



The New York Section

A Newsletter for the New York Section of the American Urological Association, Inc. December 2014



President's Message

by Felix Badillo, M.D.

First I would like to thank all the Section members for letting me have the opportunity to serve as president and congratulate Dr. George Owens for all his hard work representing us over the past year.

With the Board of Directors having their first meeting and also having a successful annual meeting the New York section is off to an excellent year. We are excited to have past New York colleagues, Dr. Thomas Jarrett (postgraduate training was completed at Cornell University at the New York Hospital/Cornell Medical Center and Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center) and Dr. Jamie Landman, (past director of minimally invasive urology in the Department of Urology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons) return to participate in our upcoming educational programs.

Dr. Phillips is the Program Chairman for the Resident Essay Meeting, which is scheduled on April 8th. We are fortunate to have Dr. Jamie Landman, Professor of Urology and Radiology, Chairman of Urology at University of California, Irvine to be this year's judge for the Valentine Essay Contest. His colleagues Dr. Edward Uchioe and Dr. Jeffrey Cadeddu will join Dr. Landman. Dr Elizabeth Kavaler is the Program chair for the Resident debate scheduled for March 5th. Dr. Thomas Jarrett, Chairman of Urology at George Washington University School of Medicine will our Judge.

The Members Only Meeting, held at the New York Yacht Club, was a huge success with such a large turnout. Dr. George Owens received a plaque in recognition for his term as President. Dr. Deepak Kapoor was presented the prestigious Russell Lavengood Award. Members were informed of the revision of By Laws and that they will receive a copy for review. Dr. Weiss presented information on next year's Annual Conference which will be held in Portugal. Selecting his scientific program directors, Drs. Victor Nitti, Hossein Sadeghi-Nejad and James Eastham, the scientific sessions will certainly prove to be informative, interactive and interesting.

Recently we sent out a survey to gain information and assist us in trying to get more membership participation as well as identify meaningful ways to serve the section members. I encourage you to fill out the survey so that we can have a good representation from our members.

Best wishes to you and your family for the upcoming Holiday Season and New Year!



Upcoming Events:

Chief Resident's Debate March 4th, 2015

New York Academy of Medicine Guest
Judge: Thomas Jarrett Program Chair:
Elizabeth Kavaler

Resident Essay Meeting April 8th, 2015

New York Academy of Medicine Guest
Judges: Jaime Landman, Jeffrey Cadeddu
and Edward Uchio Program Chairs: John
Phillips

**"SAVE THE DATE" NYS 113th Annual
Meeting Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal September 6th – 12th,
2016 More Details to follow soon!**

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Secretary's Report

by Ivan Grunberger, M.D.

With the successful Annual meeting in the Baltics behind us, we are looking forward to the upcoming Section activities: Chief Residents' Debate will be held on March 5th, 2015. Dr. Thomas Jarrett from George Washington University has agreed to serve as our judge with Dr. Betsy Kavaler as Program Chair.

Resident Essay Meeting will be held on April 8th, 2015. We are happy to welcome back Dr. Jaime Landman, now at University of California Irvine and his colleagues as judges. Dr. John Phillips will serve as Program Chair. Please put these dates on your calendars!

We have recently sent out a "Membership Satisfactory Survey." I encourage all of you to participate in this short survey – this will help the Board understand the needs of our members in order to make the Section more inclusive.

I wish you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season and all the very best in the New Year.

Treasurer's Report

by Mitchell Benson, M.D.

The financial status of the NY Section continues to be stable. Our endowment has grown over the year due to the favorable returns on market investments. The NY Section has helped support a number of successful meetings between 2013-2014 including the Annual Meetings in Barcelona and Baltic Sea Cruise, Members Only Meeting, Chief Residents Debate, and Valentine Award Night.



We will also be sponsoring a NY Section member to participate in IVUMed – the International Volunteer in Urology Organization Palisades, Inc. is the company which manages our endowment. Mr. Dan Veru, Chief Investment Officer addressed the Board of Directors at our June meeting. He reviewed the performance of our portfolio over the past year. We continue to use a conservative growth strategy. Currently, the Board Directors are considering alternatives to help us manage our endowment.

We look forward to another successful year and hope you can join us.



Report of the President-Elect

by Robert Weiss, M.D.

Plans are currently underway for our NY Section annual meeting to be held September 6-12, 2015 in Portugal. Scientific chairman for the meeting will include: Dr. James Eastham, Dr. Victor Nitti and Dr. Hossein Sadeghi-Nejad. We are outlining a very interactive meeting which will include urologists from Lisbon, as well as resident participation. We also plan to have a special session on the business of urology practice.



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(2014-2015)

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Mission Statement:

To promote the highest standards of urological clinical care through education, research and in the formulation of health care



Report of the President-Elect by Robert Weiss, M.D.

