DR. GOMELLA INDUCTED AS PRESIDENT OF MID ATLANTIC AUA DURING 63RD ANNUAL MEETING

The Mid Atlantic Section of the American Urologic Association held its 63rd Annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona from October 23-26, 2005. During this Meeting, Dr. Leonard Gomella, Chairman of Urology assumed the presidency from the outgoing President, Dr. Roger Schultz, of Virginia Beach, Virginia. Dr. Gomella will oversee the 64th Annual Meeting scheduled for Washington DC in October 2006.

Members of our Department also attended the meeting, including Dr. and Mrs. Larry Goldstein, Dr. Patrick J. Shenot, Dr. Ed Trabulsi, Dr. Costas Lallas, Dr. Craig Soloroff and Dr. Tricia Gomella. Dr. Trabulsi was a discussant in a point counterpoint panel addressing “The Role of Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy in Bladder Cancer.” Dr. Patrick Shenot was a panelist for the panel discussion entitled “Management of Refractory Urge Incontinence” with a presentation on “Botulinum Therapy.” Dr. David McGinnis of our Bryn Mawr affiliate participated in a panel discussion on “Robotic Prostatectomy: Where Do We Stand In 2005?”

Dr. Craig Soloroff presented “Targeted Biopsy of the Prostate: Utility of Gray Scale, Color Doppler and Elastography for the Detection of Prostate Cancer” authored by Craig Soloroff, MD, Ilan Waldman, MD, Elizabeth Ives, MD, Ethan Halpern, MD and Leonard Gomella, MD. This work assessed a targeted biopsy approach utilizing gray scale sonography, color doppler, and elastography for detecting prostate cancer. One hundred patients undergoing transrectal ultrasound (TRUS) guided prostate biopsy, were evaluated. Their findings demonstrated the following: Sonographic findings on gray scale, color Doppler and elastography correlate with the presence of prostate cancer. Color Doppler and elastography provide additional information about the location of prostate cancer when compared with gray scale imaging. However, a targeted biopsy approach based upon these imaging findings detected significantly fewer cancers as compared to systematic sextant biopsy.

The Mid Atlantic section covers eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia and has over 600 members. Dr. Mulholland served as Mid Atlantic President in 1989 and Dr. Julia Barthold of our Nemours Pediatric Hospital affiliate faculty currently serves on the Mid Atlantic Board of Directors. The Mid Atlantic is one of 8 Sections of the National American Urologic Association and is involved in primarily educational activities and in promoting high standards in Urologic care.

CHIEF RESIDENTS ACCEPT FELLOWSHIPS

The Department of Urology is proud to announce that our two Chief Residents have matched for fellowship positions this year. Dr. Mark F. Chang will be joining Dr. Majid Eshghi, Director of the New York Medical College Fellowship in Endourology and Laparoscopy, Valhalla, New York. Dr. Ilia Zeltser will be working with Drs. Margaret S. Pearle and Jeffrey A. Cadeddu, Co-directors of the University of the Texas Southwestern, Minimally Invasive Urology Fellowship, Dallas, Texas. These Clinical Laparoscopic/Endourology Fellowships are recognized by the Endourological Society. Each fellowship is a one-year program encompassing advanced aspects of endourology, laparoscopy, SWL, and integrating patient care and clinical research. Drs. Chang and Zeltser have successfully competed for the most highly sought after positions by graduating urology residents. Their achievement reflects favorably not only on them but on our entire program.
LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN’S DESK

Dear Friends

It is hard to believe, but just one short year ago we were wrapping up our historic Centennial Celebration. The fall of 2005 has been another exciting time for the Department of Urology and Jefferson in general. There were activities in many areas including national and international meetings, Dr. Koff as Visiting Professor at Al DuPont, charity events including the “Tee Off for Bladder Cancer” and our 17th annual Prostate Cancer Screening Day. We extend a warm welcome to our new administrator Joshua Zissman and wish him well in his new position.

The new Kimmel Cancer Director Dr. Richard Pestel is on board. He is an expert in prostate cancer and we are looking forward to expanding our Departmental research with him and his new team. Dr. Charles Yeo was appointed Chairman of the Department of Surgery and we look forward to the positive impact that he will have on all surgical training programs here at Jefferson. Lastly the Jefferson campus is flourishing with new construction well underway for the much needed parking facility and the ground breaking for the new Hamilton Education building.

We have much to be grateful for and hope you look forward to reading more in this installment of our Jefferson Urology News. From my family to yours we wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

Leonard G. Gomella, MD

TEE OFF FOR BLADDER CANCER

The Charity Golf Outing at WoodCrest Country Club, Cherry Hill, New Jersey was spearheaded by Eb Novak, Chief Executive Officer Unique Industries, Inc. and owner of New Farm Stable, to recognize two of Eb’s long time friends, Ben Perkins, Sr. and Steve Brown.

