MARK YOUR CALENDARS

93rd Annual Meeting of the North Central Section

September 11 - 14, 2019

Swissôtel Chicago | Chicago, Illinois

Registration materials for the 93rd Annual Meeting will be mailed and available online at ncsaua.org in spring 2019! We look forward to seeing you in Chicago!
Our New President
By: Jeffrey A. Triest, MD

It is my pleasure to introduce David Jarrard, MD as our incoming President of the North Central Section of the American Urological Association, Inc. David received his medical degree from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia. In 1990 he began his residency training at the University of Chicago Hospitals. After graduating residency, David moved to Baltimore, Maryland where he completed a post-doctoral oncology fellowship at Johns Hopkins University with Dr. William Isaacs. Upon completion of his fellowship David joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine in Madison, Wisconsin. It was here in Wisconsin at the University’s Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center where David established himself as one of the nation’s leaders in urologic oncology. He currently holds the John Livesey Chair of Urologic Oncology and is the Vice-Chair of the Department of Urology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine. David’s research interests and expertise are in the field of epigenetic alterations and their interactions with aging and clinical cancer care. Throughout his career David’s laboratory experience has given him the opportunity to present his work nationally at various meeting venues and forums. Dr. Jarrard has authored or co-authored over 130 manuscripts in the field of urology and cancer biology. David’s dedication and the quality of his efforts have earned him numerous accolades including the Society of Urologic Oncology’s Distinguished Service Award. David’s research and clinical expertise has also led him into various leadership positions including serving as the Co-chair of the Society for Basic Urological Research, Research Committee Chair for the Society of Academic Urology, serving as a member of the Executive Board of the Society for Urologic Oncology, as a member of the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Clinical and Experimental Urology, and as a Program Reviewer and Member of the Executive Board of the Department of Defense’s Prostate Cancer Research Program.

David is a vital member of the faculty at the University of Wisconsin. He has mentored numerous medical students, graduate students, post-doctoral candidates and residents in training. David and his wife Karen make their home in Madison, Wisconsin. Please join the entire NCS Board of Directors in welcoming Dr. David Jarrard as President of the NCS. We are honored to work under his leadership in the coming year.

Plan to Attend!
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Swissôtel Chicago
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Industry Support

2018 Industry Partners

Platinum Level
- Astellas Pharma and Pfizer Oncology
- Genomic Health
- Janssen Biotech
- Merck & Co., Inc.

Silver Level
- Astellas Pharma US, Inc.
- Avadel Pharmaceuticals
- Bayer HealthCare
- Endo Pharmaceuticals
- Lumenis, Inc.
- Merley Drug, Inc.
- Myriad Genetic Laboratories, Inc.
- University Compounding Pharmacy of Michigan

2018 Contributor
- Olympus America, Inc.

NCS Industry Opportunities

Industry partnerships are a vital part of our success. The NCS is currently seeking industry partners that 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!

From the Treasurer
By: Matthew I. Gottenman, MD

I am honored to begin my role as Treasurer of the North Central Section of the American Urological Association, Inc. I look forward to the continued success and growth of the NCS, a section that has a strong financial foundation. The NCS fund balance, as of September 30, 2018, was $3,521,628. The NCS Education Fund currently shows an investment account balance of $3,369,907. As of September 30, 2018, this investment account showed a total investment income of $80,394. The strategic decision to move the Education Fund to the pooled investment account of the AUA which is managed by Vanguard continues to show benefit with good performance and low cost. For instance, investment advisor fees were $749 for the period ending September 30, 2018.

The NCS board under the leadership of our President, Dr. Gary Faerber, did a fantastic job putting together another successful and enjoyable annual meeting in Chicago. Feedback from the meeting has been positive and it appears that attendees benefited from the scientific sessions and the enjoyable social opportunities. NCS membership as of September 30, 2018 totaled a record 1,696 members. Moving forward, the Board of Directors will aim to continue providing great value to the membership by actively managing corporate co-sponsors, limiting liabilities and provide programming that carefully considers survey feedback from individual members.