Continued

Update Your Membership Contact Information

In order to best serve its membership, the New York Section of the AUA must obtain accurate records for effective and efficient communication. Please update you contact information by email to Michele Paoli (michelelij@aol.com)

Thank You!!

If you are interested in contributing or posting in the New York Section, AUA Newsletter, Please contact: Michele Paoli michelelij@aol.com or by phone (516-520-1224)

For those of you who have never visited Portugal, Lisbon is a beautiful southern European city. Flight time from New York is about seven and a half hours. Lisbon is very hilly, similar to San Francisco and the weather in early September should be warm. Lisbon has a fascinating history. It was occupied by the Moors for several centuries. Lisbon was under Muslim control from the 711 until 1147 when the Christian Crusaders under the command of Alfonso I captured the city.

In the 15 and 16th century, Portugal was known as the country of explorers. Lisbon was the center of vast empire during this time. We are considering day trips to the surrounding sites including Sintra and Cascais to see Lisbon's history and culture. We may also have an after meeting trip to the Algarve. The final itinerary will be available in December and details about the scientific meeting will be available early next year.

Please consider joining us at next year's annual meeting.



AUA Resident's Bowl & Chief Debate

by Jason VanBatavia, M.D.



The New York Section was well represented at the AUA Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida this past May. In addition to winning both of our Chief Resident debates, our resident bowl team finished 2nd in a highly contested competition. Congratulations are in order for Michael Whalen (Columbia University Medical Center) and Andrew Winer (SUNY Downstate Medical Center) who successfully debated on the use of immediate systemic therapy for metastatic renal cell carcinoma and for the use of urodynamics prior to surgical correction of mixed urinary incontinence.

After sweeping through the quarter- and semi-finals, the New York Section Resident Bowl team was barely edged out by the New England Section who came from behind in the final round. Despite the heartbreaking loss, the three day event was extremely popular and entertaining, drawing its largest crowd to date with audience members spilling into the aisles and neighboring exhibits. Interactive ask-the-audience questions allowed everyone to participate in the fun. Congratulations to the entire bowl team - Yanina Barbalat (Robert Woods Johnson Medical School), Geoffrey Gaunay (Beth Israel Medical Center), Eric

Moskowitz (New York Medical College), Ashley Winter (Weill Cornell Medical Center), and Daniel Wollin (New York University), along with our two international resident members from India – Arvind Kumar and Sachin Nataraj. Thank you to all New York Section members who attended one or both events and we look forward to your continued support in both events at next year's annual meeting.



Report of the NYS Representative to the AUA

by Muhammad Choudhury, M.D.

• Dr. Victor Nitti, a member of the New York Section and Professor of the Department of Urology at New York University School of Medicine was selected by the AUA Board of Directors to be the Chair of the AUA's Office of Education beginning July 2015. He will be replacing Dr. Elspeth McDougall who will complete her very successful term as Chair of the Office of Education in June 2015. In his capacity as the Chair of Education, Dr. Nitti will be responsible for overseeing all educational activities of AUA including AUA University, core curriculum, courses and conferences and educational activities during the annual meeting of the AUA. We are very proud of our fellow N.Y. Section member Dr. Victor Nitti and wish him a very successful term as the Chair of the Office of Education. Dr. Nitti also serves as a member of the N.Y. Section AUA Board of Directors.

• Dr. Joseph Smith, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Urology at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee was selected by the AUA Board of Directors to be the next Editor of the Journal of Urology beginning July 2015. Dr. Smith will be replacing Dr. William Steers as the JU Editor whose very successful term as Editor ends in June 2015.

• Search for AUA Office of Research: Dr. Johannes Vieweg, Chairman of the Department of Urology at the University of Florida at Gainesville, will be completing his very successful term as Chair of the Office of Research in June 2015. A search committee has been formed to select a new Chair of the Office of Research. Anyone interested in the position should contact the AUA Office.

• New Chair of AUA Global Initiative: Because of significant increase in number of International Membership over the past four years, the AUA Board has approved the creation of a new Chair of the Office of Global Initiative. The new Chair will work closely with the AUA Secretary and report to the AUA Board of Directors. A search committee Chaired by current AUA Secretary Dr. Gopal Badlani has been formed and members interested are encouraged to apply.

• AUA University: AUA University has been very successful as an educational resource for members of the AUA since its opening in May 2014. The service is free for AUA members. The website serves as an one stop "shopping" for all educational activities including guidelines, white papers, core curriculum, video etc. All members are encouraged to visit the site for their educational needs.



Health Policy Report by David Hoenig, M.D.

ICD-10 Delay

Delayed implementation of ICD 10 until 10/1/2015, but this should not delay efforts to integrate it into current office practice, in order to ensure a smooth transition despite its complexity. Best advice from a variety of sources is to not expect a further delay in implementation next year, but rather to use the additional time to prepare. It is important to remember that this not only affects office practice and coding, but includes ICD10-PCS (procedural codes) for hospital use.



