Our New President

By: Gary J. Faerber, MD

I am honored to introduce Dr. Gary Kirsh as our incoming president of the North Central Section. Dr. Kirsh has indeed been a long-standing and invaluable member of the NCS and has served as Treasurer. Dr. Kirsh earned his medical degree from the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine in 1984. He completed his urology residency at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1989. He then joined a private practice group in Cincinnati and helped found The Urology Group, a 38-urologist integrated group practice headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has served as Chairman of the Board from 2000 through 2008, and is currently the President of The Urology Group which serves all regions of Cincinnati’s metropolitan area.

Dr. Kirsh has long history of involvement in organized urology, urologic health policy, and advocacy. He is the Immediate Past-Chairman of UROPAC, urology’s only political action committee, jointly sponsored by the AACU and the AUA. Dr. Kirsh is a Past-President of the American Association of Clinical Urologists, as well as Past-President of the Ohio Urologic Society.

Dr. Kirsh was instrumental in founding the Large Urology Group Practice Association (LUGPA), which now represents approximately 25% of practicing urologists. He currently serves as the President of LUGPA.

In addition to his service to the NCS, Dr. Kirsh has been heavily involved in important leadership roles in the AUA. He has served on the AUA Legislative Committee, the AUA Therapeutic and Diagnostic Imaging Committee, the AUA Investment Committee, and the AUA Health Policy Council. Dr. Kirsh has been a much sought-after speaker to both academic and private practice groups to provide his great knowledge and insight on the socioeconomic and political issues facing urology and organized medicine. His expertise has been called for by state and national legislative bodies where he has provided legislative advice and testimony in support of physicians’ issues.

Dr. Kirsh has a special interest in prostate cancer and has lectured widely nationally on prostate cancer, including newer modalities such as prostate radiosurgery and emerging therapies in management of advanced prostate cancer.

Gary and his wife Nora, a former deaf educator and now currently a fitness instructor, have been married for 26 years. Like their parents, they have two very accomplished children: Elliana, who has undergraduate degrees in both opera performance and neuroscience, and is now completing her medical degree at Harvard; and Ari, who is completing his degrees in microbiology and philosophy, and like his father, is interested in pursuing a career in health policy.

The NCS is extremely fortunate to have such outstanding individuals as Dr. Kirsh in our section. Please join me and Kathy, and the board members in congratulating Gary in being president of the North Central Section.
The 89th Annual Meeting of the North Central Section at the Ritz-Carlton hotel on Amelia Island hosted by Dr. Patrick McKenna and his wife, Linda, was an outstanding meeting. I think all who attended not only appreciated the scientific and social activities, but the beautiful venue and the lovely weather all combined for a wonderful respite from the hectic fall schedules back home.

There were over 400 abstracts submitted (the most in recent NCS history) and just over 295 being accepted. The program committee thanks all who submitted abstracts. The presenters should be congratulated on the quality of the science and the concise and cogent manner in which their work was presented.

As has been recent custom, the meeting began with the Health Policy Session chaired by Dr. Matthew Gettman, our NCS Health Policy Chair who assembled an outstanding group of speakers who addressed topics such as health care reform, workforce issues, physician payment and quality care, telemedicine, and practice innovations. Kudos to Matt for organizing this tremendous session. In similar fashion, Dr. Ajay Singla organized an equally outstanding standing-room only concurrent session focusing on topics salient for primary care urology. Dr. Todd Morgan moderated a panel discussion on management of high-risk prostate cancer with such distinguished panelists of Steve Boorgian, Robert Flanigan, and Sam Chang. Dr. Chris Coogan, along with Dr. Elizabeth Kavaler and Attorney Darlene King, led an outstanding panel discussion on methods to prevent and defend medical malpractice. Current AUA President William Gee provided the members an AUA update which was followed by a panel moderated by our NCS President Dr. McKenna where important issues facing urology were discussed. Dr. Wayne Hellstrom was our invited AUA course of choice speaker and gave an excellent discussion on the diagnosis and management of the hypogonadal male. I wish to give special thanks to our visiting speakers, Drs. Gerald Jordan, Samuel Chang, Sender Herschorn, and Fernando Ferrer who gave excellent talks on such salient topics including renal sparing surgery for Wilms’s tumor, management of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer, important issues regarding ABU certification and re-certification, challenging reconstructive urologic cases, and management of the failed sling patient. Dr. McKenna gave an incredible first-hand account of the attempted assassination of President Reagan while he was a medical student at George Washington University emergency room when the President and the other injured parties were initially transported for their medical care.

