NIH-funded Research on Bladder Inflammation

A recent National Institutes of Health RO1 project grant is allowing investigators in the Division of Urology to work in partnership with the University of Utah Center for Therapeutic Biomaterials to further understanding and treatment of inflammatory diseases of the bladder.

The laboratory investigating bladder inflammation is directed by Si Oottamasathien, MD, pediatric urologist and Director of Basic Science and Translational Research for Pediatric Urology, in collaboration with Glenn Prestwich, PhD, Presidential Professor of Medicinal Chemistry within the Center for Therapeutic Biomaterials.

“Our work includes developing a new mouse model for bladder inflammation, understanding the role of mast cells in the process, and developing novel therapeutics to prevent inflammation, pain, and fibrosis from occurring,” Dr. Oottamasathien says. “An initial focus has been on interstitial cystitis. Once perfected, this technology could be applied to additional inflammation-induced health concerns; that potential makes this work particularly exciting.”

PREVENTION NOW

One of the therapeutics under investigation—a compound known as sulfated glycosaminoglycan ether (SAGE)—may be able to help protect patients undergoing radiation therapy of the pelvis. “Radiation administered to treat cancers of the bladder or rectum is not very precise, and radiation tends to scatter to surrounding organs,” Dr. Oottamasathien says. “This can lead to proctitis [inflammation of the rectum] or cystitis [inflammation of the bladder]. The SAGE compound may be able to greatly reduce or even prevent this. Dr. Prestwich and I are working with GlycoMira Therapeutics to answer this question.”

Dr. Oottamasathien’s research has earned both the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Urology first prize for basic research (2010, 2012) and the American Urological Association Young Investigators Forum second prize (2013).

To learn more about research being conducted by Dr. Oottamasathien and his colleagues at the Division of Urology, visit healthcare.utah.edu/urology and select “Academics and Research.”

60
the number of times someone with severe IC may need to urinate daily

4.9 MILLION
people in the United States with symptoms of interstitial cystitis (IC):
3.3 million women and 1.6 million men

1 in 26 men will develop bladder cancer.
Catherine deVries, MD, FACS, FAAP, pediatric urologist and Director of the Center for Global Surgery at the University of Utah, is on a mission to make quality urological care available around the world. Dr. deVries founded the IVUmed organization in 1995 to help train urologists in developing countries. This non-profit organization sends volunteer healthcare professionals from the United States and elsewhere to provide urology workshops in limited-resource locations: Haiti, Senegal, Ghana, India, Vietnam, Honduras, and many others—all told, more than 30 countries. Additionally, IVUmed coordinates telehealth training via remote videoconferencing technology and sponsors scholarships for residents. As IVUmed founder and president, Dr. deVries has received international recognition, including the American College of Surgeons’ 2012 Surgical Humanitarian Award and the American Medical Association’s Dr. Nathan Davis International Award for Government Service. In her role as Director for Global Surgery at the University of Utah, she has put together a prominent and well-attended national meeting for Extreme Affordability in 2012 and 2013.

SYMBIOSIS

IVUmed has been headquartered in Utah since 2000. Dr. deVries describes the relationship between the two institutions as “symbiotic.” “IVUmed receives strong support from both the Division of Urology and the University of Utah Center for Global Surgery,” says Josh Wood, Executive Director of IVUmed. “Several training volunteers have come from the Division of Urology, and the university participates in our annual benefit to raise awareness and funding for IVUmed’s mission.”

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“We are excited about establishing an annual urology conference that will provide attendees with cutting-edge information on specific urologic disease processes and, we anticipate, enable them to render even better care to their patients.”

—William Lowrance, MD, MPH

Mark Your Calendar and Join Us!
First Annual University of Utah Urology Fall Forum

In Fall 2014, the Division of Urology will welcome urologists from near and far to Park City, Utah.

The first of what will become an annual event will be held September 25–28, 2014, at the five-star Stein Eriksen Lodge at Deer Valley. Invited speakers—including urologists, radiation oncologists, and medical oncologists—will present and discuss state-of-the-art, multidisciplinary approaches to treating prostate cancer and managing complications of the disease.

“Our chosen topic should have broad appeal among both general urologists and those specializing in urologic cancers,” says meeting planner William Lowrance, MD, MPH, urologic oncologist and investigator at the Huntsman Cancer Institute. “The conference will be a time for learning and discussion, and it will also give families and friends of the urologic community a chance to enjoy Park City autumn activities—mountain biking, trail running, golfing, and fly fishing to name just a few—during one of the most scenic times of year.”

To learn more about the 2014 University of Utah Urology Conference, email Dr. Lowrance at will.lowrance@hci.utah.edu. Additional details and conference registration information will be released in the coming months.

Richard Middleton, MD, Professor Emeritus and Former Chief of the Division of Urology, did much to shape the Division of Urology during his 36-year stint as “the Chief.”

To recognize Dr. Middleton’s contributions, a dinner will be held in his honor during the inaugural 2014 University of Utah Urology Fall Forum. Former residents are encouraged to attend.

Guide for Adventures

There are many fall activities in Park City and the organization of the Fall Forum invites faculty members to help attendees enjoy them. Faculty members will be available to lead groups of colleagues and their families on outdoor excursions during daytime breaks in the conference schedule. The fall colors in the mountains should be optimal and temperatures perfect.

Drs. Pat Cartwright and Doug Carrell plan to lead a trail running adventure, while Drs. Andy Southwick, Chris Dechet, and Bob Stephenson will spearhead a mountain biking trip. Drs. Si Oottamasathien and Will Lowrance, both avid fly fishermen, look forward to introducing fellow anglers to local streams.
Welcome, Dr. Hotaling

James M. Hotaling, MD, MS, joins the Division as the first fellowship-trained male infertility physician in the state and region.

The Division of Urology is pleased to welcome Dr. Hotaling to its faculty. He joins the group after medical school at Duke University, a residency at the University of Washington and fellowship (with Craig Niederberger, MD) at the University of Illinois–Chicago.

During fellowship, Dr. Hotaling gained extensive exposure to all surgical and medical aspects of managing male infertility as well as helping to initiate several studies on genetic causes of infertility. One project of note involved establishing a protocol for multi-institutional collection and banking of DNA in a de-identified central data repository. This infertility-specific electronic medical record, linked to DNA samples, will greatly facilitate collaborative investigations into the causes of and effective treatments for male infertility. Dr. Hotaling’s research effort is aided by a master’s degree in epidemiology. With more than 25 publications and a role as associate editor for Fertility and Sterility, he is well positioned for research success.

“My clinical practice is focused on male infertility,” Dr. Hotaling says. “I want to make myself as available as possible and help provide optimal care to those needing assistance with fertility. It is a tremendous opportunity to join Dr. Douglas Carrell and Dr. Kenneth Aston in the nationally recognized andrology effort here and to be part of the excellent and growing Division of Urology.”