Level of detail in operative reports, as well as in office notes, will need to meet ICD 10 standards, or else additional work will come as hospital coders track surgeons down to revise any notes without sufficient detail to allow appropriate coding.

Health and Human Services (HHS) Focuses on Admission Criteria

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of the HHS has posted a list of topics in its work plan for Fiscal Year 2014,

many of which are of particular interest to Urologists:

1) Provider status – comparison of provider-based and free-standing clinics, and outpatient E&M services billed at the "New Patient" rate. This has and will affect hospital-owned practices, in that patients seen in the hospital cannot be billed as "New Patients" in the office setting, and vice versa. OIG will be investigating this to decrease expenses. 2) Hospital admission criteria – "2 midnight rule," designed to decrease inappropriately short inpatient stays billed as inpatient care. OIG first reported these overpayments, and will continue to closely monitor. 3) High cost diagnostic radiology tests – documentation is key, as incomplete data and duplication of tests, particularly in in-office facilities, will be under intense scrutiny by OIG. 4) E&M coding – CMS will be looking not just at documentation for notes, but also for medical necessity to determine appropriate levels of E&M use. 5) Lab services – OIG is focused on these because of large-scale payments. Making sure orders are well documented and signed by "qualified providers" is imperative, as overpayments for incorrectly done orders may come under scrutiny and penalties.

Important New Legislation.

In March 2014, the California State Senate saw pending legislation substantially amended to prohibit in-office referrals for: advanced imaging, anatomic pathology, radiation therapy, and physical therapy. Fortunately, the bill failed to pass on 4/28/14, however this marks another attempt to undo the current status quo with respect to in-office ancillary exceptions (IOASE).

Further attempts will likely follow at various state levels, and vigilance is required to avoid erosion of the current protection for these services.



Membership News:

2014 Russell Lavengood Award:



Dr. Felix Badillo, President of the New York Section, AUA presented Dr. Deepak Kapoor with the *Russell W. Lavengood Award* during our Members Only Meeting on October 1st, 2014 at the New York Yacht Club.

Dr. Kapoor is Clinical Associate Professor of Urology, at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Chairman of Health Policy and Immediate Past President of LUGPA (representing nearly 25% of all practicing urologists in the United States), is Chairman of SCRUBS RRG (the only national urology specific medical malpractice carrier), has served on the Board of Directors of UroPAC (the national political action committee representing the interests of the specialty of urology), founder of the New York Urology Trade Association (representing the business interests of urology group practices in the State of New York), past Chairman of Access to Integrated Cancer Care (an informal advocacy group representing the rights of patients to access integrated services of the highest quality), is a member of the Board of Directors of Allied Urological Services, (the largest lithotripsy partnership in the United States, where he also functions as Chairman of the Finance Committee) and is Founder and Past-President of the Integrated Medical Foundation.

Dr. Kapoor is a Fellow of the American College of Physician Executives. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Kapoor on being selected the recipient of this **Distinguished Service Award!**



Congratulations to Dr. Victor Nitti, a member of the New York Section and Professor of the Department of Urology at New York University School of Medicine. Dr. Nitti was selected by the AUA Board of Directors to be the Chair of the AUA's Office of Education beginning July 2015. He will be replacing Dr. Elspeth McDougall who will complete her very successful term as Chair of the Office of Education in June 2015.





SAVE THE DATE FOR AUA2015

May 15 – 19, 2015 New Orleans, LA <https://www.auanet.org/education/aua-annual-meeting.cfm> [Visit The Site.](#)

Research Funding Opportunities - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS! The Urology Care Foundation, the official foundation of the American Urological Association (AUA), and the AUA Office of Research are pleased to announce three research funding programs for medical students, residents, fellows and post-doctoral scientists. All competitions are now open and accepting applications!

2015 Summer Medical Student Research Fellowships

The Herbert Brendler, MD, and the Arkansas Urologic Society Summer Medical Student Fellowship Program provides \$3,000 to medical students conducting urology research during the summer of 2015. [APPLY NOW!](#)

2015 Residency Research Awards

This program offers \$40,000 to support salary and requisite supplies for one year while a urology resident fulfills their obligation for research training beginning in July 2015. [APPLY NOW!](#)

2015 Urology Care Foundation/Pfizer Mentored Research Training Awards

These four awards US-based in scope will provide up to \$20,000 for six months or up to \$40,000 for one year of research training under the mentorship of a senior scientist with a well-established research program. Please visit the website for full award details including the allowed domains of research in bladder health. Residents, fellows and post-doctoral scientists are welcome to apply! [APPLY NOW!](#)

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES FOR ALL ABOVE PROGRAMS

Application Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, January 15, 2015

Peer Review: February 2015

Funding Notification: April 2015

Award Period: Begins July 2015

Please contact the AUA Office of Research at grants@auanet.org with any questions or for further information!