

## CONFERENCES

The [AUA curriculum](#) for residency training has been adopted as the official guide for training at our institution. Didactic conferences with close interaction between faculty, residents, and medical students are hallmarks of effective teaching. Incorporation of the AUA Curriculum and ACGME requirements has led to an amalgamation of the didactic presentations, journal club and the ‘pyelogram’ conference with a focus on updated topical knowledge. The Department of Urology provides a rich calendar of such learning opportunities designed, not only to address the ACGME mandated competencies of Patient Care, Medical Knowledge, Practice-Based Learning, Interpersonal Communication Skills, Professionalism, and Systems-Based Practice, but also prepare residents for all portions of Part I of the American Board of Urology Examination. Conferences are designed to heighten the residents’ understanding of and promote participation in research taking place at the institution, as well as to familiarize them more intimately with the different urologic subspecialties. Exposure to the local private practice urologists helps the trainee to better make decisions regarding their options for fellowship and/or academic practice after residency versus a private practice career. The Department provides membership in the AUA for the residents. This allows access to the AUA Curriculum and the Journal of Urology. Campbell’s Urology is available on-line through the University Library System. Additional texts, subscriptions, the AUA Update Series, and other educational materials can be purchased with educational funds provided by the department.

All conferences are posted in the monthly conference schedule. The urology schedule is also posted on-line for ready access dates, times, locations, and any changes. To access the on-line calendar go to <https://lsom.uthscsa.edu/urology/education/residency-program/conferences-07-2020/>. Click on the top of the list of calendars and it will take you to the following or previous month.

### **Policy on Conferences:**

Conference time is protected educational time for the residents. As such, any activities of patient care (floor rounds, elective cases, etc.) should be scheduled in such a way that the entire resident team for all services is free during that time. Elective cases should be scheduled after conference or arrangements made to have other assistance until the residents are available.

### **Mandatory Attendance:**

Attendance records will be kept for all conferences. It is expected that all residents will attend the scheduled conferences on Mondays and Fridays and Case Conference on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays & Journal Club on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month.

Residents on non-San Antonio rotations, on vacation or other approved leave are not required to attend but are responsible for the content of the conference topic. If emergency situations arise, the educational benefit of the conference should be taken into account when triaging personnel. In general, the more junior residents would likely benefit most from conference; the more senior residents on service would likely be able to handle the urgency more efficiently and be able to return to conference sooner. Chief

residents on each service are responsible for resident triage in these situations. Residents leaving conference are still responsible for the conference content.

The 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Pre-op conference is designed to discuss planned cases for Pediatrics, UH, Santa Rosa and the VA. The Methodist team has a separate conference but should attend if not busy with cases.

### **Teaching Conferences**

#### **Urology Curriculum Conference:**

**Time/Location:** 1st Monday of every month at 07:00 – 08:30

**Location:** Urology Conference Room in the Medical School (238A)

**Format:** Lectures, Case Presentations and Journal Article Reviews

**Responsible Faculty:** Various Faculty Assigned

**Description:** Residents, Fellows, Faculty and invited speakers from UTHSCSA or other academic institutions review the topic for which they are recognized experts. Case presentations are used to solidify the clinical relevance of the topic and finally, relevant current journal articles are reviewed to complete the topic of discussion.

#### **Case Conference:**

**Time:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month 07:00 – 08:00

**Location:** Urology Conference Room in the Medical School (238A)

**Responsible Faculty:** Dharam Kaushik, MD

**Description:** The format of this conference will be similar to part II of the ABU examination. Interesting cases will be presented in the board format and the residents will work through the case. Emphasis will be on knowledge of AUA guidelines and recommendations. 2-3 cases will be presented per conference.

#### **Pediatric Urology Conference:**

**Time/Location:** 4th Monday of every month at 07:00 – 08:30

**Location:** Urology Conference Room in the Medical School (238A)

**Responsible Faculty:** Jessica Goetz, DO and Timothy Baumgartner, MD

**Format:** Lectures, Case Presentations and Journal Article Reviews

**Description:** After a lecture, interesting and challenging cases are presented by senior residents to others unfamiliar with the specific details. Residents are encouraged to develop a methodical approach to evaluation, management and problem solving. Their core pediatric urology knowledge is tested as well as their ability to ‘think on their feet’ in working through the case. The faculty in attendance are encouraged to use a variety of teaching methods to bring out the salient issues and areas of controversy. One to two cases are presented per conference. The conference concludes with discussion of relevant current journal articles.

**Preoperative Planning Case Conference:**

**Time:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 07:00 – 08:00

**Location:** Urology Conference Room in the Medical School (238A)

**Responsible Faculty:** Joseph Basler, PhD, MD

**Format:** All Adult and Pediatric elective surgical cases from the VA, Santa Rosa, Pediatrics and University Hospital for the following 2 weeks are presented at pre-op planning conference.

