President’s Message

by Christopher S. Cooper, MD

I am truly honored and privileged to serve as your president of the North Central Section of the American Urologic Association, and can’t wait to meet with friends and colleagues at this year’s 88th Annual Meeting of the section, which will be held in Chicago from September 10 – 13. It promises to be an outstanding opportunity to socialize and enjoy the best the city has to offer, and for those who think they’ve seen everything in Chicago, consider taking in the view from the SkyDeck of the Willis (formerly Sears) Tower with its amazing cracking glass floor that recently made national news! Coming in a close second in terms of excitement is the outstanding scientific program Dr. Gary Faerber has put together in his first year as secretary of the North Central Section.

Some of the highlights of the program include:

- Live surgery transmission from Northwestern University
- 1/2 Day Health Policy and Practice Management Program
- 1/2 Day Primary Care Update Program
- 154 abstracts for Podium Presentations, 55 abstracts for Poster Presentations and eight videos
- The increasingly competitive and popular NCS Resident Super Bowl!

In addition to all of our local talent and expertise, there will be four all-star visiting professors that will deliver lectures, updates and panel-discussions, as well as interact with the attendees in a variety of other formats. These visiting professors include:

- Dr. Craig A. Peters (Washington, DC) – Dr. Peters is the chief of Surgical Innovation, Technology and Translations in the Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation. He is also a Principal Investigator in the Bioengineering Initiative within the institute.
- Dr. Dean G. Assimos (Birmingham, AL) – Dr. Assimos is chair of the Department of Urology at the University of Alabama School of Medicine – Birmingham. He received his BS from Purdue University, MD from Loyola University and completed his residency and fellowship at Northwestern University. Dr. Assimos will share his expertise in urolithiasis and endourology.
- Dr. E. Ann Gormley (Lebanon, NH) – Dr. Gormley is a professor of surgery at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. She is an expert in female and reconstructive urology, and among other topics, she will be discussing the surgical management of mesh complications.
- Dr. Joel B. Nelson (Pittsburgh, PA) – Dr. Nelson is the Frederic N. Schwentker Professor and chair of the Department of Urology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and co-director at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute’s Comprehensive Prostate and Urologic Cancer Center. His specialties include cancer/ oncology, prostate and genitourinary cancer, surgical oncology, urology and urologic cancer.

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I was thrilled to see the terrific level of recognition of some of our members’ outstanding accomplishments by the American Urologic Association this year. Four members received the following AUA Awards and are to be congratulated:

- **Hugh Hampton Young Award**
  - Mani Menon, MD – For innovation in robotic surgery, changing the field of surgical therapy for prostate cancer and improving the quality of life for many patients.

- **Gold Cystoscopy Award**
  - Williams W. Roberts, II, MD - For outstanding contributions in the areas of mechanical and cavitational tissue ablation through the development of a new therapeutic technology known as histotripsy.

- **Distinguished Service Award**
  - Patrick H. McKenna, MD, FACS, FAAP – For extraordinary efforts and exemplary service as the chair of the Judicial and Ethics Committee.

- **Presidential Citation Award**
  - Eric A. Klein, MD – For innovative research in molecular markers in prostate cancer, leadership of Society of Urologic Oncology and building a center of excellence at the Cleveland Clinic.

Finally, in these rapidly changing times, it is important that we continue working with each other and taking the time to maintain traditions. I hope you will all be able to make time and accomplish both of these objectives by attending the North Central Section meeting this year. Jodi and I are looking forward to welcoming each of you and your guests in Chicago, along with Lynn and John Kryger, Nandini and Chandru Sundaram, Linda and Pat McKenna, Kathleen Cooney and Gary Faerber, Nora and Gary Kirsh and Shannon and Mark Stovsky. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, or I can be of any assistance.

