Dr. Costas Lallas Chosen to Participate in AUA Leadership Program

Dr. Costas Lallas, Professor of Urology and Vice Chair of Academic Affairs, participated in the AUA Leadership program (pictured back row, left), a program designed to enhance the participants’ organizational skills in order to effectively lead and communicate with their peers and colleagues. Each section of the AUA elects two section members to the program per a two-year cycle. “It was a phenomenal experience and has strengthened my understanding of the AUA organization,” said Dr. Lallas. Along with a Mid-Atlantic AUA section partner, Dr. Trinity Bivalacqua, Johns Hopkins Medical Center, Dr. Lallas will work with members from the New England Section on a year-long project that will focus on developing a MACRA Survival Guide for urologists. MACRA (Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act) was created by Congress in 2015 to reform Medicare physician payments. They were also assigned an AUA luminary mentor, Dr. Lawrence Ross, who was intimately involved in the group’s education and... Continued on page 2

NCI Rates Prostate Cancer Program “Outstanding”

The renewal process for our NCI-designated Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center was completed in fall 2017. Under the leadership of SKCC Director Dr. Karen Knudsen, the Center was granted a full five-year renewal. Of the five clinical translational research SKCC programs, the Prostate program received the highest score from the NCI review team. The prostate cancer program has 26 members, including faculty from Urology, Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Cancer Biology and several other departments. The program is led by Dr. Kevin Kelly, Professor of Medical Oncology and Urology and the Director of the Division of Solid Tumor Oncology at Jefferson; Dr. Alessandro Fatatis, Professor of Pharmacology and Pathology and the Director of the MD/PhD Program at Drexel University College of Medicine; and Dr. Leonard Gomella, the Bernard W. Godwin, Jr. Professor and Chair of Urology at Jefferson.

The prostate cancer program’s overarching goal is to reduce the burden of prostate cancer by identifying new modes of therapeutic intervention for androgen receptor (AR) signaling; create and test novel treatment strategies for advanced PC beyond AR; and develop and test new approaches for early-stage PC risk and detection. The program has $9 million in annual funding with... Continued on page 2
The Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center’s Cancer Support and Welcome Center located at 914 Chestnut Street officially opened on Monday October 2, 2017. This opening caps off a nearly 15-year effort by Dr. Leonard Gomella to establish a patient- and family-centric welcome and support center at the SKCC. Dr. Gomella, Department of Urology Chair, also serves as Senior Director for Clinical Affairs for the cancer center. The facility will provide patients with an identifiable starting point to access SKCC cancer center services. It will also serve as a resource for educational information and support groups on specific cancers, oncology support services and cancer facilities in Center City and across Jefferson Health.

According to Dr. Karen Knudsen, Director of the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, “Dr. Gomella’s tireless efforts on behalf of our cancer center have made his vision a reality for our patients and their families.” Dr. Gomella, who serves a Medical Director for the facility, worked closely with a core design team that included Dr. Knudsen; TJUH President Rich Webster, RN, MSN; Greg Garber MSW, LCSW, Director of Oncology Support Service; and Elizabeth Anastasia, TJU Facilities Project Manager. “We are very proud of what Dr. Gomella has accomplished, working with Dr. Knudsen,” noted Dr. Steven Klasko, President and CEO of Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health. “The Cancer Support and Welcome Center is a big step in our commitment to being partners with our patients, their families and our community. We need to engage patients while we make their decisions less confusing. We need to improve access while we build understanding and education. That’s what Dr. Gomella and Dr. Knudsen have built here.”

The Phillie Phanatic joined in the October 2, 2017, opening celebration.

Dr. Gomella provided an overview on the history and importance of the new SKCC facility.

NCI Rates Prostate Cancer Program “Outstanding” . . .

Continued from page 1

Prostate cancer is recognized as a major problem in the SKCC catchment area and attention to development of biomarkers for risk assessment, methods for decision-making and health outcomes in prostate cancer patients, and evaluating diet and life-style factors that affect outcomes and disparities in ethnically diverse populations constitute important research themes. Dr. Knusden notes, “Our SKCC prostate cancer program is one of only eight programs in the United States supported by an NCI core grant. The long-term outstanding interactions between our basic scientists and practicing clinicians has been recognized by the NCI through this ‘outstanding’ designation.”

