It is my great pleasure to introduce Mark Stovsky as our incoming President of the North Central Section of the American Urological Association, Inc. Mark received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Northwestern and completed his urology residency at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. Following his residency he served as a staff urologist at University Hospitals of Cleveland. There he served as the Director of the Men’s Health and Genitourinary Stone Center, Urology Institute Quality Officer, Division Chief of Urology and Medical Director for Urology Services at University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center. Currently, Mark is a staff urologist in the Cleveland Clinic Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute, Senior Director at Cleveland Clinic Ventures, and an Associate Professor of Surgery in the CCF Lerner School of Medicine. His clinical focus is in the areas of BPH/male voiding dysfunction, prostate cancer and urinary tract stone disease and his primary research interests are in the areas of diagnostic biomarkers for cancer and medical economics.

In addition to his medical career, he received an MBA (strategic planning) from the Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburg and is involved in biomedical new venture development as well as private equity and life science consulting including transaction analysis, due diligence, and predictive modeling for health care & biotechnology business. He currently serves as CMO of the CCF portfolio company Cleveland Diagnostics, Inc. and as the CCF Board of Directors’ representative to eHealth Ventures (USA).

Mark has been actively involved in numerous organizations. At the local level he has served as President of the Cleveland Urological Society and the Ohio Urological Society, as well as a board member of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland/Northern Ohio Medical Association. He has served the North Central Section with distinction as the Ohio Representative to the Board of Directors, as the Chair of the Young Urologist Leadership Committee and as the NCS Treasurer from 2015 - 2018. Mark also participated in the AUA Leadership Program in the 2012 - 2013 class. Mark has also been an active leader of other national organizations including serving as President of the American Association of Clinical Urologists and as a board member of UROPAC.

Mark and his wife Shannon have three kids (Adam, Jennifer and Jacob) and live in Beachwood, Ohio.

Please join the entire NCS Board of Directors in welcoming Dr. Mark Stovsky as President of the NCS. Mark has served the section membership for many years, and it is our great pleasure of working under his leadership in the coming year.
FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

The post-convention data indicates that the 93rd Annual Meeting of the North Central Section on September 11 - 14 in Chicago was a resounding success. This year’s meeting highlighted emerging changes in both clinical urology and urologic healthcare delivery and health policy. Attendance was strong with 450 urologists from across the region attending along with increasing numbers of advanced practice providers. Comments regarding the program indicate the content and selection of speakers, from both within the NCS and outside, were very positive. I'd like to personally thank Drs. Mike Cookson and Daniel Lin for their informative and thoughtful oncologic presentations. In addition, the North Central Section is one of the strongest sections with regard to knowledgeable and willing faculty who can always be counted on to provide outstanding scientific content.

Kudos to Dr. Jeff Triest and Secretary-Elect Elizabeth Takacs for their many hours spent in organizing this outstanding final product. I also want to thank the entire WJ Weiser and Associates, Inc. team for their efforts in organizing and supporting the meeting, and particularly Samantha Panicola for her excellent work.

The NCS board is in excellent hands and continues moving forward in its mission with the new NCS President Dr. Mark Stovsky from Ohio and the NCS Secretary Dr. Elizabeth Takacs from Iowa. Financially the organization is sound, and this continues under the watchful leadership of Dr. Matthew Gettman. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the North Central Section President this past year. Initiatives for the North Central Section during this time included expanding educational opportunities for advanced practice providers, reorganizing the research mission and completing a strategic planning report. I look forward to seeing you all next year at the annual NCS meeting in Palm Springs!

FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE AUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This will be my last message in the post NCS meeting newsletter as our Section Representation to the Board of Directors of the AUA. I have been on the AUA board for over four years, and in that time the AUA has worked on several fronts on our behalf. The AUA University is now a comprehensive curriculum that is used by all residents. Guidelines are now used by almost every urologist. I was recently in Bangladesh for the AUA Lessons in Urology Course. The urologists in that country, as in many other countries, refer to the AUA guidelines regularly. This is also a reflection of the global outreach of the AUA, which is now truly the premier international urology society. The AQUA registry has evolved over the last five years and is now poised for the next phase of its growth. As clinical outcomes and quality become more important for CMS and insurance companies, AQUA will be able to provide accurate urology specific data to help us monitor our practice. The annual meeting continues to be popular and the newer shortened format allows members to return to work with less disruption to their schedule. The AUA PAC and the AUA Advocacy Summit enables all urologists to have a voice in Congress so that urologic issues are heard and appropriate public policy helps us deliver the best possible care to our patients. There are several other AUA initiatives that can be accessed on auanet.org.