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Secretary’s Report
By: Gary J. Faerber, MD

The 88th Annual Meeting of the North Central Section will be held in the friendly confines of the Swissôtel in the exciting city of Chicago from September 10 – 13, 2014. Dr. Christopher Cooper, our current president, along with the NCS Planning Committee, have organized an outstanding meeting, starting out with a full day of scientific activities slated for Wednesday. This day is highlighted by the very popular live surgery televised from Northwestern University and moderated by Dr. Christopher Gonzalez. This year will feature two surgeries: placement of an artificial urinary sphincter and a urethroplasty. Wednesday will also highlight the Health Policy and Practice Management Seminar, organized by our current NCS Policy Chair, Dr. Matthew Gettman. He has assembled an outstanding group of influential speakers from both inside and outside of the NCS who will cover timely topics, such as implementation of the Affordable Care Act and its impact on our practice, an update on tort reform, physician payment reform, the collaborative relationships between payers and providers and updates from large urology practice groups, just to name a few. Wednesday afternoon will also feature the second Primary Care Update in Urology organized by Dr. Ajay Singla. This afternoon course is designed for Physician Assistants and advanced Nurse Practitioners as well as urologists interested in reviewing general urologic topics germane to maintenance of certification. Topics to be covered include controversies surrounding PSA screening, the metabolic evaluation of nephrolithiasis, recurrent UTI management, LUT’s and OAB in women and AUA Guideline reviews of hematuria, BPH and urologic trauma. If you have PAs or NPs in your practice, this course provides an ideal opportunity for an excellent review of these important topics.

Dr. Cooper has chosen several outstanding speakers who will cover a variety of important and timely topics. This year we are delighted to have Dr. Craig A. Peters from Children’s National Health System in Washington DC, Dr. Joel Nelson, chairman of the Department of Urology at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Dean Assimos, chairman of the Department of Urology at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, and Dr. E. Ann Gormley, professor and Residency Program Director at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire. Our visiting professors will provide state-of-the-art lectures, participate in interactive panels, serve as discussants, and once again, participate in the widely popular, NCS exclusive “Ask the Experts” panels, which are scheduled throughout the meeting.

Drs. Aaron Milbank and Tobias Kohler have arranged for an outstanding session for the young urologists (and old urologists!) of the NCS that promises to be one of the highlights of the meeting again this year.

The meeting will also feature breakfast breakout sessions Thursday and Friday and will cover topics including pediatric stone disease and a debate regarding pediatric robotic pyeloplasty, bladder and upper tract urothelial cancer, female urology, endourology, urotrauma and robotic surgery and strategies for management of complications unique to this technology. In addition to breakfast sessions, there will be lunchtime medical education seminars, kindly sponsored by our industry supporters, covering important topics for all practicing member urologists. The exhibit hall of the Swissôtel is in close proximity to the meeting halls so we hope that you will visit our industry sponsors as a show of support for this scientific meeting.

The Program Planning Committee reviewed over 400 abstracts and videos submitted this year, making it another very competitive meeting for acceptance of original work into the scientific meeting. As a result, the quality of scientific material is second-to-none, and the full gamut of urologic topics will be covered in poster, podium and video sessions.

Of course, the meeting would not be complete without the annual NCS Resident Bowl, hosted this year by Dr. Bradley Schwartz, our new incoming Education Committee Chairman. This year’s Resident Bowl Competition will span both Friday and Saturday, so don’t make any plans to leave early. Stick around and test your knowledge against some of the best and brightest residents of the NCS. I look forward to seeing you all in Chicago. I hope to see you in September!

Treasurer’s Report
By: Gary M. Kirsh, MD

The 2014 financial report included both the annual meeting cash surplus and the Educational Fund annual performance. The Educational Fund of the NCS has a balance of $2,630,654 as of June 30, 2014.

The NCS fund balance as of June 30, 2014, totals $2,871,607. The period-to-date surplus is $274,402. As of June 30, 2014, the operating account (OA) has a balance of $210,727.
Representative to the AUA Board of Directors

By: Stephen Y. Nakada, MD, FACS

What a thrill the Annual Meeting was in Orlando! Under the strong leadership of Drs. Pramod Sogani and Gopal Badlani, the AUA was a success in many ways. This year the secretary-elect of the AUA will be our own Dr. Manoj Monga, from Cleveland. Congratulations, Manoj! As I have stated before, it has been an honor to serve as your representative to the AUA Board these past three years. As I enter my final year, I look forward to hearing more of your input on the AUA and continue to strive to keep the communications open between our Section and the AUA.

As part of a lengthy strategic planning process, significant efforts in education, research, health policy and fiscal planning continue at the AUA. Educationally, e-learning and computer-based education is known as “Any Willing Provider” on the books. Specialty hospitals and the South Dakota Medical Association are behind the measure. They say it will give patients wider latitude in picking their doctors.