**Description:** The residents present cases from each of the corresponding rotations. Residents compile the patient history, present requisite radiology studies, and discuss the proposed treatment planning including the operative approach. The indications, alternatives, potential additional studies required, and expected surgical outcomes of selected cases are discussed with input from all faculty. A short didactic review of a pertinent topic is presented periodically to emphasize teaching points. The latter is usually presented by the MS-3 or MS-4 on the service.

**Complications Conference:**

**Time/Location:** 3rd Monday of every month at 07:00 – 08:30

**Location:** Urology Conference Room in the Medical School (238A)

**Responsible Faculty:** Joseph Basler, PhD, MD

**Format:** All Adult and Pediatric Morbidity and Mortality cases from all sites are presented by residents on the corresponding rotations.

**Description:** The clinical course, complication, and outcome are presented followed by discussion by all faculty and residents to designate any point in the clinical course that the complication could have been avoided, what actions could have prevented or minimized the complication, and how to prevent such complications in the future. A modified version of the VA QA Case reporting form is used to report the group consensus and identify systems-based problems that may contribute to future problems. The conference concludes with review of chapters from Taneja's Complications of Urologic Surgery text and any current relevant journal articles.

**Journal Club:**

**Time:** 4th Wednesday of every month 07:00 – 08:00

**Location:** Urology Conference Room in the Medical School (238A)

**Responsible Faculty:** Various Faculty rotating monthly

**Description:** This conference resurrects the Journal Club but presents focused education on reading the literature including focused skills on biostatistics and interpretation of studies. Current literature is also reviewed in the curriculum presentations. Journal Club has been reformatted to allow a thorough review of the major areas of urology. Each area will be reviewed by a team including an attending staff, a junior and a senior resident. They

will be responsible for reviewing all the major journals for their topic and picking one or two key articles to be read by the group each month.

**Neurourology and Female Urology Conference:**

**Frequency:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month

**Location:** Urology Conference Room in the Medical School (238A)

**Responsible Faculty:** Stephen Kraus, MD, Sylvia Botros-Brey, MD

**Description:** The series covers the broad range of lower GU tract dysfunction with emphasis on evaluation through urodynamics. An introductory lecture to the principals and technical aspects of urodynamics is followed by subsequent lectures in which the clinical histories of patients with voiding dysfunction are presented and tracings, values, and fluoroscopic images of their urodynamic testing are displayed. Residents are called upon to interpret the urodynamics. Once a consensus interpretation is agreed upon, another resident may be called upon to propose treatment plans. These suggestions are discussed, and potential alternatives presented. Typically, 2-4 cases are discussed over the course of the hour. A literature review completes the sessions covering pertinent new journal articles.

**Uro-Oncology Conference:**

**Frequency:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month at 07:00 – 08:00

**Location:** Urology Conference Room in the Medical School (238A)

**Responsible Faculty:** Deepak Pruthi, Michael Liss, Dharam Kaushik, and the Uro-Oncology Faculty

**Format:** Lectures are presented by Residents, UTHSCSA faculty, the SUO Fellow and invited guest faculty.

**Description:** Often these lectures are scheduled to reinforce the information in the Campbell's textbook. Current literature reviews and case presentations add timeliness and clinical relevance to the presentations. A focus on clinical management guidelines is presented as well.

**Combined Tumor Board:**

**Time:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 17:00 – 18:00

**Location:** (238A) Medical School

**Responsible Faculty:** Dharam Kaushik, MD, Rob Svatek, MD, Dr. Michael Liss, MD

**Format:** Case discussion and treatment planning.

**Description:** This conference focuses on discussion of complex cases in Urologic Oncology. A true multidisciplinary conference, the medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, radiologists and urologists discuss cases presented and direction.

**VA Tumor Board:****Time:** 2nd Wednesday 16:00 – 17:00**Location:** VA pathology Conference Room**Responsible Faculty:** Javier Hernandez, MD, Michael Liss, MD**Format:** Case discussion & treatment planning.

**Description:** This conference incorporates the more traditional approach of discussing all the new cancer diagnoses for the prior month. A clinical database of cases for QI purposes will be maintained.

**QI Conference:****Time:** 5th Friday (06:45 - 08:00)**Location:** 238A**Responsible Faculty:** Michael Liss, MD**Format:** Presentation and review of QI projects, Education on RCA, etc.

**Description:** This conference will focus on patient safety, QI issues and allow presentation of ideas regarding new projects.

**Wellness Conference:****Time:** 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday (07:00 – 08:00)**Location:** 238A**Responsible Faculty:** Sylvia Botros-Brey, MD, Jessica Goetz, DO; Joseph Basler, PhD, MD**Format:** Variable

**Description:** This monthly conference is designed to assess resident and faculty wellness and prevent burnout. Topics are chosen to provide practical measures to increase residency efficiency and reduce stress.

