



**Jefferson**

Philadelphia University +  
Thomas Jefferson University

# 2020 Urology Graduation Ceremony

Department of Urology  
Sidney Kimmel Medical College  
Thomas Jefferson University

June 18, 2020



# 2020 Urology Graduation Ceremony

June 18, 2020

7:15-8:15 AM EDT

Introduction

Urology Research Scholars Recognition

Dolores Shupp-Byrne PhD Senior Urology Award

Max Koppel MD Resident Achievement Award

Fellow Presentation

Chief Residents Presentation

*Dear Friends of Jefferson Urology,*

*While our traditional year-end graduation plans have been disrupted, our enthusiasm for giving our graduates a first-class sendoff remains. Much like every other academic group, we are pleased to have a virtual Department of Urology 2020 Graduation and Awards ceremony. This program gives us an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating Chief Residents: Drs. Tomy Perez, Ali Syed, and Hong Truong and Endourology Fellow, Dr. Kate Smentkowski. We are here to also acknowledge other trainees who have been a part of our Urology Team. Lydia Glick and Tim Han completed an outstanding year as our Jefferson Urology Scholars. The Dolores Byrne Senior Urology Award will be given to Dr. JY Leong who is joining us as an intern in Urology. This year, we have two resident winners of the Max Koppel Resident Achievement Award, Drs. Victor Kucherov and Andrew Salib.*

*On behalf of the faculty of the Department of Urology, we congratulate you on all of your achievements. All that you have accomplished over one of the most challenging times in the history of our country and in health care is something, we will remember for many years to come. Your perseverance and dedication to our mission of patient care and in continuing our academic and research programs is deeply appreciated. We are hopeful that we will have a smaller version of our DM Davis Visiting Professorship and celebration dinner in the fall. If the event takes place, we hope many of you will return. Since our graduation event will be on ZOOM please ask your family and friends to join us online for our program*

*Leonard Gomella, MD*

*On behalf of the Department of Urology Faculty*

# Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Urology Residents 2019-2020

**Residency Program Director** Patrick Shenot, MD  
**Associate Directors** Costas Lallas, MD and Alana Murphy, MD

## Chief Residents

**Tomy Perez, MD** Columbia University Roy and Diana Vagelos  
College of Physicians and Surgeons

**Ali Syed, MD** State of New York Upstate Medical School

**Hong Truong, MD** Sidney Kimmel Medical College

## PGY 5

**Christopher Caputo, MD** Temple University School of Medicine

**MayJean Counsilman, MD** Sidney Kimmel Medical College

**Tom Hardacker, MD** Indiana University School of Medicine

## PGY 4

**Benjamin Rudnick, MD** Sidney Kimmel Medical College

**Victor Kucherov, MD** University of Rochester School of Medicine

**Alex Uhr, MD** Sidney Kimmel Medical College

## PGY 3

**Edward Klonecke, MD** Sidney Kimmel Medical College

**Andrew Salib, MD** Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

**Anthony Tokarski, MD** Sidney Kimmel Medical College

## PGY 2

**Brian Calio, MD** Sidney Kimmel Medical College

**Halle Foss, MD** Medical College of Wisconsin

**Radhika Ragam, MD** Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

## *Ali Syed, MD*

### Chief Resident



Ali Syed, M.D. was born in Saudi Arabia and immigrated to Canada at the age of eight. He moved to Connecticut where he graduated from Danbury High School in 2006. Dr. Syed went on to obtain his Bachelors of Science in Biochemistry graduating with Distinction from McGill University. His medical journey began when he was admitted under the Early Assurance Program to SUNY Upstate Medical University. During medical school, he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha National Medical Honor Society and the Gold Humanism Honor Society. He ultimately completed his medical degree in 2014 with magna cum laude. For the past six years, he has called Jefferson Urology his home. He will be joining his friend from residency Dr. Amar Raval at the Advanced Urology Institute in Tampa, Florida.

**Dr. Syed:** "Intern year seems like only yesterday and yet here I am six years later given an outstanding clinical and surgical foundation to be an urologist. It certainly is an attribute to the leadership in this department and for that I am thankful to Drs. Gomella and Shenot. To the entire faculty, I thank you for the trust and confidence that you have bestowed upon me. I could not have developed without your guidance and mentorship.

To all the residents, I have learned something from each and every one of you. I thank you for that and am indebted for your contribution to my development as a person and a surgeon. I will miss all the laughs, jokes, and daily roasts. To my co-chiefs - Hong and Tomy - it has been a blast being in the trenches with you guys and finally growing up. While this isn't the graduation anyone had envisioned, being a physician during a global health care crisis is more momentous than I had anticipated. We should be honored to live at a time when our professions' nobility and respect has been restored.

To my amazing siblings - Bajo, Sara, and Anas - despite all the birthday parties, weddings, family gatherings that I have missed, you have never made me feel like I have not been a part of it. Even though we live in different parts of the country, you guys have always found a way to be there for me and cheer me on. I could not have done this without you.

To my Ammi and Baba, no words justify my appreciation for you. You believed in me even when I didn't believe in myself. You showed me how to work hard and persevere. You showed me how to dream. You are my pillars of strength, guidance and inspiration. I proudly stand as a reflection of you. I love you both.

To my beautiful wife, Aisha, this write up is already a few days late and I am falling asleep. You know more than anybody knows how exhausted I am on the daily. I have a big cystectomy tomorrow. Please wake me up at 5. Here's to attending life! But in all seriousness, you are my biggest comfort, my truest smile, and my strongest motivation. I breathe happier knowing that you are my beginning and my end every day. Thank you for putting me above yourself. I love you."

## *Tommy Perez, MD*

### *Chief Resident*



Tommy Perez, MD was born in Puerto Rico and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts. In his early days, he dreamed of becoming a paleontologist, but his Jurassic Park ambitions would never come to fruition. Instead, he was inspired by his wonderful family- his school teacher mother who taught him the value of education, endurance, and serving the community; his handyman father who taught him ingenuity, integrity, and reliability; his siblings- nurses, teachers, and a respiratory therapist- who showed him that there was no higher calling than caring for others; and his nieces, who always reminded him to be curious and silly. With this propelling him forward, he made his way to NYC, where apart from obtaining his BA and MD degrees at Columbia University, he developed a love of great film, art, and delicious food.

**Dr. Perez:** "And one day sitting behind a computer in the library I met Zoe, the creative, insightful and extraordinary whirlwind of a human who would become my wife. When trying to decide between ENT and Urology during my 3rd year of medical school, Zoe reminded me that Urology had the better jokes. And that was that. I was fortunate to match into the urology residency program at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, where I spent 6 years honing my craft. Little did Zoe know the long hours and "hanger" that lay ahead. I am thankful to Zoe for bringing playfulness and laughter into my life, for always showing me the beauty and worlds that exist outside of the operating rooms and hospital hallways.

I am very grateful to Drs. Gomella and Shenot for the opportunity to train at Jefferson, and to all the residents and attendings I have worked with over the years. The lessons learned from each one will continue to shape who I am as a person and urologist for years to come. In particular, I am grateful to my intern year chiefs Ryan, Doug, and Arjun for teaching me the fundamentals. Thank you to Dr. Ismail for showing me how to always do the right thing for his patients, and to Drs. Weiner, Llenado, and Murphy, who instilled confidence in me and made me feel valued and respected as more of a colleague than simply a resident. I am also grateful to Dr. Das for his openness and invaluable career advice and assistance. I am proud of all the current residents for their strength and humor through these difficult times. Their hard work, intelligence, and reliability have made my chief year much easier. I am happy to know that as I move on to a life of desert sunsets and general urology in New Mexico, that the prestige of Jefferson Urology will be carried by more than capable hands."

## *Hong Truong, MD*

### *Chief Resident*



Hong Truong, MD was born in Saigon, Vietnam and immigrated to the United States with her family when she was in 7th grade. They settled in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, a diverse and immigrant-friendly town bordering West Philadelphia. Hong was the first person in her family to have the opportunity to attend college. She enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating cum laude with a BA in Biochemistry, MS in Chemistry, and a minor in African Studies. Hong earned a scholarship to attend Jefferson Medical College. During medical school, Hong was selected for a research fellowship at the National Cancer Institute, completing studies in the fields of the genetics, metabolism, and molecular imaging of urologic malignancy. This divergence in her medical training led to the beginning of a career in urology and ignited her passion in

urologic oncology. After residency, Hong will continue her training as a urologic oncology fellow at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

**Dr. Truong:** "Outside of work, I like to make friends, learn history, and create memories worth keeping through traveling. It helps me appreciate the cultural, socio-economic, and historical contexts of people's behavior and make sense of world events.

The past six years have been a formative period in my professional and personal life. I have experienced the great thrill of successful surgeries and have been humbled by my mistakes and complications. Most important, I have had the opportunity to do what I love and to do better every day. I thank Drs. Gomella and Shenot for supporting me and allowing me to tread my own path during residency. I am indebted to the faculty members for mentoring, teaching, and entrusting me with the care of your patients. I am most grateful to my fellow residents for your energy, dedication, and camaraderie. You bring levity to work; I will miss laughing to tears with you daily.

Last in recognition but always first in thought, I would not have the serenity to pursue my passions without the support of my loving family. My parents have shown me that while I cannot control my circumstances, I can always control my actions. My husband, David Williams, has been by my side through the highs and lows. You have been my loyal advisor, my conscience, and my best friend. I feel blessed and grateful every day because of you. And to my daughter, Vivienne Rose, the thought of you always makes me stop and smile."

*Katherine E. Smentkowski, MD*



*Jefferson Fellow  
In Endourology and Robotic Surgery*

*An Endourology Society  
Certified Fellowship*

*2019-2020*

Katherine E. "Kate" Smentkowski was born and raised in Massachusetts. She attended the University of Maryland, College Park for her undergraduate education and went on to obtain her medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA. During her third year, she became interested in urology and everything the field had to offer.

She went on to complete residency at Eastern Virginia Medical School where she found herself drawn to minimally invasive techniques and decided to pursue fellowship. She was very excited to match to Thomas Jefferson University to complete her training.

When not working, Dr. Smentkowski enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Next year, she will be joining Chesapeake Urology in Maryland to begin her practice.

Dr. Smentkowski: "I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the fellowship program here at Thomas Jefferson. Thank you to all the faculty who have taken the time to teach me. Your expertise has molded me into a better physician and surgeon. Thank you to the chiefs and the residents; it has been a pleasure working alongside you. Lastly, thank you to my family for their unwavering support. I will look back on this year fondly and wish everyone best of luck in the future."

## Urology Research Scholars 2019-2020

### **Lydia Glick, BS/BA**

4<sup>th</sup> Year Medical Student

Sidney Kimmel Medical College 2021

Lydia Glick is originally from State College, Pennsylvania. She attended the Pennsylvania State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Immunology and Infectious Disease, and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations. A current student of Sidney Kimmel Medical College, she discovered a passion for clinical oncology research. Hoping to learn more about genitourinary malignancies, she pursued a year of research with the Jefferson Department of Urology. Through this experience, she was able to learn from a variety of excellent mentors in various fields. She plans to apply to an Internal Medicine Residency program, with the eventual goal of becoming an oncologist- her mother is slightly sad she is not pursuing Urology. She greatly enjoyed her time with the Department, and looks forward to continuing to perform clinical research in residency and beyond."

### **Timothy Han, BA**

4<sup>th</sup> Year Medical Student

Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University 2021

Timothy Han graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry and currently attends Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University. During his clinical rotations, he discovered the field of urology and developed a passion for its unique blend of surgical and medical management with longitudinal patient care and innovative technologies. Interested in deepening his exposure, he decided to take a year off after his third year of medical school to participate in urologic research. He has greatly enjoyed his time working with the department, learning from mentors, presenting and publishing research, and exploring Philadelphia! He is looking forward to applying for a urology residency for this upcoming 2020-2021 cycle."

## **Max Koppel, MD Resident Achievement Award**

**Victor Kucherov, MD**

**Andrew Salib, MD**

The Max Koppel, MD Resident Achievement Award is presented to resident(s) who have achieved the highest academic score in the yearly "Inservice Exam" sponsored by the American Urological Association.

## **Dolores Shupp-Byrne, PhD Senior Urology Award**

**Joon Yau "JY" Leong, MD**

Dolores Shupp Byrne, PhD Senior Urology Award is presented to a senior student at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College who has been recognized by the faculty of the Department of Urology, for accomplishing in their undergraduate medical education clinical and/or basic science research which has added positively to our understanding and treatment of urologic disorders.

**FACULTY  
DEPARTMENT OF UROLOGY  
2019-2020**



*Leonard Gomella, MD, Chairman*  
*Patrick Shenot, MD, Deputy Chair, Residency Program Director*  
*Scott Hubosky, MD, Vice Chair, Quality and Safety*  
*Costas Lallas, MD, Vice Chair, Education*  
*Edouard Trabulsi, MD, Vice Chair, Research*  
*Scott Bowes, MBA, FACHE, CMPE, Administrator*

*Demetrius Bagley, MD*  
*P. Kenneth Brownstein, MD*  
*Dolores Byrne, PhD*  
*Thenu Chandrasekar, MD*  
*Paul Chung, MD*  
*Akhil Das, MD*  
*Deborah Glassman, MD*  
*Irvin Hirsch, MD*

*Joseph Izes, MD*  
*Jeanne Llenado, DO*  
*Mark Mann, MD*  
*J Ryan Mark, MD*  
*Alana Murphy, MD*  
*Matthew Schiewer, PhD*  
*Perry Weiner, DO*