Ben Perkins has been Eb’s trainer at New Farm for 13 years and he and Eb have become very close friends. Steve Brown and Eb met in the early seventies playing basketball. Steve joined Unique Industries and in the nineties he became Vice President for Sales. Both Ben Perkins and Steve Brown had experienced bladder cancer.

The event centered around rounds of golf under sunny skies, sportsmanship, dining with old and new friends, eulogizing everyone’s friend Steve Brown and knowing that there is a means to reach a cure for bladder cancer and being part of the fight.

The monetary donations from this event will enable the Department of Urology at Thomas Jefferson University to provide funding for the following: support teaching a new generation of physicians and scientists by creating a center of excellence for the study and research of bladder cancer; To support bladder cancer basic research by developing a laboratory to operate in conjunction with Jefferson’s premier Kimmel Cancer Center; To pursue new treatments for bladder cancer by integrating research with patient care through innovative clinical trials, and to provide basic funding for a series of pilot studies that will lead to successful competitive funding such as NIH Grants

The Department of Jefferson is grateful to our sponsors:

**DR. STEPHEN A. KOFF VISITING PROFESSOR IN PEDIATRIC UROLOGY AT A.I. DUPONT HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN**

The Division of Urology at the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children hosted Dr. Stephen A. Koff as the 2005 Pediatric Urology Professor. Dr. Koff is the Chief of the Pediatric Urology Service at the Children’s Hospital, in Columbus, Ohio, and Professor of Surgery and Urology at the Ohio State University.

Dr. Koff obtained his medical degree from Duke University, and completed a medical residency in his native New York at Cornell, where he completed training in Nephrology. He then moved to Ann Arbor for his urology residency. The University of Michigan was at that time a very fertile ground for Urology, under the direction of the late great urologist Dr. Jack Lapides. During his time at Michigan, Dr. Koff developed a sincere craving to explore and investigate the very challenging concepts related to urinary tract function and dysfunction. Upon completing his residency, he was offered the position of Chief of Pediatric Urology at Michigan, and recognizing the demanding task at hand, he traveled to Liverpool, England, where he spent one year to gain additional knowledge and experience in pediatric urology. He returned to Michigan, and after a few years was recruited to lead the Section of Pediatric Urology at the Children’s Hospital in Columbus. At Columbus he has built a first class pediatric urological service. Dr. Koff belongs to the most prominent societies of his field, and is past President of the Society for Pediatric Urology.

Dr. Koff's career as a pediatric urologist has been marked by the tremendous scope of his investigation and the extraordinary extent of his contributions to the field of Pediatric Urology. Over his career, he has greatly contributed to the current understanding on many various subjects including hydronephrosis in children, voiding disorders and nocturnal enuresis in children, dysfunctional elimination syndromes, neurogenic bladder, the effect of intestinal replacement for urinary tract reconstruction, late problems related to neonatal posterior urethral valves, and surgical repair of hypospadias. He has authored over 130 peer reviewed publications. Recently he coined the term "SNOB" to describe the Syndrome of Nocturnal Over-distention of the Bladder, a clinical scenario of progressive renal deterioration in patients with vesical dysfunction and hydronephrosis due to over-distention of the bladder during sleep. Typically, these are patients with a history of neurogenic bladders or posterior urethral valves. To correct this problem, he has championed the use of a nocturnal catheter for continued nocturnal urinary drainage in these patients. Due to his ability to clearly and concisely communicate his message, he has been asked on several occasions by the American Urological Association to address the urologic community during the plenary sessions at many national AUA meetings.

During his visit to duPont, Dr. Koff presented two lectures, "The Hazards of Toilet Training", and "The Beneficial Effects of Hydronephrosis". Both topics challenged the audience to rethink the process of toilet training and the management of prenatal Hydronephrosis. He also participated in several case discussions with the urology residents. His lectures and discussions were well received by the audience of pediatric urologists, general urologists, residents, pediatricians and nurses.

**DR. GOMELLA – SUO MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

Congratulations to Dr. Gomella on being elected to the Society of Urologic Oncology Executive Committee. Dr. Gomella will serve as membership Chairman. The Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO) was created in 1984 to enable qualified members primarily interested in the care of patients with malignant genitourinary diseases to meet for the purpose of discussion, development, and implementation of ideas to improve care. The purpose of the SUO is to develop educational and research initiatives and to study issues in urologic oncology and provide physician statements that represent a state of the art assessment of these issues to other organizations.