FROM THE TREASURER

Matthew I. Gottenman, MD
The 92nd Annual Meeting of the AUA’s North Central Section is in the books. The meeting, held at the iconic Fairmont Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, was carefully crafted to provide content from all aspects of the specialty and practice of urology. President Gary Faerber and the program committee featured expert speakers from within the section and around the country.

The program committee selected the best abstracts from the 310 submissions to be presented as podium and poster presentations. A total of 235 abstracts and 15 videos were tapped for presentation to educate our membership. The program committee would like to thank all those who submitted abstracts and congratulate the presenters on the quality of the science and the concise way their work was reported. The program committee also wishes to thank all the members and faculty that volunteered their time and expertise to serve as panelists, moderators, and discussants at the 92nd Annual Meeting. The success of our meeting and the quality of our scientific sessions is a direct reflection of your devotion to the scholarly process.

Highlights of this year’s meeting included the ever-popular Health Policy session which featured a variety of topics and panels designed to advance and educate our members as to legislative priorities and practice nuances germane to all urologists. The section’s primary care update once again delivered an entire session devoted to the general practice of urology and provided an excellent review of common topics which often create clinical dilemmas in the daily practice of our specialty. The 92nd Annual Meeting also featured a new session moderated by Dr. Chandru Sundaram, which featured edited surgical videos and expert commentary designed to provide surgical tips and tricks to help urologists negotiate technically challenging surgical scenarios.

In addition to the high-quality poster and podium sessions which have become the hallmark of the NCS Annual Meeting, the program committee arranged for a series of guest speakers to deliver expert topics. The meeting had special sessions on the opioid crisis, a guidelines lecture on non-muscle invasive bladder cancer delivered by Dr. Sam Chang, and educational offerings provided by Dr. Joel Nelson and Dr. Glenn Preminger. This year’s meeting was also supplemented with numerous expert panel discussions and case-based didactics provided by the section’s many skilled faculty. The program committee would like to thank all the speakers for their efforts in the education of our membership. I would also like to extend the section’s special thanks to Dr. Geoffrey Box, the program committee’s local arrangements chair, for arranging a wonderful social event schedule for this year’s meeting. Under Dr. Box’s guidance, meeting attendees were treated to a “favorite sports team” themed reception, a wonderful “Young Urologists” gathering and the President’s Cocktail Reception to conclude the week. Each event featured an array of delicious food and provided our membership with a tremendous opportunity to relax, unwind, and network with colleagues and friends.

The Annual Resident Bowl hosted by Quizmaster Dr. Bradley Schwartz, was once again both entertaining and competitive. The winning team comprised of Benjamin Marsh (UH), Andrew Nguyen (CCF), Wesley Baas (SIU), Craig Lobbate (UCHI), and Kristin Ebert (OSU) will represent the NCS in the national competition held at the AAA Annual Meeting in May 2019. Wish them all good luck and cheer them on here in Chicago this spring.

Congratulations to the following awardees: Dr. Tyler Elteridge (UWISC) for the traveling fellowship award, Dr. Ronnie Abaza for the Thirby Award and Dr. Akshay Sood for the John D. Siblar Award. The full list of individual award winners for their presentations at the meeting can be found on the NCS website and on page 10 of this newsletter.

The Annual Business Meeting saw the approval of Dr. David Jarrard as President of the NCS, Dr. Mark Stovisky as President-Elect, Dr. Elizabaty Takas as the Secretary-Elect, Dr. Mathew Gettman as the Treasurer, and Dr. Thomas Gardner as the Historian. I wish to thank the nominating committee for their tireless efforts. In addition, the following bylaws changes were approved by the membership during the Annual Business Meeting:

**ARTICLE II OFFICERS**

Section 1—Members of Board

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian and one elected member from each of the following geographic units: (1) Illinois; (2) Indiana; (3) Iowa; (4) Michigan; (5) Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota; (6) Ohio; and (7) Wisconsin. The Representatives to the Board of Directors of the AUA, the Secretary-Elect, the Treasurer-Elect, the Chair of the Women in Urology Committee, the Chair of the Health Policy Council, and the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Young Leadership Committee shall be non-voting members of the Board of Directors.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Should a vacancy occur in any elected office of the Section, more than sixty (60) days before a scheduled election, then the Executive Committee shall promptly nominate a replacement from among the membership of the Section Board of Directors, or it shall call a special election for the office for which the vacancy exists. The vacancy shall be filled at a special meeting of the Section Board of Directors, requiring a vote of two-thirds of the entire Board and does not affect the standing of the individual whose name has been placed in nomination.