Ohio Gathering Health Work Force Data, Exploring Ways to Extend Doctors’ Reach Through Team-Based Care

Involving teams of nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, and other assistants to take some care tasks off the doctors’ hands allows “getting more done for the patient at a higher level,” said Dr. Ted Wymyslo, the former state health director. Wymyslo and other presenters at a forum on the health-care work force I attended last week, hosted by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, talked about using larger teams of varied training levels to address the primary care worker shortages. That message echoes the recommendations of a Brookings Institution report out Thursday that says states should do more to expand authority and training for medical assistants, nurses and others to involve them in care teams.

North Dakota US Attorney Turns Up Heat on Health Care Fraud

U.S. Attorney Timothy Purdon of North Dakota said his office has added a special prosecutor — in concert with the Department of Health and Human Services — who works specifically on cases involving doctors and others who work with Fargo-based Noridian Healthcare Solutions. Noridian handles Medicare claims for many states. Purdon’s office recently prosecuted a case involving a Seattle doctor accused of turning in phony Medicare claims that included reports of nursing home visits to patients who were dead.
Minnesota Medical Technology Industry Declining
Once a bastion for the medical device industry, Minnesota may be losing its competitive edge. ...The Daily Circuit looks at the health of our state’s medical technology companies, and how changing industry dynamics may have motivated the proposed Medtronic-Covidien merger. (Minnesota Public Radio; July 23, 2014)

Michigan Governor Signs Budget, GME Funding Restored
As expected, Gov. Rick Snyder signed House Bill 5313 into law, resulting in the approval of the Department of Community Health (MDCH) budget containing more than $18 billion in appropriations. The budget directs more than $95 million in additional funding to Michigan hospitals to help serve their patients and communities, whereas the original executive budget recommendation would have resulted in cuts of more than $40 million. One key element was the restoration of $4.3 million to support graduate medical education.

Iowa Physician and Trial Lawyer Groups Draft “Candor” Legislation
A working group comprised of representatives of the Iowa Medical Society and the member organization for Iowa trial attorneys has met several times to consider greater transparency and collaboration, when an unexpected medical outcome may occur. The group anticipates that a joint recommendation will be made to the Legislative Interim Study Committee later this fall. (Iowa Medical Society; July 18, 2014)

Illinois Prepares for Expanded Medicaid Managed Care
The state of Illinois is nailing down key Medicaid policies ahead of a massive managed care rollout and accountable care experiment. Governor Pat Quinn signed into law what’s being called a “landmark” Medicaid modernization plan, covering everything from nursing homes to managed care to the hospital assessments that maximize federal funding. With half of Illinois’ 3 million-plus Medicaid beneficiaries required to be enrolled in capitated managed care by 2015 under a 2012 law, the new law restores previously-cut adult dental and podiatry care, defines responsibilities for managed care organizations and accountable care entities, and transitions to a new hospital payment methodology. (Healthcare Payer News; June 18, 2014)

CMS to Conduct First-Ever Research on Medicaid Beneficiaries’ Access to Care
The CMS is planning to conduct its first nationwide research effort to answer the question of whether adult Medicaid beneficiaries can find providers, and if factors such as being in managed Medicaid versus a fee-for-service offering aid or hurt the search. What it’s likely to find, according to interviews conducted with state Medicaid officials and medical society officials in 20 states, is a mixed picture overshadowed by general concerns that reimbursement rates remain too low to entice many doctors to accept new Medicaid patients. (Modern Healthcare, July 8, 2014)

Indiana’s Policymakers Eye Expansion of Medical Device Industry
Fifty percent of the medical devices used throughout the world are manufactured in Indiana. State and federal leaders are exploring ways to increase that already-dominant market share. During summer “interim” meetings of the Committee on Economic Development, state lawmakers will research and solicit testimony on promoting R&D, increasing venture capital investments and improving employee training. After meeting with industry leaders in May 2014, U.S. Senator Dan Coats affirmed his commitment to eliminating the medical device tax contained within the Affordable Care Act and encouraging more efficient technology approval processes at the Food and Drug Administration. (IPBS, May 30, 2014)

Links to these reports and supporting information are available online: www.bit.ly/ncsaua2014.
Plan to Attend!

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