I truly appreciate the opportunity to have been the representative of our section on the AUA board. Our section is unique and we should be proud of its achievements. I would encourage you to be engaged in the section and the AUA. There are multiple ways we can serve the AUA and other urologists. I am delighted that Dr. Jim Ulchaker will be our next representative to the AUA board. Congratulations to our section leadership, Drs. Stovisky, Triest, Takacs, Gettman, Jarrard and Gardner. Our section is in great hands.

Please contact me at: sundaram@iupui.edu if I can be of any assistance.
The 93rd Annual Meeting of the AUA’s North Central Section, held at the Swissôtel in Chicago, Illinois, is behind us. The meeting provided content from all domains of urology. Numerous poster and podium sessions highlighted research being done within the section, panel discussions, state of the art lectures on the effects of pediatric bladder surgeries, difficult issues with NMIBC, prostate cancer surveillance and, the NCS Faculty Lecture on Urolithiasis enabled us to provide a well-rounded meeting covering the scope of urology.

In addition to focusing on urologic conditions, highlights of this year’s meeting included the always popular Health Policy and Practice Management session, surgical tips and tricks, and sessions on medicine beyond the bedside. The Health Policy and Practice Management sessions provided insight into advocacy from the state to national levels, panel discussion on lessons learned from years in practice, and use of telemedicine and social media in practice. This year’s beyond the bedside topics included the AUA Course of Choice on Burnout, state of the art lectures on How to Succeed in Medicine and Life, and Volunteerism in Urology.

The best abstracts were selected by the program committee and board of directors to be presented as podium, poster, and video presentations. Of the 367 abstracts submitted, 180 were selected for podium, 68 for poster, and 12 videos. The program committee would like to thank all who submitted abstracts for their hard work and congratulate the presenters on being selected. The success of our meeting is a direct reflection of the hard work and devotion of the members and residents in our section.

The Annual Resident Bowl was hosted by Dr. Nick Tadros. This was once again competitive and entertaining, and provides opportunity for audience members to test their knowledge. Congratulations to the winning team comprised of Drs. Brady Miller, Isamu Tachibana, Jeremy West and Darren Bryk. They will be representing our section at the May 2020 AUA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Good luck!

Congratulations to the following award recipients: Dr. Kirtishri Mishra for the Traveling Fellowship Award, Dr. Ronney Abaza for the Thirlby Award, and Dr. Molly DeWitt-Foy for the John D. Silbar Award. The full list of individual award winners from the 2019 Annual Meeting can be found on the NCS website and on page 11 of this newsletter.

At the Annual Business Meeting, the membership approved Dr. Mark Stovsky as President, Dr. Jeffrey Triest as President-Elect, Dr. Elizabeth Takacs as Secretary, and Dr. Thomas Gardner as Historian. Thank you to the nominating committee for their efforts and insights.

In addition, I would like to welcome our 48 new members of the section. A list of our new members can be found on the NCS website. The following bylaws changes were approved by the membership:

**ARTICLE IV \ COMMITTEES**

**Section 9 – Bylaws Committee**

The Committee shall consist of three (3) Active or Senior Members and the Secretary. One member, other than the Secretary, shall be designated as Chair by the President. The term of office shall be three (3) years. Members shall be eligible for two (2) terms. The Chair of the Committee shall be a member of the Bylaws Committee of the AUA.

The Committee will adhere to the Section’s goal of complying with the Mission and Vision and Purposes of the AUA, as stated currently in Article I, Sections 1 and 2 of the AUA Bylaws, and propose Bylaws which are in accord, or not in conflict with, those of the AUA. The Chair will keep an accurate file of all correspondence to and from the members of the Committee and from the Secretary of proposed amendments by members of the Section. The Committee shall meet and review the Bylaws annually and recommend to the Board of Directors any changes that seem desirable. All proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval, consideration prior to being published in the Newsletter sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting.
FROM THE TREASURER

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide the Treasurer’s report for the North Central Section of the American Urological Association, Inc.

From a financial perspective, I am pleased to share that the section remains fiscally strong. The NCS fund balance, as of June 2019, was $2,759,431. Through June 2019, the income to NCS funds was $408,682. The NCS Education Fund balance, as of June 2019, was $2,426,932. Investment income for the education fund year-to-date has been $268,789 with investment fees of $480. The NCS Education Fund remains in a Vanguard account with section money pooled with AUA investments and this action has significantly decreased investment fees.

Under the leadership of our President, Dr. David Jarrard, and our Secretary, Dr. Jeffrey Triest, we recently enjoyed another successful annual meeting in Chicago this year. Feedback from the meeting was very positive with attendees benefiting from both the educational and social programs. At the meeting, the deliberate changes by the board to improve the value of the experience are evident. This year the board also completed dedicated strategic planning sessions to help guide the future directions of the section and further improve the annual meeting and overall benefits provided to the members. In regards to membership, I am pleased to report that the section also looks very strong. Many exciting things are happening at NCSAUA and please make plans to attend our out of section annual meeting in Palm Springs, California next year!

Matthew T. Gettman, MD

ARTICLE VI
AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by the two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the Annual Business Meeting. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Secretary and referred by the Secretary to the Bylaws Committee which shall consider all proposed amendments and present their recommendations to the Board of Directors. Any proposed amendment shall be printed with the Notice of the Annual Meeting at which the action is to be taken and shall be sent to the members at least thirty (30) days before such Annual Meeting, either by printed mail or electronic email.

ARTICLE VII
RULES ON PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The current edition of Robert’s Rule of Order, Newly Revised Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, current edition, shall govern the proceedings of the Section, unless provided otherwise in the Articles of Incorporation or in these Bylaws.

I would like to thank the Program Committee’s Local Arrangements Chair, Dr. Bradley Erickson and his wife Catherine, for their time in planning the Chicago-themed welcome reception, the “Young Urologist” gathering, and the President’s Cocktail Reception to conclude the meeting. These events provide our membership with the opportunity to network and develop collegial relationships in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

A special thank you to Dr. Jeffrey Treist, who has served as our section secretary and representative to the AUA Section Secretaries/Membership Council for the past 3 years. It has been Dr. Treist’s leadership, hard work, and commitment that have yielded these excellent meetings for the past three years. A special additional thank you goes to Dr. David Jarrard for serving as the president of the section for the past year.

Most importantly, the success of the meeting is a direct reflection of the commitment and hard work of our membership—without you the benefits of this meeting would diminish. Thank you to the commitment of all the NCS members that volunteered their time and expertise to serve as panelists, moderators, and discussants for residents and the faculty for producing creative and quality research, and to the members who support the meeting through attendance. It is our members’ desire to teach, invest in scientific inquiry, and improve patient care that makes this a robust section. I look forward to serving and representing you for the three years as Secretary.
FROM THE HISTORIAN

I would like to personally thank the program committee for another excellent NCS meeting and pay tribute to our NCS members who have passed. Since the beginning, the North Central Section has been home for many great urologists and great urologic achievements. Each year at the AUA, the History of Urology Forum showcases historical and medical events with urological twists. For those history buffs this forum is a must attend while at the 2020 AUA. This forum is designed to educate urology practitioners on the history and development of urology including the history of instruments, the development of major surgical and medical advances in the treatment of urologic diseases, and biographical information on significant individuals in the field of urology and the history of medicine. I continue to encourage members to share this history with the AUA by submitting abstracts for the AUA Annual Meeting. Each year the Retrospectroscope Award ($1000) is given to the best abstract at this forum.

I would also like to encourage chairman and program directors to celebrate the achievements of their institutions and hospitals by having staff or residents chronicle these achievements for all to marvel. I would be interested in feedback from the membership on having a display area at our next NCS meeting where posters of “Urologic Achievements of the North Central Section” could be displayed. These posters can serve as the foundation of a submission to the History of Urology Forum at the AUA and be archived on the NCS Website to preserve the rich history of our section.

Please contact me at thagardn@iupui.edu with thoughts or ideas to further preserve our section’s rich history.

It continues to be an honor and pleasure to serve as the historian for the North Central Section.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of members who have passed in 2019

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.

Sosale M. Berkuchel, MD
Brookville, OH

Youssef T. Costandi, MD
Cincinnati, OH

A. William Geordan, MD
Parker, CO

John M. Hoog, MD
Fort Wayne, IN

Harry N. Kotsis, MD
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

Almon R. MacEwen, MD
Onalaska, WI

John A. McFarlane, MD
Sioux City, IA

Kevin J. O’Connell, MD, FACS
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Quincy, IL

Hosea Payne, MD
Toledo, OH

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Indianapolis, IN

Vincent J. Santare, MD
Schererville, IN

Marcus I. Shelander, MD
St. Paul, MN

Herbert Sohn, MD, JD
Glenview, IL

Thomas J. Stillwell, MD
Plymouth, MN

William Bedford Waters, MD
Knoxville, TN

Frederick J. Wiecher, MD
Mansfield, OH
In an annual fall ritual, just as students return to the classroom and football players take the field, the agency that administers the Medicare program receives comments on proposed provider payment rates for the next year.