Dr. Lallas Chosen to Participate in AUA Leadership Program . . .

Continued from page 1

members generating 661 publications since the last renewal.

Dr. Lallas added.
2017 marked the centennial anniversary of The Journal of Urology founded by Hugh Hampton Young, the father of American Urology. The AUA and The Journal of Urology featured a series of special events and publications to mark this important event over the last year. The Department of Urology is in possession of several priceless heirlooms, which include a complete bound edition of the first two years of The Journal of Urology, as well as a brass relief of Young from 1927. These artifacts will be added to the Leonard and Barbara Frank Museum of Urology display of historic books.

The Department of Urology was pleased to have Dr. Duncan T. Wilcox as our AI DuPont Fall Visiting Professor in Pediatric Urology. Dr. Wilcox is the Chief of Pediatric Urology at the Children’s Hospital of Colorado and Professor of Pediatric Urology at the University of Colorado. His interests include hypospadias, undescended testicles and patients with complex bladder anomalies. The program included an all-day session at the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, DE. It featured two state-of-the-art lectures by Dr. Wilcox on “What is New and What is Known About Groin Problems,” an update on “Posterior Urethral Valves” and interactive case discussions presented by residents in the Department of Urology. The following day he presented Urology Grand Rounds at Jefferson on the timely topic of “Enhanced Recovery After Surgery: Is It Applicable in Pediatric Urology?” Thanks to Dr. Sonny Figueroa, Chief of Pediatric Urology, and his associates for arranging this outstanding Visiting Professorship.

Dr. Lallas Chosen to Participate in AUA Leadership Program...
Congratulations to Anne Calvaresi, MSN, CRNP, RNFA, for her recent appointment as chair-elect of the American Urological Association’s Urology Care Foundation’s Prostate Health Committee.

For the past three years, Anne has been a member of the committee. As chair, she becomes the first and only nurse practitioner to hold a chair position.

When notified of the appointment, Anne was ecstatic. “When I received the news, I was floored,” said Anne. “It is quite an honor, and I am grateful and excited to serve.”

As chair, Anne will oversee informational materials for patients, physicians and providers by providing input on documents focused on prostate health, determining what types of materials should be generated by the foundation, developing the documents and orchestrating how informational materials will be disseminated. She hopes to focus on active surveillance materials, as well as explore and research the quality of life after prostate cancer for both the patient and the care provider.

Serving as chair-elect, Anne will “shadow” Dr. Paul Schellhammer, the committee’s current chair, throughout 2018, then assume the chair on June 1, 2019, and remain the chair through May 31, 2021. She will also be a chair member of the Public Education Council (PEC).

Dr. John Lynch, chair of PEC, commended Anne’s appointment. “Anne’s support to UCF is enhanced by her knowledge, dedication and engagement on projects,” said Dr. Lynch. “Anne’s professionalism and valued voice on our prior projects speak volumes to her ability to hold this position.”

Anne received both her undergraduate- and graduate-level nursing degrees at Thomas Jefferson University. She is currently enrolled in the University’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program. She has worked as an outpatient Urologic nurse practitioner since 2012, focusing primarily on oncologic disease, including diagnosis, treatment, follow-up care and quality of life following treatment. In addition to seeing patients in the outpatient clinic, Anne also spends time in the operating room as an RN First-assist. She has extensive publications experience and also serves as a member of the American Urological Association Advanced Practice Provider Membership and Education councils and the Mid-Atlantic American Urological Association Advanced Practice Providers committee.

Dr. Demetrius Bagley recently received an honorary membership to the Endourological Society in recognition for his loyalty and dedication to the organization over the past 30 years.

Dr. Deborah Glassman was selected as a JeffConnect award winner for the Outstanding Research in Telehealth Award. This prestigious designation was awarded to Dr. Glassman on October 9 in recognition of her leadership positioning in delivering high-quality care to her patients via video technology. JeffConnect is a service that provides better access for patients with their doctors to deliver face-to-face care and consultation without having to come to Jefferson.

Drs. Leonard Gomella and Veda Giri recently participated in GenomeWeb’s tweet on Genetic Testing and Counseling for Prostate Cancer (tweet pictured). The tweet included information about how prostate cancer is perceived in the clinic and in families.