**GME Competency Series:****Time:** Quarterly and On-line**Location:** Medical School**Responsible Faculty:** Jennifer Peel, PhD (DME, Anesthesiology)**Format:** Lecture, discussion

**Description:** This monthly conference covers topics related to GME requirements and core competency lectures. It is presented by the DME and available on line.

**Research Conference:****Time:** 5<sup>th</sup> Monday 07:00 – 08:00**Location:** Urology Conference Room (238A)**Responsible Faculty:** Robert Svatek, MD, Ron Rodriguez, MD, PhD; Robin Leach, PhD

**Format:** Discussion, Lab Research Presentations, Idea Generation

**Description:** This periodic conference will highlight the research efforts of the scientific faculty and help to encourage new ideas and projects.

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### **Additional Resources**

#### **Procedure Lab:**

**Time:** Varies

**Location:** Varies

**Responsible Faculty:** All

**Description:** This is a resource being developed at the medical center (including the Johnson Center for Surgical Learning in the Surgery Department at UTHSCSA) that emphasizes development of technical skills and patient safety in various areas of Urology. The Urology skills lab is in the planning stages but will eventually meet monthly for demonstration and training in selected aspects of urologic procedures and surgery. The most recent application has been in development of the Resident Boot Camp designed to develop basic surgical skills and competence in bedside and clinical procedures for the most junior residents who are coming onto the Urology services (PGY-2 year).

In the past, an endoscopic skills lab brought in representatives from several companies involved in the manufacture of urologic equipment and supplies. Each representative provided equipment and instruction on a one-on-one basis so that the resident could more clearly understand its function and safe use. This included training in Holmium laser systems, ureteroscopic devices, cystoscopic resection/biopsy devices and various stents. Another effort included a one-on-one, hands-on demonstration and skills training in basic robotics technique (suturing, basic dissection, etc.) utilizing the DaVinci Robotics unit at UH, VAH and SRMC.

#### **Research Lab Conference:**

**Time:** Weekly on Mondays at 08:00 – 09:00

**Location:** Medical School

**Responsible Faculty:** Research Faculty

**Description:** The research faculty members meet to discuss both the clinical and basic research activities in the department. While mostly administrative, there are presentations of data and updates on pertinent clinical and basic science topics presented periodically. Resident participation is optional but encouraged for residents with research interests.

#### **Urology San Antonio Case Conference:**

**Time:** Fridays Biweekly

**Location:** Private Office of Urology San Antonio  
**Responsible Faculty:** Dr. Roy Jones  
**Format:** Case presentation, Discussion.

**Description:** This conference is held in the offices of the private practice group associated with Methodist Hospital. Attending surgeons present interesting cases for group discussion and recommendations. Residents on the Methodist rotation are encouraged to attend and discuss their perspectives on the cases.

**Urodynamics Course:**

**Time:** Annually  
**Responsible Faculty:** Dr. Stephen Kraus

**Description:** This course occurs annually as a SUNA sponsored training course for nurses and professional staff. It is taught by the nurses and physician staff from UTHSCSA providing didactics, a course handout of UDS procedures and hands on training. Registration costs for one or more interested residents is supplied annually.

**Visiting Professorships:**

This usually involves an internationally known professor with expertise in a specific area of Urology who presents several lectures, may operate with the chief residents and hosts a patient presentation seminar to test the resident's knowledge base and skills. Additional visiting professors are invited for ad hoc conferences throughout the year. In general, all resident clinical responsibilities are suspended for the time of the conferences.

**Resident Feedback Sessions:**

**Time:** Quarterly  
**Responsible Faculty:** Joseph Basler, PhD, MD  
**Format:** Discussion.

**Description:** These meetings are usually held on the unscheduled Fridays to allow the residents an open forum to discuss improvement projects to enhance the residency program. This time is also open for the Program Director to announce any changes or upcoming events to the program or department as a whole. A separate Winter and Summer meeting is followed by individual resident-to-program director semiannual progress meeting. In addition to reviewing the resident's clinical evaluations, in-service scores and case logs, this meeting is also used to update each resident's educational portfolio and check progress on the current set of research goals and objectives set forth by the resident. QI project participation is also reviewed

**Geriatric Urology Symposium and Lecture Series:**

**Time:** Annual, Periodic

**Responsible Faculty:** Sylvia Botros-Brey, MD, Joseph Basler, MD  
**Format:** Lectures, Discussion, Panel Discussions

**Description:** This series is supported by a grant from the American Geriatrics Society and began in 2009. Selected topics of relevance to Urologists are presented in an intensive 1-day symposium annually. Lectures and discussion groups from UTHSCSA Geriatrics faculty or invited outside experts are part of this effort.

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