I also wish to extend my thanks to Dr. James Relle and his wife, Lisa, for organizing an amazing social events calendar. As has been custom, the first day’s social activity began with the Welcome Reception hosted in the Science and Technology Hall featuring great food and delicious wines including this year’s bourbon! During the week, there was ample opportunity to partake of the spa offerings, shop downtown, bike around the island, watch the sunrise on the beach or play a round of golf at a wonderful course just walking distance from the front lobby. Some enjoyed the river cruise while others enjoyed a group fishing expedition. Theme night featured a Farm-to-Table banquet held on the hotel lawn, which was a smashing success with outstanding dishes served by local farmers and food artisans. The week’s social activity culminated in the Annual Banquet lasting into the wee hours of the night.

The Annual Resident Bowl, hosted by Dr. Bradley Schwartz, was once again incredibly competitive. The winning team of Luke Frederick (Southern Illinois University), Ian McLaren (University of Michigan), Hanhan Li (Henry Ford Health System), and Luke Edwards (Beaumont—Oakland University) will represent the North Central Section at the AUA Resident Bowl in San Diego, California this spring of 2016.

Congratulations to the following awardees: Dr. Brian Linder for the Traveling Fellowship Award, Dr. Matthew Uhlman for the John D. Silbar Award and Dr. Mahmood Hai for the Thirlby Award. The full list of individual award winners for their presentations from the meeting can be found on the NCS Website.

The Annual Business Meeting approved the Ohio appointment of Dr. James Ulchaker as President-Elect of the NCS, Dr. Jeffrey Triest as Secretary-Elect, Dr. Edward Cherullo as Historian, Dr. Toby Kohler as the Illinois representative, Dr. Damon Dyche as the representative from Iowa, and Dr. Dinesh Telang as the representative from Michigan. I wish to thank the members of the Nominating Committee for their tireless effort. I would like to personally extend my gratitude to Dr. Teresa Beam for her tireless work as section Historian and Drs. Kevin McVary, Elizabeth Takacs, and Jeffrey Triest for their hard work and dedication to the section as state representatives. The members approved important bylaws changes, including a new, more inclusive format for the section’s process of selecting the AUA President from in-section.

Thanks to WJ Weiser & Associates, Inc., for doing such an outstanding job of assisting me and the Program Committee with the organization of the scientific meeting. This venue was a last-minute change and Wendy and her team made the switch seamlessly. Special thanks to Samantha Panicola, Venessa Stampnick and others who have worked tirelessly both in front of and behind the scenes. A special thanks to JP Baunach for his tireless efforts in procuring sponsor support for this meeting. I want to extend gratitude to all of our promotional partners without which we could not have had such a successful meeting. I wish to give special thanks to our Platinum Partners: AbbVie, Genomic Health, Lumenis Inc, Maximum Medical Solutions, and Medivation/Astellas, and our Silver Partners: Astellas Pharma US, Inc, and Coloplast.

Remember the NCS can help manage your NCS CME. Visit the NCS website at http://ncsaau.org/home.aspx. Here you will find information on important dates, announcements, and other features including our Case of the Month.

Finally, I would like to invite you to join me and our incoming President, Dr. Gary Kirsh, to our 90th Annual Meeting, which will be September 7 – 10, 2016 at the Fairmont Hotel in the great city of Chicago. This should be an excellent meeting at a wonderful venue during a lovely time to be in the Windy City.
The NCS fund balance, as of September 30, 2015, totals $2,688,170. The period to date operating surplus totals $36,690. NCS operations have consistently resulted in a positive cash balance year to year for the past several years. This is a credit to the leadership and financial prudence of the board and NCS management (WJ Weiser & Associates, Inc.) during this past fiscal year.