This year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS) accepted nearly 42,000 submissions on revisions to the Medicare physician fee schedule (PFS) and Quality Payment Program (QPP). One of the most significant changes is a holdover from last year’s plan to consolidate evaluation and management codes. The agency also proposes to add and re-value codes that account for complex care, expand reimbursement for telemedicine services, and simplify performance reporting requirements. The agency must now review the comments before releasing a final rule, which is expected to be published in November.

The re-classification of evaluation and management visits became a year-long focus of the provider community after CMS proposed consolidating the five-tier payment system into one payment rate. After scaling back and delaying the implementation of its own plan, CMS has now tentatively accepted providers’ recommendations to maintain the five-tier system for established patients and moving to a four-tier system for new patients.

In a letter to CMS Administrator Seema Verma, AACU President Mark Edney, MD, MBA, suggested the new framework will “more accurately reflect the significant time and medical decision-making that [urologists] provide to patients via face-to-face, primarily non-procedure-based, cognitive care.”

To pay for this change, CMS plans to cut payments to several non-physician providers, including clinical social workers (-4%), psychologists (-7%), and physical therapists (-8%). Representatives of these professions emphatically reject the cuts and warn that these front-line providers will ultimately opt out of the Medicare program, thus compromising beneficiaries’ access to care. In tying these cuts to an ongoing public health crisis, the Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation said, “If CMS wants to reach the stated goal of decreasing opioid use, access to physical therapy should be expanded—not cut.”

Separately addressing complex patient care, the 2020 Medicare payment proposal establishes separate coding and payment for Principal Care Management (PCM) services, which describe care management services for patients with a single, complex chronic condition. According to the AACU’s Dr. Edney, “These proposed new codes are well suited for the care management services provided by urologists for a variety of chronic conditions, including interstitial cystitis, chronic orchitis, bladder dysfunction, stress urinary incontinence, and many others.”

On the telemedicine front, the health care field applauded CMS’s steady integration of digital medicine in the Medicare program, but the American Medical Association cautioned “against CMS’ assumption that all services that can be delivered via telehealth have already been covered.” The AMA went on to urge CMS to “allow Medicare beneficiaries in urban locations to receive telehealth services.”

CMS is also proposing significant changes to QPP that streamline reporting requirements with the goal of reducing administrative burdens. The proposal includes a simpler way to participate in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). The new framework, called the MIPS Value Pathways (MVPs), would transition reporting on many measures across the four performance categories (Quality, Cost, Promoting Interoperability, and Improvement Activities) to a system in which clinicians report on a smaller set of specialty-specific measures that are more closely aligned with Advanced APMs.

These significant changes to the MIPS program are being proposed just 3 years after being established and will impose further financial hardship on physicians. Dr. Edney urged “CMS to offer the MVP framework on a voluntary basis, at least to start.”

Overall, the 2020 Medicare payment proposal attempts to modernize the program and mitigate administrative burdens. The urologic community has identified room for improvement, however, including in the area of facilitating participation in advanced payment models. According to Dr. Edney, CMS must “consider additional reforms, based on continued engagement with the provider community, that remove the barriers to coordinated, value-based care as soon as feasibly possible.”
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To Be Determined (Board of Directors Representative)  

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To Be Determined (Ohio)

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Nicholas Tadros, MD, MCR (Illinois Representative)
Srinivas Vourganti, MD (Illinois Representative)
To Be Determined (Iowa Representative)
To Be Determined (Minnesota Representative)

NCS REPRESENTATIVES TO AUA COMMITTEES
Note: The NCS members below list only those serving on AUA Committees selected by the NCS, and does not include NCS members serving on AUA Committees selected by the AUA.

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University Compounding Pharmacy of Michigan

2019 CONTRIBUTOR
Lumenis, Inc.

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!

