

FEBRUARY 2020

UVA UROLOGY

The newsletter of the University of Virginia Department of Urology



News & Features

U.S. News & World Report: pg. 1-2

Awards: pg. 3-4

Andrology Research Highlights: pg. 4

Stay in Touch: pg. 5

Dear Alumni,

Greetings from the University of Virginia Department of Urology. I hope you are well and safe despite the changes brought on by the pandemic. It has been a little over a year since I became Chair and, after some initial dips in our patient volumes due to COVID, our clinic and surgical volumes rebounded higher than ever before. This is a testament to our incredible faculty, NPs and residents, who have all stepped up to the challenge that these difficult times present.

I am writing to you today to ask for your help in highlighting the great work we are doing here at the University of Virginia by voting in the upcoming U.S. News & World Report survey of hospitals and specialties. As a former friend, trainee or member of our UVA family, you can make a difference with your vote.

U.S.
News
&
World
Report

You might be wondering why voting to determine these rankings is important. Although controversial, these rankings help to publicly recognize the expert, compassionate care we provide and that in turn allows us to reach more patients. So why should you vote for the University of Virginia Department of Urology? I am pleased to share that in the past year we have celebrated some exciting accomplishments. We proudly graduated our chief residents **Dr. Matthew Clements, now an oncology fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering**, and **Dr. Jacqueline Zillioux, now a female and pelvic reconstructive fellow at the Cleveland Clinic**. We also said farewell to **Dr. Alan Jenkins** who retired after almost 40 years with the department and welcomed **Dr. Nico Ortiz** who joined our faculty after finishing a male reconstruction fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern.



Pictured:
Dr. Noah Schenkman and residents after our biannual laparoscopic training lab



Pictured:
Dr. Matthew Clements presenting on one of the last functional HM-3 lithotripters

In light of our current and future growth, we have recruited **Dr. Nishant Patel, an endourologist trained at UCSD and the Cleveland Clinic** to join our faculty in January 2021. We also recruited our own UVA Urology resident **Dr. Haerin Beller to join us in General Urology** and are currently recruiting a faculty member in urologic oncology to join the **oncology team which has started to move to outpatient clinical care to the Emily Couric Cancer Center**.

As you all know, innovation is integral to the department and we are proud to announce Dr. Ryan Smith's low intensity shock wave (LiSW) trial for erectile dysfunction, trials in PSMA PET pre and post prostate cancer treatment, and expansion of our clinical practice to include transperineal biopsy, retzius sparing robotic prostatectomy, Rezum and HoLEP for BPH just to name a few.



Pictured:
Dr. Ryan Smith

Awards

Each year, the American Urological Association (AUA) honors the contributions of physician researchers and educators to the field of medicine, the specialty of Urology, and the AUA. This year we're honored to celebrate two UVA Urology recipients. **Dr. Tracey Krupski received the Robert C. Flanigan Education Award** for fostering evidence-based decision making in urology, and outstanding commitment to resident and medical student education. Also, former UVA Urologist **Dr. Marguerite Lippert received the Presidential Citation** for committed contributions to the success of women in urology and the education of urologists. We'd like to congratulate all honorees! Please visit the AUA website to view the complete list of recipients: <https://www.auanet.org/about-us/aua-governance/awards/award-winners>

This year, the UVA School of Medicine Office of Faculty Development awarded the **Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching to Dr. Nora Kern**. This award is given to recognize faculty who excel in teaching students within UVA's School of Medicine. The recipient demonstrates exemplary compliance with the Health System's ASPIRE values. A student quoted, "Dr. Kern has gone above and beyond to teach and mentor me. Any student or resident that has worked with her can attest to not only her outstanding teaching ability, but to her unremitting dedication to her students' lives." Another commented, "Dr. Kern wants the best for each and every student she encounters and while her standards are high, so is her willingness to help students arrive at that standard." Dr. Nora Kern is the first faculty member in the Department of Urology to receive this award in the last 15 years. Not only that, but both **Dr. Nora Kern and Dr. Ryan Smith were elected to the UVA Academy for Excellence in Education**. This is a tremendous honor and accomplishment that celebrates their dedication to and success in teaching and education.

