Message from the Division of Urology,

This newsletter is the first of a biannual letter that will inform Utah urology alumni and the urologic community in the Intermountain West about the important work we are doing at the University of Utah, Division of Urology. I am proud of the progress we have made over the course of the last year even with the significant challenges of the pandemic. The division has continued to grow and now consists of approximately 20 full time faculty, 3 PhD research scientists, 3 fellows, 12 residents, and 11 advanced practice providers. We have faculty that cover all sub-specialties of clinical urology. Our academic, research, and educational endeavors continue to expand and flourish because of the commitment of the talented faculty who have joined the division over the course of the last few years.

Please let me know if you are interested in getting involved as an alumni or part of the urology community in the Intermountain West.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Myers, MD FACS
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UPCOMING EVENT:
Inaugural Middleton Visiting Professor

The Division of Urology is happy to announce the inaugural Middleton Visiting Professor this fall. The event will be held on Tuesday, October 26th.

The first visiting professor is Dr. Jay Smith, MD who began his career as a resident at University of Utah. Dr. Middleton was a key mentor for Dr. Smith and he spent an additional 10 years after completing a fellowship at University of Utah working in Urologic Oncology. Dr. Smith left the University to become chairman of the urology program at Vanderbilt University. He remains a professor of urology at Vanderbilt and is the editor of the Journal of Urology. Dr. Smith is a masterful teacher and lecturer and he is sure to share much of the insight he has gathered over a long career in urology.

If you are interested in attending the event, keep an eye out for further information. We will also have a virtual option for those that want to watch closer to home.

THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19

Like almost all of you, the Division of Urology shut down clinical operations for close to 6 weeks in March of last year. The pause in operations allowed the University of Utah to create vital infrastructure to combat the coronavirus pandemic.
Urology embraced telehealth and the continued use of telehealth has proved to be a valuable tool to coordinate complex pre-operative care for patients that are spread through the Intermountain West, as well as a great tool for clinicians and patients when close follow up care is needed.

During this pause in clinical operations, the Department of Surgery and health sciences researchers Drs. Heidi Hanson, PhD and Jim Hotaling, MD were able to demonstrate using the MarketScan insurance database that reductions in elective surgery increased ICU capacity dramatically with the greatest financial impact upon health systems stemming from musculoskeletal, digestive, and cardiac surgery. This important paper helps health systems understand how shutdowns are likely to affect their financial viability and was published in *BMC Health Services Research*.

In addition, Dr. Jingtao Guo, PhD, who joined the faculty this past Summer leveraged a cutting-edge technique referred to as single cell RNA sequencing to understand the likelihood of COVID-19 infection of the human testis. This analysis revealed sparse receptors for coronavirus and was complemented by a direct analysis semen from men from Wuhan showing lack of COVID-19 via PCR detection. COVID-19 infection in the testes was of major concern early in the pandemic as many other viruses have demonstrated affinity for the testis, such as the Zika virus and Ebola. This paper was published in *Fertility and Sterility*.

**HONORS**

**INFERTILITY RESEARCH**

Dr. Douglas Carrell PhD, retired in January of this year and was honored for his research into the epigenetics of infertility and commitment and service to the American Society of Andrology with the Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. James Hotaling, MD, MS received the Mathew P. Hardy Award also from the American Society of Andrology for his significant contributions to the field of Andrology. The basis of the award was Dr. Hotaling’s work with the Utah Population Database in defining the link between infertility and somatic health.

**HEALTH SERVICES**

Dr. Catherine deVries, MD received the Urology Care Foundation Humanitarian Award for her work in founding the International Volunteers in Urology. The organization she founded continues to grow and is one of the leading urologic surgery teaching organizations in the world.
The Division of Urology published 115 PubMed indexed research papers last year. This productivity was driven by work within all of the sections that make up the division: Adult/Reconstructive, Men’s Health, Pediatrics, and Oncology.

**Highlights from Our Trainees**

**Darshan Patel, MD** authored a paper titled ‘Reasons for cessation of clean intermittent catheterization after spinal cord injury: Results from the Neurogenic Bladder Research Group spinal cord injury registry’ published in Neurourology and Urodynamics.

**Trevor Hunt** who was the research fellow in urologic oncology explored the concept of behavioral economics and decisional fatigue in prostate cancer and authored the paper ‘Leveraging behavioral economics to reduce low-value prostate cancer screening’, published in European Urology.

**Sorena Keihani, MD MSCI** who has matriculated as a new PGY1 after completing his Masters in Clinical Investigation and the men’s health and reconstructive urology research fellow, published more data from the Multi- Institutional Genitourinary Trauma Study with a paper entitled ‘The American Association for the Surgery of Trauma renal injury grading scale: Implications of the 2018 revisions for injury reclassification and predicting bleeding interventions’ in the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery.

**Neha Malhotra, MD**, the pediatrics clinical fellow, explored an educational project and published ‘Experiences with quality improvement in training: A national survey of urology residents,’ published in Urology.

**Numerous Grant Applications**

Multiple grant applications were successful this last year including **Dr. Alejandro Sanchez**, one of the new urologic oncologists, who received a seed grant from the Huntsman Cancer Institute to study the relationship between obesity and renal cell cancer outcomes.

Our current research fellow, also in urologic oncology, **Mouneeb Choudry** under the mentorship of **Dr. Brock O’Neil** received a Research Stimulus Award for a grant proposal “Social Determinants of Disease Outcomes in Genitourinary Cancer. NIH Geographical Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMaP) Region 6 Research Stimulus Award Program.”
RO1 Grant Awarded

Drs. Jingtao Guo, PhD and James Hotaling, MD were co-investigators on an RO1 grant awarded to study aging and the effects on spermatogenesis. Many more grants are being reviewed and or will be submitted this coming year as we continue to grow the research enterprise at University of Utah.

EDUCATION

Announcing Two New Fellowships Starting Summer, 2021

**Genitourinary Medicine:** As the field evolves there is increasing need for office based medical urology. Dr. John Smith, DO joined the Division of Urology two years ago, after completing a family practice residency and a year long genitourinary medicine fellowship. The positive experience of integrating his energy and knowledge into our team has motivated us to pursue a similar fellowship training track at University of Utah.

**Urologic Oncology:** The Huntsman Urologic Oncology Division is starting a year-long clinical fellowship in urologic oncology, starting this July.

Interview with Chief Resident: Dr. Suzanne Lange

Dr. Deborah Jacobson had the opportunity to sit down and talk with Dr. Suzanne Lange, one of the three rising chief residents, about her experiences at the University of Utah and goals for the future.
Congratulations and Welcome!

We would like to congratulate our graduating residents and fellows and welcome our three new incoming residents to the Division of Urology.

GIVE BACK TO THE DIVISION OF UROLOGY TODAY!

The Division of Urology has established a new education fund. The purpose of this fund is to establish a way of giving back to the University of Utah, Division of Urology. We have so many talented graduates and other urologists that make up the Intermountain West community and want a way to engage with trainees. The fund will support research efforts for the residents, a scholarship for the International Volunteers in Urology for those residents interested in global surgery, and many more education and wellness initiatives. Consider donating if you have a desire to support these remarkable individuals and their training.

For more information on how you can support the Division of Urology and any other philanthropic questions you may have, please contact:

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