2019 Exhibitors

AbbVie
Allergan, Inc.
Alnylam Pharmaceuticals
American Urological Association, Inc.
Astellas Pharma and Pfizer Oncology
Astellas Pharma US, Inc.
AstraZeneca
Bayer HealthCare
BK Medical
Blue Earth Diagnostics, Inc
Boston Scientific Corporation
Coloplast
Cook Medical
Decipher Biosciences, Inc.
Dendreon Pharmaceuticals LLC
EDAP TMS
Endo Pharmaceuticals
Exosome Diagnostics, Inc
ForTec Medical
Genomic Health
Guerbet, LLC
HealthTronics, Inc.
Hitachi Healthcare
Hybrid Medical
Indiana University Health
Janssen Biotech, Inc.
KARL STORZ
Lumenis, Inc.
MD Labs
MDxHealth
Medispec, Ltd.
Medtronic, Inc.
Merck & Co., Inc.
Myriad Genetics, Inc.
NeoTract Teleflex
NextMed, LLC
Olympus America, Inc.
OPKO Health, Inc
Pacific Edge Diagnostics USA Ltd.
Pathnostics
Photocure
PROCEPT BioRobotics
Prologics Healthcare, LLC
Pusen Medical Technology Co., LTD
Retrophin
Richard Wolf Medical Instruments, Corp.
TOLMAR Pharmaceuticals
United Medical Systems
University Compounding Pharmacy
University Compounding Pharmacy of Michigan
UroGen Pharma
US Doctors
ZERO-The End of Prostate Cancer
POSTER WINNERS:

Adrenal/Kidney/Ureter - Malignant/ Benign
Clinical Winner:
“Is Trigonitis a Neglected, Imprecise, Misunderstood or Forgotten Diagnosis?”
Presented by: Zhina Sadeghi, MD, University Hospitals

Basic Science Winner:
“Differences in Pathogenic Organisms Detected by Polymerase Chain Reaction Based Molecular Testing and Traditional Urine Culture for Symptomatic Urinary Tract Infections”
Presented by: Brett J. Watson, MD, Beaumont Health

Patient Safety and Quality Improvements/ Socioeconomics and Health Policy
Clinical Winner:
“Narcotic Prescribing Habits Among Urology Residents in Urban and Suburban Communities”
Presented by: Sarah E. Martin, DO, Detroit Medical Center

Prostate Benign
Clinical Winner:
“Superfluous Hospital Expenditure Associated with Unindicted Renal Cyst Surveillance”
Presented by: Michael Wang, BS, Case Western Reserve

Prostate Malignant Poster Session
Clinical Winner:
“Why is Surgical Castration Under-Utilized for Metastatic Prostate Cancer? Answers from Patients Receiving Androgen-Deprivation Therapy”
Presented by: Morgan E. Schubbe, MD, University of Iowa

Endourology/Stone Disease Poster Session
Clinical Winner:
“Influence of Infundibulopelvic Angle (Ipa) on Success of Retrograde Flexible Ureteroscopy and Laser Lithotripsy for Treatment of Renal Stones”
Presented by: Stephanie L. Dresner, MD, University of Wisconsin

Basic Science Winner:
“Anatomic and Clinical Implications of Heterotopic Ossification in Renal Papillae”
Presented by: Charles U. Nottingham, MD, MS, Indiana University

Male and Couple Infertility Poster Session
Clinical Winner:
“Intraoperative Use of Betadine Irrigation is Associated with a 9-Fold Increase of Penile Prosthesis Infection”
Presented by: Madeline G. Makna, MD, Mayo Clinic

Basic Science Winner:
“Optimization of a Handheld Wand to Activate Shape Memory Penile Prosthesis”
Presented by: Rebecca Gerber, MD, University of Wisconsin

VIDEO SESSION WINNERS:

Video #2
“PERC-TIC PCNL”
Presented by: Tim Large, MD, MA, Indiana University

Video #9
“We Report Our Technique of Transurethral Laser Enucleation of Bladder Tumor Using He Holmium Laser Technique”
Presented by: Tim Large, MD, MA, Indiana University

BEST BIZARRE AND INTERESTING CASE
“Prostat -”Eye”- Tis: Disseminated Pseudomonas Aeruginosa Infection from Prostatic Abscess Presenting with Vision Loss”
Presented By: Brett J. Watson, MD, Beaumont Health

RESIDENT BOWL
Winning Team
Darren Byrk, MD, Cleveland Clinic
Brady Miller, MD, University of Wisconsin
Isamu Tachibana, MD, Indiana University
Jeremy West, MD, University of Iowa

JOHN D. SILBAR AWARD
Molly DeWitt-Foy, MD, Cleveland Clinic

THIRLBY AWARD
Ronney Abaza, MD, FACS, Ohio Health Dublin Methodist Hospital

TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP AWARD
Kirtishri Mishra, MD, University Hospitality Cleveland Medical Center

NCS HEALTH POLICY YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD
Kirtishri Mishra, MD, University Hospitality Cleveland Medical Center
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

94th Annual Meeting of the North Central Section
October 14 - 17, 2020
The Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa
Rancho Mirage, CA

Abstract submissions are currently being accepted at abstracts.ncsaua.org.
Registration materials for the 94th Annual Meeting will be mailed and available online at ncsaua.org in spring 2020!
We look forward to seeing you in Rancho Mirage!