NCS investments have had solidly positive returns over the last five and 10 years due to diversification of NCS funds and successful investment management by Kelly Group. The NCS, which has a diversified balanced account, has experienced investment returns that have performed well in comparison to the comparable blended index over many years of operations.

The NCS Program Committee (Patrick H. McKenna, MD, FACS, FAAP; president; Gary M. Kirsh, MD, president-elect; Gary J. Faerber, MD, Secretary and Committee Chair; James D. Relle, MD, Local Arrangements Committee Chair; and Bradley F. Schwartz, DO, FACS, Education Committee Chair) did a fantastic job of putting together a successful, enjoyable 2015 Annual Meeting in Amelia Island, Florida. I am sure everyone benefited from their hard work and dedication in providing the most up-to-date scientific information and outstanding social opportunities to our members.

I am looking forward to another successful Annual Meeting in 2016, under the leadership of Gary M. Kirsh, MD, which will be our 90th Annual Meeting held from September 7 - 10, 2016, at the Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park in Chicago, Illinois. I hope to see all of you there.

Lastly, the Health Policy Council urges all members to have their voices heard by contributing to UroPAC. Members are also encouraged to get more involved in advocacy. In this regard, the council strongly encouraged NCS members to join the AACU and LUGPA.

The AUA has approved a list of ten new legislative priorities including preservation of access to appropriate PSA testing and reformation of the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendation process. The recently appointed research chair, Dr. Olumi has created a comprehensive research plan to increase/redirect funds for urologic research through advocacy, and promote investigator funding and support. The AQUA data registry continues to grow with enrollment of many more urologists. Please visit the online AUA University for all your educational requirements including the updated core curriculum.

I am looking forward to the AUA 2016 Annual Meeting in San Diego, California in May. The AUA secretary, our section’s Dr. Monga has planned several improvements. I would encourage you to plan to attend and I look forward to seeing you there.
I hope you were able to participate in the 89th North Central Section Meeting at Amelia Island. Its tremendous success was due primarily to the hard work of our Secretary, Dr. Gary Faerber, and the Local Arrangements Committee, Dr. James Relly and Mrs. Lisa Relly. What an exciting time for all of our family and friends. The weather was perfect and every aspect of the meeting from the academic program to social events was outstanding. I feel tremendously honored and grateful to the members of the North Central Section to have had the opportunity to serve as the President of what I believe to be the top section of the AUA. It will be difficult to step down from the leadership of the North Central Section because of the many friends I have made and the opportunity to reconnect with old friends who have participated in the meetings. I cannot be more pleased to see my good friend, Dr. Gary Kirsch, ascend to the presidency. He has contributed much to our section and to our profession.

I want to recognize the outstanding visiting professors Dr. William F. Gee, Dr. Fernando Ferrer, Dr. Sam S. Chang, Dr. Sender Hershorn, and Dr. Gerald Jordan for sharing their expertise at our meeting. Additional thanks to our local NCS faculty whose yearly participation contributes to the superb meetings. Congratulations to Dr. Matthew T. Gettman for organizing the enormously successful health policy practice management program, presenting cutting edge information about legislative affairs and practice management.

The social events were, bar none, some of the best of any of our national meetings. Jim and Lisa really did a phenomenal job in organizing the social events which included: an opening/welcome cocktail reception; a very well-attended young urologist mixer, and the presidential reception with farm-to-table as its theme, culminating with the annual banquet. The luck of good weather and the fine foods of the Ritz Carlton just enhanced everything. I sincerely would like to thank Samantha Panico for an outstanding job in helping us organize the meeting and Wendy Weiser and the entire Weiser Associates group who again delivered a meeting that will hard to beat in the future.

Additionally, congratulations to Dr. Jeffrey A. Triest, the designated Secretary-Elect. It is sad to see Dr. Theresa D. Bean finish her term as Historian. Thank you for the great work you have done for the section. Our Young Urology representatives continue to be very active, hosting another outstanding Young Urology session overseen by Dr. Tobias S. Köhler, who, I am happy to learn, will be ascending from the Young Urology position on the Board to Board Representative of Illinois next year. Many changes occurred in our bylaws too. The most significant change being the election process for the North Central Section AUA presidential selection. That process has been instituted immediately and the election for the NCS AUA President will run through January. Finally, having known Gary and Nora Kirsch for many years, I know we will be seeing another fantastic year for the North Central Section with an outstanding meeting in Chicago of September 2016. I only want to iterate how thankful I am to North Central Section for allowing Linda and I to have the honor of participating in the leadership of our organization. We have made good friends and memories we will cherish forever. The section is in good shape and I see an outstanding future ahead with continued strong board leadership. We look forward to another exceptional year ahead.