Leonard G. Gomella, MD
Dr. Leonard G. Gomella is very pleased to announce that Joshua Zissman, CHE, CPHQ is the new Administrator for the Department of Urology. Joshua has an MBA in Healthcare Management from Temple University and is a Certified Healthcare Executive Member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He has a broad background that includes the private sector and most recently, has held positions with various academic Medical Centers in the Delaware Valley. Joshua was Administrative Director for the Department of Pediatrics at the AI duPont Hospital for Children for four years. He has also served as Chief Administrative Officer for St. Christopher’s Hospital Pediatric Associates Practice Plan. Joshua has been an active teacher, having served as a preceptor for the Temple University Healthcare Management Summer Residency Program and has developed various teaching modules for other health care executives. Please join us in welcoming Joshua to our Department and Jefferson.

Joshua Zissman, CHE, CPHQ

UROLOGY POSTER PRESENTATION MARK 6th SUO/NCI Meeting

The 6th SUO/NCI Winter Meeting was held on December 2-3, 2005 at the Natcher Conference Center, National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Those attending from our department include: Drs. Gomella, Nelson, Trabulsi and Zeltser. Three posters were presented by our residents.

Dr. Eric Nelson presented “Targeted Biopsy with Color Doppler and Elastography: A Comparison of Gleason Scores,” authored by Eric D Nelson, MD, Craig B Slotoroff, MD, Leonard G Gomella, MD, and Ethan J Halpern, MD. This work evaluated the distribution of Gleason scores found by systematic biopsy as well as targeted biopsy of the prostate with color Doppler and elastography. One hundred and sixteen patients referred for prostate biopsy were evaluated with gray scale, color Doppler, and elastography using an end-fire transrectal probe (Hi-Vision 8500; Hitachi Medical Systems). Their findings demonstrated the following: a higher frequency of positive color Doppler and elastography are associated with higher Gleason scores; and positive color Doppler findings are strongly associated with high grade cancer, whereas positive elastography findings are associated with both moderate and high grade cancer.

A basic science study entitled, “Prevention Of Bladder Cancer In The Fhit Knock-out Mouse Model With Rofecoxib, A COX-2 Inhibitor” was undertaken by the following collaborators: James LeNoir, Domenico D’Arca, Fedra Gottardo, Emma Bragantini, Bernadette Wildemore, Dolores Shupp-Byrne, Nicola Zanesi, Carlo M. Croce, Leonard G. Gomella, and Raffaele Baffa. This study demonstrated that our Fhit knock-out mice, both Fhit +/- and Fhit --/-- are sensitive to the carcinogenic effect of BBN and provide an excellent animal model for studying bladder cancer. However, Rofecoxib, a non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) did not provide a therapeutic defense in our murine bladder cancer model.

The 3rd study, Longitudinal Correlation between Grade of Upper Tract and Bladder TCC in Patients with Concurrent Disease was a resulted of the collaborative efforts of Sam N. Chawla, Ilia S. Zeltser, Jodi A. Antonelli, Eric D. Nelson, Marnie R. Robinson, Marluce Bibbo, and Demetrius H. Bagley. This study was directed by Sam Chawla, the C.R. Bard/ D. Bagley fellow in Endourology and Laparoscopy at Jefferson and presented by Dr. Ilia Zeltser, our chief resident. The objective was to examine the relationship between upper tract and bladder transitional cell carcinoma (TCC) in patients with concurrent disease. Thirty-eight patients (27 males, 11 females) with an average age of 71.5 years (range: 54.3-95.1) underwent surveillance over a mean interval of 29 months (range: 2-136). A total of 262 evaluations were performed with 174 upper tract recurrences and 117 bladder recurrences. The study showed concurrent upper tract and bladder TCC with grade discordance in over 50% of the cases, and in over extended follow-up, grade fluctuation was observed both in the bladder and upper tract TCC.

All posters were enthusiastically received and the meeting provided an enriching experience by all attending.
UROLOGY STAFF PRESENTS AT 2005 CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEDIATRIC ENDOSURGERY

The 2005 annual congress of the International Pediatric Endosurgery Group took place in June on Venice Lido, Italy. We had the opportunity to present our experience with laparoscopic partial nephrectomy in children. Our poster “Comparison of Laparoscopic Versus Open Partial Nephrectomy in Children” was accepted for presentation. We reviewed the Al duPont Hospital for Children experience of the last four years on partial nephrectomies (PN) for duplication anomalies of the urinary tract and compare the outcome of laparoscopic versus open surgery. Since the first reported pediatric laparoscopic partial nephrectomy (LPN) in 1992, several authors have validated the safety and efficacy of this approach.