**ARTICLE III BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Once again, many speakers stressed the importance of NCS involvement in the legislative and advocacy roles on behalf of our patients and practices. Accordingly, the NCS Health Policy Council urges all Section members to voice their views by participating, and in the 2019 AUA Urology Advocacy Summit scheduled for March 4 – 6, 2019, in Washington, D.C., and the 2019 AUCU Annual Meeting scheduled for October 13 – 14, 2019, in Washington, D.C. In recognition of the importance of involving younger members of the section, this year, the North Central Section is proud to sponsor two residents or young urologists to attend the 2019 AUA Advocacy Summit.

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Michael L. Guralnick, MD, FRCSC (Wisconsin)
Jane M. Lewis, MD (Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota)
Ranjiv Mathews, MD (Board of Directors Representative)
Ronald S. Suh, MD (Indiana)
Elizabeth B. Takacs, MD (Iowa)
Dinesh J. Telang, MD (Michigan)
James C. Ulchaker, MD, FACS (Vice Chair)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
Jeffrey J. Triest, MD (Chair)
Molly A. DeWitt-Foy, MD MBA (Resident Representative)
Bradley F. Schwartz, DO, FACS (Education Committee Chair)
Mark D. Stovisky, MD, MBA, FACS (President-Elect)
Elizabeth B. Takacs, MD (Secretary-Elect)

YOUNG UROLOGISTS COMMITTEE
Kyle A. Richards, MD, FACS (Chair)
Adam Kadlec, MD (Vice Chair)
Aaron Benson, MD (Illinois Representative)
Sara L. Best, MD (Wisconsin Representative)
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NCS Health Policy & Practice Management Report

By: James M. Dupree IV, MD, MPH

On behalf of the NCS Health Policy Council, I am pleased to report on a very successful 2018 Health Policy Summit on the North Central Section Annual Meeting. Health policy and practice management continue to be areas of interest and emphasis for the Section. This year, the presentations included: a Washington Update, focusing on the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) and the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), led by Dr. Hans Arora (recent AUA Society Fellow), and on the Relative Value Unit Committee (RUC), led by Dr. Kyle Richards (AUA RUC alternate advisor). We also had a robust session on physician burnout, with presentations about the AUA Census, led by Dr. Lindsey Herold, and an important session about quality and outcomes, led by Dr. Druhil Patel and Dr. Miriam Hadj-Moussa. Next, there was a session about access to urologic care, focusing on telemedicine (led by Dr. Thomas Tartar). We had a special topics keynote presentation on opioid stewardship in urology by Drs. Greg Auffenberg and Matthew Stovisky. Finally, Drs. Aaron Milbank and Robert Flannigan provided expert perspectives about the future of health policy and urology. At the end of the session Dr. Juan Andino was awarded the Health Policy Young Investigator Award for his research entitled, “The impact of video visits on measures of clinical efficiency and reimbursement.”

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From the Representative to the AUA Board of Directors

By: Chandru P. Sundaram, MD, FACS

It was a pleasure meeting friends and colleagues at the very successful NCS Annual Meeting in Chicago. Drs. Faerber and Triest did a phenomenal job and should be congratulated. I enjoyed Dr. Faerber’s presidential address on mentorship. It remains my privilege to represent the Section at the AUA.

The AUA has been very active in several fronts on our behalf. I have compiled a brief update on the AUA after our recent annual meeting in Chicago.

**Urology Care Foundation Benefit**

A UCF Benefit is scheduled to be held at the AUA Annual Meeting in Chicago on Friday, May 3, 2019. The event will be held at the Untitled Supper Club, a contemporary revival of a classic Prohibition-era Chicago supper club and an upscale dining establishment. The event will feature live music and AUA talent for a fun evening for a great cause. Individual tickets will go on sale in early December.