IN MEMORIAM

These members supported the Section during their lifetimes and each made his or her contribution to our profession. Although separated from us by death they are fondly remembered by all of us.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Robert C. Ackles, MD</td>
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<td>William C. Baum, MD</td>
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<td>Zaher N. Boctor, MD</td>
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<td>Stephen Banta Burdon, MD</td>
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<td>Chanderbhan M. Choithani, MD</td>
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<td>Bernard E. Cohler, MD</td>
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<td>Andres I. Vargas, Jr., MD</td>
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<td>Raul F. Waters, MD</td>
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Health care reform requires the simultaneous pursuit of three goals, according to economists and government officials. As defined by these non-medical experts, the so-called “triple aim” seeks an improved experience of care, improved health of populations, and reducing per capita costs. To measure patients’ subjective experience on all three components, public and private payers, as well as clinically focused physician groups, are scurrying to define “quality.” There is some urgency to this effort because the law that repealed the Medicare sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula requires physician payments to be largely based on quality as of January 2019.

If defining quality is left only to payers, there is cause for alarm. Two recent proposals from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) stray far from the Institute of Medicine’s definition of quality: “the degree to which health services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge.”

A public policy research firm working on CMS’s behalf turned a blind eye to current professional knowledge by proposing that providers be penalized for recommending PSA-based screening for prostate cancer. Using the flawed U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendation against PSA testing as its primary source, the CMS contractor concluded that the intent of its proposal “is to discourage the use of PSA-based screening in the general population of men,” and that less testing indicates better performance.

Individual physicians and organizations representing urologists, including the AACU, mobilized in strong opposition to this recommendation. The AACU State Society Network secured support from 22 state, section, and subspecialty groups on a letter that disputes the proposal for medical and procedural reasons. The leaders of organized urology question the limited exceptions to the wide-ranging recommendation and warn, «CMS must not implement quality measures and screening recommendations derived without input from specialists in the related health condition.»

In official comments submitted by AACU Health Policy Chair Jeffrey Frankel, MD, the AACU points to “the importance of an individualized decision on PSA-based testing between the patient and the physician.” The letter continues: “Physicians should not be penalized for ordering a test that, while not perfect, has long been recognized as an important tool in the diagnosis of prostate cancer.”

Likewise, urology caucus members and delegates to the AMA House of Delegates secured approval of a new policy for the influential national organization during its 2015 interim meeting. Resolution 225, authored by the AACU and AUA, calls on the AMA to, among other actions, “…continue to advocate for inclusion of relevant specialty societies and their members in guideline and performance measure development…”

CMS requested comments on another proposed quality measure in recent weeks that opens the door to mandated physician participation in Medicare and Medicaid. A “Request for Information” solicited feedback on a proposal to collect information on a physician’s participation, or lack thereof, in Medicaid, health insurance exchange plans, and other activities. This data would be synthesized into a quality measure and factor into provider Medicare payments. In a letter to CMS, the AACU warned against such a measurement, asserting that the government’s collection of such information may “…prompt physicians to stop treating Medicare patients…”

Non-clinical definitions of “quality” will play a huge role in post-SGR Medicare payment schemes. Physicians will find that they must check many more boxes to demonstrate the quality of their care. Urologists must continue to take action to ensure these quality measures do not harm patients and medical practices.
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**NCS Industry Opportunities**

Industry Partnerships are a vital part of our success. The NCS is currently seeking industry partners who share our commitment to growth and excellence in the field of urology.