Tweet Chat on Prostate Health
On September 29, Urology’s Anne Calvaresi, CRNP, and members of Jefferson’s social media office participated in the AUA’s Urology Care Foundation’s Prostate Cancer Awareness Month’s Tweet Chat. Callers tweeted their questions and concerns about prostate health. The chat was hosted by the Urology Care Foundation’s Know Your Stats About Prostate Cancer® campaign (@KnowYourStats).
Department News

Prostate Cancer Awareness Week 2017

Jefferson service recognition awards were recently presented to Anne Calvaresi, CRNP (10 years), and Suzanne Barron, CRNP (15 years). Seen here with Scott Bowes, MBA, FACHE, Fatuma Doka, CRNP, and Dr. Pat Shenot.

Prostate Cancer Awareness Week 2017

Thanks to all of our faculty, staff, students and volunteers for a successful prostate and men’s health screening event held in September. As always, a special thanks to Dan Dizio of the Philly Pretzel Factory for the always popular “P” for prostate custom pretzels. More than 150 men participated in the event.

Members of the Department gathered to celebrate the holiday season. As part of the festivities, the Department faculty sponsored a caricaturist for the event.

Dr. Gomella 2017 Andrew C. Von Eschenbach Lecturer at MD Anderson Cancer Center

On October 13, 2017, Dr. Leonard Gomella was invited to give the 2017 Andrew C. Von Eschenbach lecture at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. The lecture honors the legacy of Dr. Von Eschenbach, a Philadelphia native, who served many important roles including Chair of the Department of Urologic Oncology at MD Anderson, Director of the National Cancer Institute and FDA Commissioner. Dr. Gomella’s lecture focused on the current role of genetic testing in the management of prostate cancer and highlighted our recent SKCC consensus meeting that addressed that topic.

Dr. Colin Dinney, Chair of the Department of Urology at MD Anderson, Dr. Gomella and Dr. Chris Wood Deputy Chairman, Department of Urology.
The 21st annual Urology Symposium in Avalon was held on September 23 under the co-directorship of Drs. Demetrius Bagley and Kelly Healy. The conference, which has served as a model for interprofessional education, provided updates on urologic topics of wide interest and presentations on some of the newest developments.

Jefferson faculty presenting included Dr. Paul Chung, who is the newest member, speaking on urinary reconstruction; Dr. Sonny Figueroa, A.I. Dupont, gave a pediatric urology update; Dr. Brian Calio, the 2018 Bard research scholar, reviewed his experience with prostate cancer and MRI at NCI. Additional Jefferson faculty presenting included Dr. Kim Hookim from the Department of Pathology speaking on the Paris grading system for urinary cytology; and Dr. Jean Hoffman-Censits from Medical Oncology presented Management of Advanced Bladder Cancer beyond Chemotherapy.

This year there were three guest speakers: Dr. Kelly Healy, a former Jefferson endourology fellow and faculty member, returned from her new position at Columbia University Medical Center to present on Ureteroscopic Treatment of Calculi in Calyceal Diverticula; Dr. Frank Keeley, from Bristol, England, who finished his residency at Jefferson in 1996, addressed treatment options for calyceal diverticula and discussed the effects of calculi and treatment in regards to a patient’s quality of life; and Dr. Peter Schulam, Chair and Professor in the Department of Urology at Yale and the faculty director of the Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale (CITY), spoke on innovation and its impact on patient care.

Attendees included faculty, practicing urologists in the community, residents and students, and medical and administrative staff from Jefferson and other hospitals.

A committee has been formed and has met to plan the continuation and potential expansion of the symposium to benefit urologists and associated members from the widening Jefferson health system, as well as the local community.
Inaugural Urology Symposium

On Friday, December 8, Jefferson held its inaugural Urology symposium, “Innovations in the Endoscopic Use of the Holmium Laser.” Featured speakers included Dr. Mitchell R. Humphreys, Mayo Clinic; Dr. Lori B. Lerner, VA Boston Healthcare System; and Dr. Demetrius H. Bagley, Jr. The symposium was specifically designed for licensed healthcare professionals interested in expanding their level of expertise and knowledge of the holmium laser techniques.