Claimed advantages of this technique include magnification, excellent visualization of the parenchyma and distal ureter, minimal blood loss, fast recovery, less surgical scarring and less damage to the lower-pole moiety, although there are few reports comparing the outcome of open versus laparoscopic PN in the pediatric population. Our retrospective study included 34 patients. A group of 14 patients who underwent laparoscopic partial nephrectomy (our preferred approach for the last 2 years) was compared to a cohort group of 20 patients who underwent open surgery. Both groups were similar in regards to age, weight, and sex. Average age and weight was 20 months and 8.2 kg respectively. Babies, as small as 3 months (5.5 kgs), were included in both groups. Although no statistically significant, blood loss, analgesic requirement and duration of hospitalization was less in the laparoscopic group. Complications were similar in both groups.

The main disadvantage of this procedure done with laparoscopy is that more surgical time is required. When we presented our expanded experience in the Section of Urology of the American Academy of Pediatrics in Washington (October 2005), we addressed this issue. We traced a learning curve in which it is clear that surgical time decreases with experience (after a few cases in our series). When we compared the last 7 patients done laparoscopically with the open group we found no difference in surgical time.

The conclusion of our work is that laparoscopic heminephrectomy for duplication anomalies of the urinary tract can be accomplished safely and with negligible blood loss in infants and children. The learning curve for this technique was fast and after a few cases the procedure could be done in the same time as open surgery. The hospitalization is shorter than with open procedures and the analgesia requirement lower. In our opinion this procedure should be offered as a preferred approach for management of nonfunctional renal moieties at any age.

The complete paper will be published in the Journal of Urology in June 2006.

JEFFERSON SCREENS 314 FOR PROSTATE CANCER

Since 1989 our department has played a key role in Prostate Cancer Awareness to the general public at Jefferson. Two hundred and eighty-seven community residents and employees received free screening during the Annual Prostate Cancer Awareness Screening Day at the Bodine Center. For the first time, an additional 27 participants were screened at Methodist Hospital.

The Jefferson program initiated by Dr. Leonard Gomella has provided free screenings for almost 7,000 men. Jointly sponsored by the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson and Jefferson Hospital, the event was coordinated by Christine Hubert, Clinical Research Coordinator, Department of Urology.

The American Cancer Society reports that one in six men will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime. African-American men are at higher risk than other groups, as are those with family histories. For all men, the risk of developing prostate cancer increases with age. More than 75 percent of all prostate cancers occur in men over 65. Prostate Cancer Education Council, PCEC stated, “nearly 60 percent of new cases are localized and potentially curable, indicating a dramatic increase in awareness among the general population about the importance of early detection”.

Prostate Cancer Screening was supported and coordinated across the country by the PCEC. This Council, with Dr. L.G.Gomella as a charter member, is dedicated to the research and educational efforts designed to reduce and maybe one day eliminate the threat of prostate cancer.
Dr. Michael Grasso is presently the Professor and Vice Chairman of Urology with tenure at New York Medical College. He is also the Chairman of the Department of Urology at Saint Vincent’s Medical Center in Manhattan. Dr. Grasso's areas of academic interest include minimally invasive urologic surgeries, including surgical resection for malignancies and reconstructive procedures. Dr. Grasso leads a department of some 22 urologist in Manhattan at Saint Vincent's Medical Center, a Class I trauma center, located in Greenwich Village.

Of personal note, Dr. Grasso is married with three children. Kathyanne Grasso, his wife, is director of nursing in the Department of Urology at Saint Vincent’s Medical Center. Kathyanne is a Jefferson School of Nursing graduate who worked at Jefferson in the neurosurgical ICU unit. Her current position is in quality assurance and direct patient care in the Department of Urology. The Grasso's have three children, Michael (13), Maximilian (10), and Gabriella (2). Michael is currently in the eighth grade. He plays on the local soccer team, which came in first this year in the region. He is currently preparing for entering a prep school in the Greater New York area. Maximilian is in fourth grade. He is a sports enthusiast who follows the Eagles with family in Philadelphia. He is on two soccer teams, a basketball team, and a baseball team. Gabriella is 2 and is into everything, especially whatever her brothers are doing, always at the wrong time.

The Grasso family resides in Rye, New York, which is in Westchester County. The extended family, and specifically their parents, brothers, and sisters all reside in the Delaware Valley, and most on the Main Line. They travel to Philadelphia for holidays and they interact regularly with urology staff at Jefferson. Dr. Bagley and Dr. Grasso regularly travel together, performing live surgeries at university venues, both nationally and internationally, as well as on a set schedule for teaching courses.