**American Urological Association Political Action Committee (AUAPAC)**

The AUA Board unanimously approved establishing an AUA Political Action Committee. The AUAPAC will add another voice for urology in Washington, advancing the broad advocacy priorities of AUA’s diverse membership. The AUA will continue to work with AACU/UROPA and other stakeholders to advocate for the benefit of all urology.

**Health Policy Council**

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Timothy J. Kennedy, MD (Wisconsin) 
Ears R. Koenig, MD (Michigan) 
Bradley G. Orms, MD (Indiana)

The Summit Planning Committee collected nearly 60 content submissions from a wide range of stakeholders, including all eight AUA Sections, 15 unique urologic specialty groups, and nearly a dozen patient advocacy groups.

**New Podcasts**

AUAUniversity podcasts continue to be popular with over 1300 subscribers. New programs have included AUA2018 instructional courses as well as highlights from AUA 2018, apart from multiple other topics.

**Quality**

The Board approved new white papers on Optimizing Urologic Surgical Outcomes (Preoperative, Intraoperative and Postoperative) which is a comprehensive review of the latest literature on the subject. The 2018 Quality Improvement Summit on Dec 8 at AUA headquarters in Linthicum, MD will feature remarks from urologists, pain management specialists, policy makers, and other stakeholders. CME credits will be offered to Summit attendees.

**AQUA Registry**

The number of patients in the AQUA Registry surpassed 4.4 million and approximately 750 providers have chosen to submit MIPS quality reporting through the AQUA Registry. II

**Urology Practice Editor**

Dr. J. Stephen Jones will succeed Dr. Olsson as the next Editor of Urology Practice. Over the next year, Dr. Jones will continue his service as UP Associate Editor prior to assuming the role of UP Editor in January 2020.
Physician victories in the 2018 midterm elections

Physicians won a series of battles as they have fought to enact Medicare for All proposals. Republican legislators have repeatedly criticized the bill, saying it would cost too much and leave people uninsured. The bill, which was first introduced in 2017, would create a single-payer system that covers all medical expenses for all Americans.

New law limits ‘gag clauses’ on drug prices

President Trump signed a bipartisan bill into law that would ban so-called gag clauses at the pharmacy counter. Under the new law, insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers can no longer prohibit pharmacists from telling a patient that they could save money by paying for their prescription in cash or trying a less-cost alternative. It’s not clear if the laws will have much of an effect on the health system, reports Politico. Major PBMs say they no longer use gag clauses and JAMA research found that gag clauses caused only $135 million in overpayments in Optum commercial plans in 2013.

Medicare Advantage plans to apply ‘step therapy’

One of the nation’s largest health insurers will use "step therapy" in some of its Medicare plans next year, requiring patients to try cheaper drugs before a more expensive therapy prescribed by their physician. Insurers use step therapy in the employer-based insurance market as well as in Medicare’s 1D prescription drug benefit. Medicare Advantage plans are expected to extend the step therapy cost control strategy to insulin and oral administered drugs. The American Medical Association and 93 other organizations submitted a letter outlining concerns with UnitedHealthcare’s recent announcement. The letter urges CMS to reinstate its 2012 policy prohibiting Medicare Advantage plans from utilizing step therapy protocols for Part B physician administered medications.

Senate works to ban surprise medical billing

A bill to ban surprise medical billing has been introduced in the Senate. The bill requires that insurers, rather than patients, pay out-of-network charges at the in-network rate. The bill will also prevent health care providers that are outside of a patient’s insurance network from charging additional costs for emergency services to patients beyond the amount usually allowed under their insurance plan. Senator Bill Cassidy, R-La., a sponsor of the bill, said lawmakers are planning on refining the legislation before introducing it at the beginning of Congress’ next session in January. Hospitals have yet to comment on the draft, but may wait until it is formally introduced.

Lawmakers swap swipes on Medicare for All

Democrats across the country have been uniting around a new legislative proposal to establish a government-run, single-payer healthcare system. President Trump’s administration announced that it will not include a public option in its proposed healthcare bill.

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