The partnership packages we offer include additional marketing opportunities and enhanced exposure throughout the meeting. Through this program, we hope to work in tandem with our industry colleagues to identify ways to enhance our current member programs and implement new projects that will lead to improved patient care through better physician education and mentoring. Please invite your industry contacts to become NCS industry partners. Partnership packages are promotional opportunities and, unlike educational grants, are appropriate to discuss with your sales representatives. Please ask them to contact JP Baunach at jp@wjweiser.com for more information.

If you have vendors you do regular business with, please ask them to become more involved with NCS.

Thank you for your help!
2015 NCS Awards

**Poster Winners**

**Prostate Malignant Poster Session**
*Clinical Winner* – “Composite Amniotic Tissue Membrane (Amniofix) and its Effect on Early Recovery of Erectile Function Post Robotic Assisted Radical Prostatectomy (RARP)”  
Presented By: Robert Gaertner, MD

**Adrenal/Kidney/Ureter/Bladder Poster Session**
*Clinical Winner* – “Novel use of Dual Energy CT in Guiding Treatment of Complex Renal Cysts”  
Presented By: Julia Fiuk, MD

*Basic Science Winner* – “Application of Long Acting PAI-1 During Sutureless Partial Nephrectomy in Mice”  
Presented By: Khaled Shahrour, MD

**Pediatrics Poster Session**
*Clinical Winner* – “Ureteral Stenting in the Pediatric Population: Pre-Operative Variables Associated with Ureteral Stenting and Correlations to Subsequent Stone Procedures”  
Presented By: Melissa St. Aubin, MD

*Basic Science Winner* – “The Angiogenic Signaling Molecule CYR61 Induces Increased Neo-Vascularization in Regenerated Bladder Tissue”  
Presented By: Jessica Hannick, MD

**Endourology/Stone Disease Poster Session**
*Clinical Winner* – “Profile of the Ammonium Acide Urate Stone Former Based on a Large Contemporary Cohort”  
Presented By: Derek Lomas, MD

*Basic Science Winner* – “Calcium Oxalate Crystals and Renal Damage in Adult pigs fed High Oxalate Diets”  
Presented By: Kristina Penniston, MD

**Incontinence/Infertility/Sexual Dysfunction/Trauma/Transplant Poster Session**
*Clinical Winner* – “Less is More: A New Intradetrusor Onabotulinumtoxin A Injection Technique for Nuerogenic and Idiopathic Detrusor Overactivity”  
Presented By: Ahmad El-Arabi, MD

**Prostate Malignant/Benign Poster Session**
*Clinical Winner* – “Interobserver Reliability is Excellent Amongst Experienced Radiologists Interpreting Prostate MRIS Using the Pirads Scoring System”  
Presented By: Samay Jain, MD

*Basic Science Winner* – “Time to Biochemical and Radiographic Progression in Patients Treated with Adenovirus PSA Vaccine for Non-Metastatic/Early Metastatic Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer: Phase 2 Trial Results”  
Presented By: Kenneth Nepple, MD

**Video Session Winners**
*Winner* – “Management of Venous Tumor Thrombus Encountered During Robot Assisted Partial Nephrectomy for Renal Cell Carcinoma”  
Presented By: Firas Petros, MD

**Best Bizarre and Interesting Case**
*Winner* – “Stirred not Shaken and on the Rocks”  
Presented By: Benjamin Carpenter, MD

**Resident Bowl – Winning Team**
1st Place Team:  
Luke Frederick, MD – Southern Illinois University  
Ian McLaren, MD – University of Michigan  
Hanhan Li, MD – Henry Ford Hospital  
Luke Edwards, MD – Beaumont Hospital

**John D. Silbar Award**
*Winner* – Matthew A. Ulhman, MD, MBA  
University of Iowa

**Thirlby Award**
*Winner* – “Evaluation of Surgical Effectiveness and Safety of XPS Greenlight Laser: Outcomes of a Multicenter Retrospective Study”  
Presented By: Mahmood Hai, MD, FICS

**Traveling Fellowship Award**
*Winner* – Brian Linder, MD  
Mayo Clinic

**NCS/AACU Health Policy Young Investigator Award**
*Winner* – “Utilization and Outcomes of Inpatient Urological Care at Safety Net Hospitals”  
Presented By: Lindsey Herrel, MD
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