Through focused, in-depth lectures and lively interactive case-based discussion, participants explored the instrumentation, technique and practice guidelines of the holmium laser to treat complex urologic problems in both the upper and lower urinary tract. This full-day course uniquely combined didactic material, case-based discussions along with an optional hands-on session to provide interested urologists with a comprehensive learning experience.

2017 SUO Washington, DC

The annual Society of Urologic Oncology 18th meeting was held in Washington, DC with 2015-2017 SUO President Dr. Leonard Gomella, presiding. The meeting featured several presentations by Department of Urology faculty and residents, including a plenary session presentation by Dr. Mat Thakur discussing Jefferson’s work in cancer detection using the VPAC receptor in PET scans and shed tumor cells.

SUO President elect (pictured left) Dr. Chris Evans, Chair of Urology at UC Sacramento and Dr. Leonard Gomella (right) SUO President present a Distinguished Service Award to SUO Past President Dr. Brantley Thrasher. Dr. Thrasher, Chair Emeritus at the University of Kansas, is currently serving President of the American Urologic Association.
In 2017 one of our graduating Chief Residents, Dr. Amar Raval, had the opportunity to participate in an International Volunteers in Urology (IVU) program in Haiti.

The University of Notre Dame with partners in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and CDC has established funding to provide a three-pillar tropical health initiative to combat the hyperendemic disease of lymphatic filariasis in Haiti.

The CDC’s goal is to eradicate the worldwide disease by 2020 through education, mass drug administration co-fortified by salt, and healing those affected by symptoms. Lymphatic filariasis is a disease transmitted by mosquitos, which can cause severe and debilitating elephantiasis and massive hydroceles. Although the disease is not typically fatal, it can engender social isolation and contribute to physical disfigurement, including elephantiasis, lymphedema and hydroceles.

Through collaborative partnership with IVUmed, Dr. Amar Raval accompanied Drs. Martin Dineen and Michael Grable, practicing urologists in Daytona, FL, to the coastal commune of Leogane, Haiti located 18 miles west of Port-au-Prince. They were charged with treating patients with massive hydroceles, who were prescreened and treated for the parasite prior to surgery. There was a varying degree of pathology, including hematocoles, lymphoceles and pyoceles, sometimes requiring a simple orchiectomy. Additionally, several patients required complex reconstruction and flaps for closure. The three surgeons performed more than 70 surgeries in five days. Dr. Raval valued the experience. “It was truly a powerful experience to be part of a dedicated and talented team committed to providing optimal patient care from pretreatment and healthcare delivery, surgery and postoperative management.”

Calling the experience life-changing, Dr. Raval appreciated the inherent nature of the residents. “I was touched by the hospitality from the Haitian community and the gratitude from all the patients I encountered. I am thankful for the mentorship of my faculty at TJU and former Jefferson Chief Resident in Urology, who also participated in an IVU program, Dr. Michael Amirian, who encouraged and supported my participation in this endeavor; there is a profound need for humanitarian service worldwide. As urologists, there is ample opportunity for us to contribute.”

Dr. Gomella Visits Bermuda on Behalf of Philadelphia International Medicine

Philadelphia International Medicine (PIM) provides international patients and physicians with access to Philadelphia’s unmatched network of world-renowned doctors, surgeons and hospitals that deliver personalized medical, surgical and rehabilitative care ranked among the best in the world. Jefferson, Temple and Fox Chase are the core hospitals behind this effort to provide medical services for international patients who wish to be cared for in Philadelphia. While in Bermuda, Dr. Gomella met with physician groups, conducted a patient program on prostate cancer and did several radio and TV interviews discussing Urology care available through the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center and the PIM program.
Urology Department First in Philadelphia to Participate in MitoGel™ Trial for Upper-Tract Urothelial Carcinoma

