president of the Society for Basic Urologic Research and an editor for Endocrinology. She is also past president of the American Society of Andrology and has received its Distinguished Service Award and Distinguished Andrologist Award.

PUBLICATIONS

DR. Y. ZAKI ALMALLAH

- The Impact of Post Radical Prostatectomy Urinary Incontinence on Patients' Sexual and Orgasmic Wellbeing. *Urology*. Dec. 2015.

DR. SIMONE CRIVELLARO

- Positive Surgical Margin Status after Minimally Invasive Radical Prostatectomy: a Multicenter Study. *Urologia*. Oct. 2015.
- Systematic Review of Surgical Treatment of Post Radical Prostatectomy Stress Urinary Incontinence. *Neurourol Urodyn*. Sept. 2015.

DR. PETER GANN

- Laser-capture Microdissection of Human Prostatic Epithelium for RNA Analysis. *J Vis Exp*. Nov. 2015.
- High Incidence of Triple Negative Breast Cancers Following Pregnancy and an Associated Gene Expression Signature. *Springerplus*. Nov. 2015.
- A Phase II Randomized Trial of Lycopene-Rich Tomato Extract Among Men with High-Grade Prostatic Intraepithelial Neoplasia. *Nutr Cancer*. Oct. 2015.

DR. EMILIE JOHNSON

- The Efficacy of Congenital Penile Curvature Repair in Preadolescent Males: Early Outcomes. *Urology*. Feb. 2016.
- Editorial comment re: Nationwide Trends and Variations in Urological Surgical Interventions and Renal Outcome in Patients with Spina Bifida. Feb. 2016.
- Utilization of Pediatric Open, Laparoscopic and Robot-Assisted Laparoscopic Ureteral Reimplantation in the United States: 2000-2012. *J Urol*. Feb. 2016.
- Preservation of Fertility Potential for Gender and Sex Diverse Individuals. *Transgender Health*. Jan. 2016.
- Imaging and Surgical Utilization for Pediatric Cystinuria Patients: A Single-institution Cohort Study. *J Pediatr Urol*. Oct. 2015.

DR. ERVIN KOCJANCIC

- Measurement of post-void residual urine. *Neurourol Urodyn*. Jan. 2016.
- ICS Teaching Module: Ambulatory Urodynamic Monitoring. *Neurourol Urodyn*. Nov. 2015.

DR. CRAIG NIEDERBERGER

- The Relationship Between Testosterone-Replacement Therapy and Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms: A Systematic Review. *Urology*. Feb. 2016.
- Use of testicular versus ejaculated sperm for intracytoplasmic sperm injection among men with cryptozoospermia: a meta-analysis. *Fertil Steril*. Feb. 2016.

- A novel method to determine perineal artery occlusion among male bicyclists. *Peer J*. Dec. 2015.
- The Relationship between Testosterone Replacement Therapy and Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms: A Systematic Review. *Urology*. Nov. 2015.

DR. CAROL PODLASEK

- Sonic hedgehog delivery from self-assembled nanofiber hydrogels reduces the fibrotic response in models of erectile dysfunction. *Acta Biomater*. Jan. 2016.
- Basic Science Evidence for the Link Between Erectile Dysfunction and Cardiometabolic Dysfunction. *J Sex Med*. Dec. 2015.

DR. GAIL PRINS

- A Review of the Carcinogenic Potential of Bisphenol A. *Reprod Toxicol*. Jan. 2016.
- Executive Summary to EDC-2: The Endocrine Society's Second Scientific Statement on Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals. *Endocr Rev*. Dec. 2015.
- EDC-2: The Endocrine Society's Second Scientific Statement on Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals. *Endocr Rev*. Dec. 2015.
- Exposure of Human Prostataspheres to Bisphenol A Epigenetically Regulates SNORD Family Non-coding RNAs via Histone Modification. *Endocrinology*. Nov. 2015.
- Stem Cells as Hormone Targets That Lead to Increased Cancer Susceptibility. *Endocrinology*. Oct. 2015.
- Life-long Implications of Developmental Exposure to Environmental Stressors: New Perspectives. *Endocrinology*. Oct. 2015.

PRESENTATIONS

DR. MICHAEL ABERN

- Podium Presentation, North Central Section of AUA 2015, Florida, Nov. 2015.
- Invited Reviewer, Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program, Washington, D.C. Nov. 2015.
- UIC Movember Kickoff Event Lecture, Chicago, Oct. 2015.
- Invited Lecturer, Chicago Urologic Society, Chicago, Oct. 2015.

DR. Y. ZAKI ALMALLAH

- Plenary Session, National Bladder Forum, London, Oct. 2015.
- Workshop Organizer, National Bladder Forum, London, Oct. 2015.

DR. EMILIE JOHNSON

- Co-organizer & Leader, Gender and Sex Diversity Fertility Working Group, Oncofertility Consortium Meeting, Chicago. Nov. 2015.
- Invited Lecturer, University of Oklahoma Health System. Oct. 2015.
- Organizing Committee Member & Speaker, Northwestern Urology Research Retreat. Oct. 2015.

DR. ERVIN KOCJANCIC

- Chair and Invited Lecturer, Cadaver Surgery Symposium, London Medical Academy, London. Dec. 2015.
- Invited Lecturer, 19th Int'l OBGYN Meeting, Kuwait. Nov. 2015.
- ICS Round Table Chair, Confederacion Americana de Urologia, Cancun. Nov. 2015.
- Invited Lecturer, 2nd Int'l Uroanatomy, Urotechnology and Urosimulation Congress, Turkey. Sept. 2015.
- Invited Lecturer, 6th PanHellenic Meeting of UNUFU, Greece. Sept. 2015.

DR. CRAIG NIEDERBERGER

- Master Class Organizer, Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction Master Class on Andrology, Cambodia. Nov. 2015.

DR. CAROL PODLASEK

- Invited Speaker, Session Moderator, Poster Presenter, Sexual Medicine Society of North America, Las Vegas. Nov. 2015.

DR. GAIL PRINS

- Meeting Organizer, Scientific Program Committee, Congress on Steroid Research III, Chicago. Nov. 2015.
- Meeting Organizer, Program Committee and Invited Lecturer, Society for Basic Urologic Research Annual Meeting, Ft. Lauderdale. Nov. 2015.
- Invited Lecturer, XXIV Seminaire Nicois D'Endocrinologie, Diabetologie et Reproduction, France. Nov. 2015.
- Invited Lecturer, European Society of Urologic Research Annual Meeting, The Netherlands. Sept. 2015.
- Meeting Organizer, Organizing Committee, World Congress of Urologic Research, The Netherlands. Sept. 2015.

DR. LAWRENCE ROSS

- Visiting Professor for the Division of Urology, University of Utah, July-Aug. 2015.
- Debuted major photography exhibit, Instituto Cervantes, Nov-Dec. 2015. "Riberenos: The River People of the Peruvian Amazon."



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SUPPORT UIC UROLOGY

We always greatly appreciate the support of our alumni and friends through their generous contributions. Contributions have helped our programs grow and become more successful.

Currently, contributions can be made towards two funds:

- 1) Urology Resident Fund
- 2) Urology Research Innovation Center

The Urology Resident Fund supports a full range of programs for residents of the Department of Urology. It is used to support both clinical course work and laboratory training. It also supports the resident research program where emphasis is placed on critical thinking and helping the resident physician develop a strong foundation of knowledge, insight, and understanding—all essential qualities of a good physician.

The Urology Research Innovation Center brings urology research projects to life. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the program combines students and faculty with backgrounds in medicine, business, design and engineering to see ideas from inception to product development. Unlike the typical product development process the Urology Research Innovation Center's lab brings in varying perspectives from the start and emphasizes collaboration throughout the design process, resulting in a greater mix of ideas and solutions.

To learn more about how you can support UIC Urology, please visit
<http://chicago.medicine.uic.edu/support-urology>.