Dr. David Rapp was also awarded two grants this past year from the UVA Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation. The first was their **Global Center Grants Competition that he was awarded for his project "Impact of Urologic Disorders on Job and Caretaking Responsibilities in Belize"**. "In low-income and middle-income countries (LMIC), frequent health care appointments related to untreated surgical illness can impede the ability to maintain employment and contribute to poverty. The UVA Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation Global Center Grants Competition project seeks to better quantify the financial impact of untreated urologic surgical disease in Belize by assessing the effect of these diseases on patients' ability to maintain employment. This initiative will be performed in conjunction with visiting UVA surgical teams providing urologic surgeries and aspires to be part of a long-term global focus placed on the importance of providing safe and affordable surgical care in LMIC."

The second grant was the **UVA Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation Global Programs of Distinction award**. This award "seeks to foster active global research programs that present the opportunity to become self-sustaining centers of distinction through outside grants and philanthropy, and/or can come to be recognized as an area of particular intellectual strength at the university."

Dr. David Rapp was awarded this grant for his project: "Women's Health Physical Therapy Initiative for the Management of Pelvic Health Disorders in Belize".

Pictured: Dr. David Rapp at work with Global Surgical Expedition



Andrology Research Highlights

This past year marked several research highlights for our collective andrology faculty as the department has continued its tradition in groundbreaking research in infertility and sexual medicine. Through a collaborative effort, **UVA Urology launched a clinical trial investigating the safety and efficacy of Shockwave Therapy for Erectile Dysfunction.**

The trial has seen vast interest and focuses on men with baseline erectile dysfunction and those who are preparing to undergo prostate cancer treatment or have recently recovered from treatment. The trial has brought patients from around the country forenrollment. The research efforts of our faculty were also recognized at several national conferences this year as well. Although the AUA met virtually this year, **Dr. Jeff Lysiak and Dr. Ryan Smith received an AUA Early Career Showcase Award for their research investigating phosphatidylserine as a biomarker of sperm vitality and fertilization competency.** Their work is ongoing with the launch of additional clinical investigations into the development of a new diagnostic test for male infertility and a means of selecting sperm for assisted reproduction. **Dr. Ryan Smith, as a part of his collaboration with Contraline, Inc., was also awarded a Virginia Catalyst Grant for their work on "Clinical Translation of a Male Contraceptive Procedure."** However, it was not just the faculty receiving research awards this year. **Dr. Marisa Gray, one of our chief residents, received an STP Research Award Certificate from the Sexual Medicine Society of North America and the MAP Education & Research Foundation.** This was for her work on "ShouldMen Presenting with Depression be Screened for Low Testosterone." The andrology faculty also grew with the addition of Dr. Nico Ortiz who is providing both reconstructive and prosthetics care to our patients and has joined in the andrology fellowship faculty. **Our current fellow, Dr. Hamza Beano, is planning to join the Beaumont Health system upon finishing his fellowship this year.**

Stay In Touch

We look forward to seeing each other in person after the pandemic recedes, but in the meantime we can stay in touch through several venues. We have started a **monthly Grand Rounds in Urology on the first Wednesday of the month from 0700-0800**. In September we had Dr. Peter Pinto of the National Cancer Institute discuss Prostate MRI. **You can visit us virtually and receive CME credit for your participation. Details are on our website: <https://med.virginia.edu/urology/education-and-residents/>.**

Finally, I would like to ask all of our alumni, former faculty, and friends to consider joining Doximity so that you have the ability to vote in the U.S News and World Report's annual hospital and program rankings. **The annual program reputations survey of urologists from Doximity is a big factor in determining rankings on U.S. News and World Report's annual report on hospitals, and larger departments and residency programs tend to get higher reputation scores as a result of more voters. UVA Urology is small but mighty, so I would ask each of you to consider putting our department on your list when the Doximity survey is sent to you.** If you are not already a member, please consider joining: <https://www.doximity.com/>

We hope that 2021 brings you all good health and prosperity and that we can get together for an alumni reception at the AUA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas in 2021. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about the department or any of the new programs mentioned.

Stay connected through the department's website and social media:

 <https://med.virginia.edu/urology/>

 <https://www.facebook.com/UVaUrology>

 <https://twitter.com/uvaurology>

 <https://www.instagram.com/uvastreamteam/?hl=en>

Sincerely,

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