



Stanford UROLOGY NEWS

FALL 2008/WINTER 2009

UROLOGY FACULTY

Linda D. Shortliffe, M.D.
Professor & Chair

Endourology/Laparoscopy
Harcharan S. Gill, M.D.
Robert Kessler, M.D.
Joseph C. Liao, M.D.
Benjamin I. Chung, M.D.

Inferility
Robert Kessler, M.D.

Female/Neuro Urology
Christopher K. Payne, M.D.
Director
Craig V. Comiter, M.D.

Pediatric Urology
Michael H. Hsieh, MD, PhD
William A. Kennedy II, M.D.
Linda D. Shortliffe, M.D.
Hsi-Yang Wu, MD

UroOncology
Joseph C. Presti, Jr., M.D.
Director of GU Programs
Adult Clinic Chief
(Urologic, Radiation, Med. Onc.)
James D. Brooks, M.D.
Benjamin Chung, MD
Harcharan S. Gill, M.D.

Urologic Pathology
Jesse McKenney, MD

Research
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Director, Urology Labs
Christos E. Constantinou, PhD.
Thomas A. Stamey, M.D.
Zijie Sun, M.D., PhD.

Palo Alto Veterans Affairs
Joseph C. Liao, M.D.
Director
Fuad S. Freiha, M.D.
John Lavelle, MD
John Leppert, MD
Inder Perikash, M.D.

Professor Emeritus
Rodney Anderson, MD

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Santa Clara Valley Med. Cntr.
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Chief
Jennifer M. Abidari, M.D.
Daniel Rosenstein, M.D.
Rajesh Shingal, M.D.

5 New Faculty Members Join the Department

Craig V. Comiter, MD, Associate Professor
Division of Neuro/Female Urology

Dr. Comiter joined the Department of Urology on January 1, 2008. His clinical practice specializes in the management of urinary



incontinence, benign prostatic hyperplasia, voiding dysfunction, pelvic pain and pelvic prolapse. Originally from New York, Dr. Comiter received his A.B. magna cum laude in Biology from Harvard College in 1988 and his M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School in 1992. He completed his urology residency at the Harvard Program in Urology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in 1998. At UCLA he completed a one-year fellowship in neurourology and female urology in 1999. In 1999, Dr. Comiter

joined the University of Arizona College of Medicine as Assistant Professor of Urology and in 2003 was promoted to Associate Professor. He served as both Chief of Urology and as Residency Program Director, in the Section on Urology, Department of Surgery. His research studies focus upon novel therapies to prevent bladder decompensation in the setting of bladder outlet obstruction, and novel muscle-derived therapy for periurethral injection as a treatment for urinary incontinence. Dr. Comiter will establish and direct a joint Fellowship with Obstetrics and Gynecology in Female and Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery.

John P. Lavelle, MD, Associate Professor
VAPAHCS Division

Dr. Lavelle joined the Department of Urology on September 1, 2008. At the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System, his clinical practice specializes in the complicated, multi-disciplinary treatment and rehabilitation of injured soldiers returning from the military conflicts in the Middle East. Originally from Dublin, Ireland, Dr. Lavelle studied at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in for six years, graduating in 1984 with a Bachelor of Medicine, a Bachelor of Surgery and a Bachelor of the Arts of Obstetrics. He earned a Bachelor's of Science in Medical Science in anatomy, physical anthropology and embryology from the National University of Ireland



Message from the Chair

Friends and
Colleagues:

2008 has been a year of fabulous faculty growth in Stanford Urology. In January Dr. Craig Comiter former Chief of Urol-



ogy at the University of Arizona joined our Section of Neurourology and Female Urology. This summer three other new faculty members joined us. Dr. Yang Wu from the faculty of University of Pittsburgh joined the Pediatric Urology Section, John Leppert from UCLA joined our minimally invasive oncology group, and John Lavelle from the University of North Carolina joined the Neurourology Section. And finally, we added an urologist with Dr. Jesse McKenney who has a joint appointment in Urology with primary appointment in Pathology. You can read more about each of these outstanding recruits within the rest of the newsletter. Dr. Michael Hsieh is finishing his Pediatric Urology Fellowship at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston and will join us next summer.

This year's two Chief Residents are Tatum Tarin and David Duong; we welcomed three new junior residents (PGY 3): Winifred Adams from Stanford, Mehren Movassahgi from UCLA, and James Yu from USC. Our second Pediatric Urology Fellow is Curtis Clarke from U. Kentucky and our first Urooncology/Minimally Invasive Fellow is Steven Chang who completed his residency at Stanford in June.

cont on page 4

in 1986 and in 1989 became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. In 1990, Dr. Lavelle moved to the United States to attend the University of Iowa as a research fellow from 1990-1993. He moved on to completed his urology residency at the University of Pittsburgh from 1993-1998. Dr. Lavelle was an American Foundation for Urologic Disease Fellow with Michael Chancellor, MD at the University of Pittsburgh during 1998-2000. It was during his time in Pittsburgh that Dr Lavelle developed his interest in bladder physiology as the result of collaborations with Dr.'s deGroat, Birder and Zeidel. From 2000- 2007, Dr. Lavelle was Assistant Professor of Urology and the Director of Urodynamics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In July 2007, he was promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Lavelle's research studies focus upon neurological bladder injury, bladder pharmacotherapeutics, overactive bladder, and benign prostatic hyperplasia. His research plans include the development of a comprehensive national database to track the management of patients with neurological injuries that affect the urinary tract.

**John T. Leppert, MD, Assistant Professor
VAPAHCS Division**

Dr. Leppert joined the Department of Urology on August 18, 2008. At the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System, his clinical practice specializes in the treatment of urologic cancer and kidney stone disease. Originally from San Diego, California, Dr. Leppert received his B.A. in Biology in 1996 and his M.D. in 2001 from Northwestern University as part of its Honors Program in Medical Education. At UCLA he completed his surgical internship and urology residency in 2007 and completed a one-year minimally invasive surgery and endourology fellowship in 2008. As resident and fellow, he published 19 articles and 2 book chapters focusing on biomarkers of kidney cancer.

Dr. Leppert won 3rd place in the Urology Resident Publication Contest in 2007 and the Fujisawa Research Award in the



UCLA Department of Surgery in 2005 and in 2008. His research plans include the development of a new comprehensive kidney cancer program, currently lacking at both the VAPAHCS and at Stanford, and applying emerging surgical technologies to the treatment of kidney cancer.

**Jesse K. McKenney, MD, Assistant
Professor
Director of Urologic Pathology**

Dr. McKenney joined the Departments of Urology and Pathology on May 1, 2008. He specializes in oncologic surgical pathology with subspecialty interest in genitourinary and soft tissue pathology. He received his B.S. degree magnum cum laude in Psychology from Texas A&M University in 1993 and his M.D. from University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in 1998. He completed a three-year anatomic pathology residency in 2001, which included two years as genitourinary consult resident, and a one-year fellowship in soft tissue pathology in 2002 at Emory University School of Medicine. In 2003 he completed a one-year fellowship in surgical pathology at Stanford University Hospital and then served as Clinical Instructor of Pathology at Stanford University School of Medicine from 2003-2004. Dr. McKenney joined the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences from 2004-2008 as Assistant Professor of Pathology where he served as Director of Oncologic Pathology. His research interests include urothelial carcinoma, diagnostic criteria in gonadal neoplasms, diagnostic immunohistochemistry in genitourinary neoplasia, and prognostic factors in prostate cancer.



Dr. McKenney joined the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences from 2004-2008 as Assistant Professor of Pathology where he served as Director of Oncologic Pathology. His research interests include urothelial carcinoma, diagnostic criteria in gonadal neoplasms, diagnostic immunohistochemistry in genitourinary neoplasia, and prognostic factors in prostate cancer.

**Hsi-Yang Wu, MD, Associate Professor
Division of Pediatric Urology**

Dr. Wu joined the Department of Urology on September 1, 2008. His clinical practice includes all areas of pediatric urology, with special expertise in the treatment of kidney stones, laparoscopic testis and renal surgery, and the use of Botox for voiding dysfunction in children. Originally from Taiwan, Dr. Wu received his A.B. magna cum laude in Chemistry from

Harvard College in 1989 and his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1993. He received his post-doctoral urology residency training at UCSF from 1993-1999 and then joined the fellowship in



pediatric urology at the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia from 1999 -2002. From 2002-2008, Dr. Wu was Assistant Professor of Urology at the University of the Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. During his appointment at Children's Hospital, Dr. Wu served on five hospital committees and received awards as one of the top 10-25 physicians for patient satisfaction during the 3 of the 6 years he was at the hospital. His research focuses upon how sex hormones affect overactive bladder, how the brain develops control of voiding reflexes and what happens when it fails to develop correctly, and the impact of early-life inflammation on adult bladder function.

**Pediatric Fellow
Curtis J. Clark, M.D.**

Curtis is returning to the Bay area this year as our second pediatric urology fellow. He will be participating in research during his first of two years at Stanford. He will be working with Dr. Zijie Sun on characterizing a mouse model of hydronephrosis, as well as other basic science and clinical projects. In addition to pediatric urology, Curtis has interests in laparoscopy and in resident education issues. Curtis completed a B.A. in Greek and Latin at Santa Clara University (Santa Clara, CA). He then attended medical school at the Medical College of Ohio (Toledo, OH). Curtis completed his general surgery internship and four years of urologic residency at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center (Lexington, KY). Curtis' other interests include bowling, golf, basketball, and spending time with his family.





Graceland OR Dedicated

On June 30th, OR 10 was dedicated "Graceland" in honor of Grace Miyamoto, who was the Urology OR nurse for 31 years! To commemorate the event, Joseph Presti sang an original composition *a la* Elvis Presley...

(Sung to the Tune of Heart Break Hotel)

Well since our Gracie left us
We found a new place to dwell
They tried to send us to the MOR
But it was hell

We miss you so much Gracie
They gave us Jake and Precie
We miss you so much
We could die

And now we have new faces
They're Luisa, Joel and Chad
Urology is coming back and
It's not so bad

We miss you so much Gracie
They gave us Jake and Precie
We miss you so much
We could die

And now we're back in Room 10
Where you'd always lend a hand
To honor all you've done for us
It's now called Graceland

We miss you so much Gracie
They gave us Jake and Precie
We miss you so much
We could die

Stanford Urology Residents Win Awards at the Western Section Meeting of the AUA

The Western Section meeting of the American Urological Association took place in Monterey, CA from October 26 to October 30. Several of our residents made presentations at this meeting and we are very proud of the fact that two of them received special awards. Dr. Tatum Tarin (PGY-6) received first prize in the Miley B. Wesson / Olympus GYRUS ACMI Resident essay contest for his paper entitled "Estimating the Risk of Cancer Associated with Imaging-Related Radiation During Surveillance for Stage I Testicular Cancer using Computed Tomography". This work was done in conjunction with Dr. Raj Shinghal, Clinical Instructor at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.

In addition, Dr. Geoffrey Sonn (PGY-4) received 3rd prize overall in the poster competition and first prize for best of session for his study entitled "Fibred Confocal Microscopy of Bladder Tumors: An Ex Vivo Study". This work was done in conjunction with Dr. Joe Liao, Assistant Professor of Urology and Chief of Urology at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center.

Welcome New Residents for 2008-2009

Judith Hagedorn, M.D.

Judith was an undergraduate in Psychology at Rice University (Houston, TX). She is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Baltimore, MD). She received her medical training at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Judith has an extensive clinical research background including the investigation of various clinically pertinent issues concerning bariatric surgery under the guidance of John M. Morton, M.D. while she was a medical student at Stanford. Judith enjoys running, snowboarding, hiking, scuba diving, traveling, cooking, going to concerts and movies.



Alan Thong, M.D.

Alan is a graduate of Princeton University (Princeton, NJ). He received his medical training at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine (Chicago, IL). While in medical school, Alan was a volunteer instructor for NICU parents and a CPR instructor for medical students and hospital staff at the University of Chicago. Alan was a research assistant with a group of orthopedic surgeons specializing in knee and hip arthroplasty. He also coordinated a prospective randomized trial investigating a processed EEG monitoring protocol with Dr. John Ellis in the Department of Anesthesia at the University of Chicago. Alan enjoys running as well as rock and ice climbing. He also has an interest in architecture and travel.



Jonathan Wu, M.D.

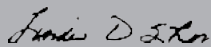
Jonathan is a graduate of the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. He received his medical training at the University of California Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine (Los Angeles, CA). Jonathan has performed research at the UCLA Orthopedic Spine Center, Shriners' Hospital for Children as well as a more recent study on the role of cytoreductive nephrectomies in patients with poor ECOG status as well as the role of tumor embolization with or without subsequent nephrectomy in Division of Urological Oncology at UCLA. Jonathan competes in triathlons and he is a competitive runner. He also enjoys playing soccer, surfing, hiking, camping and traveling.



After a decade of building this Department with us, Stephanie Edelman our Director of Finance and Administration (DFA) departed to a promotion within Stanford at the end of August. We thanked her for all her efforts and will miss her in our future. We welcome Shahla Haider as our new DFA who supported the Geriatrics Division and Human Resources within the Department of Medicine at UCSF.

As some of you may have noted in the medical news during the past year, academic medical centers are at a loss for research funding and training funds. We no longer seek support from industry for educational activities because of the conflicts of interest direct or indirect that these funds may represent. These changes in combination with the past few months of financial instability make our mission of excellence in training even more of a challenge. I hope that you might consider supporting us in research and training and in building the Duncan E. Govan M.D. PhD Visiting Professorship Fund.

I wish you and your family a joyful holiday and hope that we can all look forward to a year of renewal and rebuilding in 2009.



2009 Visiting Professor

Mark S. Litwin, MD, MPH, Professor of Urology and Health Services, Schools of Medicine and Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles will visit the department January 8-9th, 2009. His research includes medical outcomes assessment, epidemiology, health-related quality of life, costs and resource utilization, and patient preferences, all in malignant and benign urologic diseases. In 2001 he received the American Urological Association's prestigious Gold Cystoscope Award.

2008 Gifts to the Urology Department



Stanford Urology News is published for current and former faculty, residents, physicians, and friends of the Department.

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