LIVE WEBCAST OF ROBOTIC SURGERY FOR PROSTATE CANCER BY JEFFERSON’S MULTIDISCIPLINARY UROLOGIC CANCER TEAM

Two forms of high technology will join together this January to allow the public and physicians to view a less invasive surgery for prostate cancer from the comfort of their home or office. Thomas Jefferson University Hospital will host a live webcast of a radical laparoscopic prostatectomy, on Thursday, January 19, 2006, at 4:30 p.m., using a futuristic, state-of-the-art robotic technology, called the daVinci ® System. The webcast can be viewed at www.jeffersonhospital.org/webcast.

“Webcast viewers will see how laparoscopic surgery offers potential advantages to patients, including less trauma through smaller incisions, faster recovery and less overall blood loss during surgery,” said Leonard Gomella, M.D., FACS, chair of Urology and Bernard Godwin, Jr. Professor of Prostate Cancer, Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University and director of Urologic Oncology, Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson. Jefferson’s multidisciplinary Genitourinary (GU) cancer center celebrates its 10th anniversary in January. “We were the first institution in the Delaware Valley to offer laparoscopic prostatectomy in 2000 and have the longest experience in the region.”

Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University is also accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Edouard Trabulsi, M.D., assistant professor of Urology, Jefferson, a urologic oncologist who is an expert trained in laparoscopic prostatectomy by one of the pioneers of the technique, and Costas Lallas, M.D., assistant professor of Urology, Jefferson, who completed a robotic surgery fellowship at the Mayo Clinic, will perform the procedure. Dr. Gomella will serve as the webcast’s narrator.

da Vinci® Prostatectomy
GOMELLA FAMILY HOSTS UROLOGY RESIDENT/ FELLOWS PARTY

Tricia and Lenny Gomella and family hosted a barbeque for resident, fellows, nurse practitioners and their families at their home in Chadds Ford on Saturday, September 3. Music was provided by an authentic Mexican guitar player who strolled and sang various pieces including “La Bamba” and popular songs. Food included barbeque dishes from Famous Dave’s with dessert and a “road trip” to Starbucks. One of the most popular activities was ATV rides through the woods with Andrew and Michael Gomella acting as the instructors and official guides. An adult pig piñata provided comical entertainment with Rob Ramey “severely injuring” the piñata and Mark Pe finally breaking it. The residents scrambled for pig noses, gift cards and candy from the fallen piñata. The opportunity to meet with the residents and their families was a great opportunity. We hope to make this an annual event.

“Famous Dave’s” Barbeque was a big hit.

Residents enjoying a beautiful summer day with Mexican guitar music and Aunt Lucy looking for a handout.

Mark Chang on an ATV ride.

Yes, it is Rob Ramey with a “pig nose”. and no baby Joseph was not in the carrier.

Waiting for a turn at the "pig pinata"

Dr Gomella congratulating Dr. Pe on the "pinata victory"
**“JUP’S GUIDING STAR” HIGHLIGHTS UROLOGY’S CLINICAL PRACTICE EMPLOYEES**

Latoya Dantzler received “The Spotlight on Service Employee Recognition Award for November”. She is a Telephone Scheduler in our urology patient office. Latoya was nominated by our office manager. The nomination outlined Latoya’s willingness to go above and beyond on a daily basis for the department, as well as her pleasant personality and the ability to multi-task. Latoya received a Certificate of Award, a JUP lapel pin and a $50 American Express Gift Check.

An Honorable mention was given to Josie Tucker of Urology, who was also nominated. Josie received a “Certificate of Appreciation.” It is an honor to have both Latoya and Josie as part of our urology staff. Their work endeavors have provided our patients with a pleasant and positive experience. The Department of Urology is most grateful to them.

**THANKSGIVING 2005**

In thanks for our many blessing, the urology staff provided a traditional thanksgiving dinner to the Del Cocco family from St. Vincent DePaul Society. The staff donated the 20 lb. turkey, trimmings (2 baskets of food) and $135. gift certificate to ShopRite. We thank Bridget Lepchuk for her organizational efforts which made this endeavor of goodness happen.

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**


**TRAVELIN DOCS**

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

Eric Nelson, PGY3 married Amy Bowering, Resident in OB-GYN on October 15th.

Jeanne Llenado was married to James LeNoir on September 23rd.

Deb Glassman and Adam Berger are pleased to announce the birth of their new son, Jonnah Alexander. Jonnah weighed in at 6lb. 6oz.

**10th Anniversary of Our GU Multidisciplinary Clinic**

Kimmel Cancer Center  
April 6, 2006

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