Upper-tract urothelial carcinoma (UTUC) affects approximately 8,000 individuals across the United States annually. Prospective clinical trials for this relatively uncommon malignancy are rarely available, yet sorely needed, as treatment outcomes have not improved significantly over the last 30 years, including rates of local recurrence for those with low-grade disease. Jefferson Urology and the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center are actively participating in an open-label, single arm, phase 3 multicenter international trial known as OLYMPUS (Optimized DeLivery of Mitomycin for Primary UTUC Study), sponsored by Urogen Pharma Ltd. This clinical trial provides low-grade UTUC patients with the opportunity to receive Urogen's MitoGel™, a unique gel formulation of Mitomycin C, which makes use of reverse entropy. At cold temperatures, MitoGel™ exists as a liquid but when instilled into a warmer environment, such as the renal pelvis, it quickly transforms into a gel. As the gel slowly dissolves in the urine over hours, it gradually elutes Mitomycin C into the potential space of the upper tract, thus maximizing contact of the drug with the urothelial surface. Early clinical experience in compassionate care cases has demonstrated a chemo-ablative effect in many patients who completed the treatment protocol with minimal side effects, including flank pain and nausea. Jefferson is the first Urology department in Philadelphia to enroll patients in this first of its kind study. Contact Dr. Scott Hubosky (215.955.6961, scott.hubosky@jefferson.edu), the primary investigator of Jefferson's trial, to refer potential patients.
SKMC 1997 Graduate
Appointed President of SBUR

Ganesh Raj, MD, PhD, has been appointed to serve as the President of the Society for Basic Urology Research (SBUR) in the upcoming year. SBUR promotes and supports fundamental discoveries in the basic science of urologic diseases in supporting industries and technologies of tomorrow. As president, Dr. Raj plans to focus on developing SBUR through improved meetings, growth of membership, enhanced technological collaborations, increased research support and public advocacy. Dr. Raj currently serves as Professor of Urology and Pharmacology and holds the Paul C. Peters Chair in Urology UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

Congratulations to 2016 Jefferson Urology Residency graduate Dr. Mike Amirian on his marriage to Jasmine Baroukhian. Dr. Amirian is on the Faculty at Weil Cornell Medicine and practices primarily at New York Presbyterian facilities in Queens, New York.

In Memoriam:
Dr. Kulp-Hugues

Dr. Deborah Kulp-Hugues, the first female urologist to be trained at Thomas Jefferson University, passed away on Monday, September 25, 2017. Born in Brookline, MA, Dr. Kulp-Hugues began her medical career as a nurse at Jefferson Hospital before she graduated from Jefferson Medical College and completed her urology residency at Jeff in 1994. She practiced as a urologist at Jennersville Regional Hospital, Chester County Hospital, Coatesville VA Hospital, and at her private practice in Oxford.

Dr. Peter Schlegel 2017 Brownstein Lecturer

Dr. Peter N. Schlegel, F.A.C.S., was the Department of Urology 6th Annual P. Kenneth Brownstein, MD Lecturer held on November 15 & 16, 2017. Dr. Schlegel is the James J. Colt Professor and Chairman of the Department of Urology at Weill Cornell Medical College and Urologist-in-Chief at The New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Cornell. He is an internationally recognized expert in the field of reproductive medicine. In addition to moderating a Journal Club for residents and faculty, he presented a grand rounds discussing the controversies surrounding testosterone replacement therapy.

Jefferson Faculty Participate in New Peruvian Prostate Cancer Book

Dr. Luis Meza Montoya, Chief of Urology at the Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Neoplásicas (INEN) in Lima, Peru, invited Dr. Leonard Gomella to serve as co-editor on their first national publication on the diagnosis and management of prostate cancer. INEN is the equivalent of our National Cancer Institute that serves the entire country of Peru. Dr. Gomella recruited other members of the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, Drs. Jean Hoffman-Censits, Kevin Kelly, Costas Lallas and Ed Trabulsi to contribute to the book with their chapters translated into Spanish.
Recent Publications
July to December 2017


Gomella LG: "Prostate MRI and Surgical Planning." Urology Times Perspectives, July 2017


2018 Visiting Professors

Paul D. Zimskind Visiting Professor
April 11 & 12
Cary N. Robertson, M.D.
Associate Professor of Surgery
Urology Division
Duke University Medical Center

David M. Davis Visiting Professor
June 14 & 15
Stephen Y. Nakada, MD, FACS
Chairman, Department of Urology
The David T. Uehling Professor of Urology
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 8-10
ASCO GU
San Francisco, California

February 27-March 3
SUFU 2018 Winter Meeting
Hilton Austin, Austin, Texas

March 1-3
Mid-Atlantic AUA
Amelia Island, Florida

March 15
OncLive State of The Science: Prostate Cancer
Loews Philadelphia
1200 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA