This has been a momentous quarter with many distinct achievements for our department. First and foremost, our department now ranks 9th in the country, according to U.S. News and World Report, up from 18th one year ago. This is the highest ranking in our history, and it is a tribute to all of our faculty, residents, students and alumni who have made outstanding contributions to the reputation and excellence of the department.

We are also privileged that Dr. Geoffrey Engel made a $3 million gift to the department in honor of his parents. This is the largest single donation to the department and the funds, when realized, will support the development of young faculty, the cornerstone of the department’s future accomplishments.

This past June, we formally invested Dr. David J. Klumpp as the first recipient of the Anthony J. Schaeffer, MD, Professor of Urology. I am proud and humbled to say that the Schaeffer Chair is the only Chair in the University honoring a sitting faculty member and is a direct result of contributions from many grateful friends and patients. Dr. Klumpp has established himself as a major investigator in the urologic fields of inflammation, infection and pain. These funds will enable him to further challenge existing paradigms and expand his and the department’s research horizons.

This September, Northwestern Medicine was created following a commingling of resources of the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation and Northwestern Memorial Hospital. This new structure will allow us to more rapidly and successfully compete in the new health care arena. The department has already benefited significantly with major support for new faculty recruitment and program development.

We are pleased to welcome Mary Lee (ML) Farrell as the new alumni relations link between the department and the medical school. ML will be reaching out to all faculty to facilitate our communications and interactions and build a stronger and more vibrant alumni organization within the department.

Dr. Adam Murphy, Assistant Professor in our
department, was recently awarded a prestigious five-year Career Development Award from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to further his research into Vitamin D and prostate cancer progression. This highly competitive award is complemented by significant support from the four grants he was previously awarded. These awards have positioned Adam to be a major player in the fields of health care delivery and the impact of prostate cancer on African Americans.

Adam is not our only faculty member to be awarded with distinction over the past months. Dr. Stephanie Kielb was honored by the faculty and residents for her singular commitment to the residency program over the past decade with the Excellence in Teaching Award. Additionally, Dr. Robert Brannigan received the 2012 Journal of Urology® Best Reviewer award during the annual meeting of the American Urological Association in San Diego.

Collectively, these achievements represent a watershed in the department that will position it as one of the top programs in the country in patient care, research and education. We are now particularly well suited to grow and continue to play a leading role in urologic health, research and education. Thank you all for your numerous contributions and commitment to the department.

Regards,
Anthony Schaeffer, MD
Northwestern’s urology program has been ranked 9th in the country on the U.S. News & World Report 2013-14 Best Hospitals specialty ranking released in July. This is the first year that Northwestern’s Department of Urology has been recognized as a top 10 program, rising nine places from last year’s 18th, making it the highest ranked urology program in Illinois and Chicago.

“We are honored but not surprised by this news because our team is constantly striving to be among the best urology programs in the country,” said Anthony Schaeffer, MD, Chair of the Department of Urology at Northwestern Memorial and Professor of Urology at Northwestern University. "Every day, the urologists at Northwestern Memorial Hospital work with patients to find the best individualized treatment for their conditions while offering the most compassionate care possible. As these rankings show, very few do it better."

The urologists at Northwestern offer compassionate care working with patients to find the best individualized treatment for their conditions, including bladder disorders, erectile dysfunction, female urology, genitourinary cancer, interstitial cystitis, kidney and urinary tract disorders, male infertility, prostate diseases, stone disease, urologic cancers, urinary incontinence and urinary tract infections.

The U.S. News specialty rankings were driven by objective data such as death rates, procedure volume, and balance of nurses and patients. A survey of physicians, who are asked to name hospitals they consider tops in their specialty, produces a reputation score that is also factored into the rankings. To be considered in the ranked specialties, a hospital first had to meet at least one of four criteria: It had to be a teaching hospital, or be affiliated with a medical school, or have at least 200 beds, or have 100 or more beds and the availability of four or more types of important medical technology. Next, hospitals had to meet a volume requirement, individually calculated for each specialty. The required volume was the number of Medicare inpatients from 2006 to 2008 who had various specified procedures and conditions in the specialty. Just 147 hospitals, only about 3 percent of those in the U.S., earned a national ranking in one or more specialties.

As a whole, Northwestern Memorial climbed six places to 6th in the nation on the publisher’s most exclusive ranking: the Best Hospitals 2013-14 Honor Roll. Northwestern Memorial is the only hospital in Illinois to make this prestigious ranking and continues its placement as No. 1 in Illinois and the Chicago metro area, a distinction the hospital has held since U.S. News introduced its state and local rankings two years ago. Northwestern Memorial is recognized in 14 of 16 specialties rated by U.S. News—five of which are top 10 placements.

For more information about urology care at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, visit http://www.nmh.org/nm/urology
Created in 2008, the Anthony J. Schaeffer, MD, Professorship in Urology was established by a group of patients, colleagues, and friends to honor Anthony J. Schaeffer, MD, the Herman L. Kretschmer Professor and Chair of the Department of Urology, a position he has held since 1990.

During his investiture as the Schaeffer Professor on June 5, David J. Klumpp, PhD, shared, “For me, Tony has been a mentor, a partner, and a friend. It’s a true privilege to work with him.” He continued, “I regard this award as both an immense honor and an important responsibility to, in part, uphold the legacy of Anthony J. Schaeffer.”

During his humble and emotional speech, Dr. Klumpp took time to thank all those who contributed to create the position he now holds with distinction.

“The Schaeffer Professorship is only possible because of the generosity of many who share an understanding of the importance of good urologic care and a vision of how new research will ensure that care only gets better,” he said. “While I am the first recipient of the Schaeffer Professorship, the gifts for this honor will continue to support urologic research into the future and beyond me, and for that we are all grateful.”

Drs. Klumpp and Schaeffer co-direct the Northwestern Pelvic Pain Center within the National Institutes of Health Multidisciplinary Approaches to Pelvic Pain research network. Since joining the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine faculty in 1998, Dr. Klumpp has conducted work across the field of urology. Most recently, he has focused his work on a breadth of benign urologic diseases including interstitial cystitis (a field in which he has made numerous groundbreaking advances), urinary tract infection pathogenesis by E. coli, the genetic basis of pelvic pain severity, and the role of inflammation in pelvic pain.

The Schaeffer Professorship will bring useful funds to the laboratory of Dr. Klumpp, allowing him to continue research at the forefront of his field for the benefit of people everywhere. He shared a glimpse of what will be made possible with those present.

“We will capitalize on unique perspectives and exploit our unique tools to develop new therapies—the first truly effective therapies for chronic pelvic pain,” he said. “This will put a new and powerful arrow in the quiver of the urologist—finally, an effective weapon against chronic pelvic pain for these long-suffering patients. Thank you all for your support in making this happen!”
James Dupree is completing a fellowship in men's health, infertility, and andrology with Dr. Larry Lipshultz at Baylor in Houston. He is very much enjoying his fellowship and life in Houston. After fellowship, Jim is looking to join a practice with opportunities to offer men's health and infertility care, teach, and continue his work in health policy. Among it all, he's still finding time to sail Houston's many waterways, cook, and explore Houston's restaurants.

Dae Kim moved to Houston to start his two year fellowship in Urologic Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center. The first year is bench research and next year will be his clinical year. His interest is in kidney cancer and biomarkers that identify tumor aggressiveness, therapy response, and resistance. He is currently pursuing these goals in Dr. Chris Wood's laboratory, another Northwestern Alumni. Dr. Kim’s wife, Regina, and two children, Leanna and Philip, have adjusted well.

Brian Le is now a Clinical Instructor at the James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital, pursuing a fellowship in Sexual Medicine and Andrology. He was awarded a grant from the Sexual Medicine Society of North America to investigate novel ways of treating low testosterone, and he has initiated bench and clinical studies to investigate novel treatment approaches. On a personal note, he and his wife are celebrating their one year anniversary after getting married during his chief year.
Puneet Masson: Andrology
Dr. Masson has joined the faculty at the Hospital of University of Pennsylvania Division of Urology as an Assistant Professor and Director of Male Fertility Program at Penn Fertility Care. Since graduating in June, he has been building his practice there and developing formalized programs in andrology, male fertility preservation, penile rehabilitation, and hypogonadism treatment.

Samuel Eaton: Endourology
Upon graduation, Dr. Eaton and his wife moved to North Carolina, where he now serves on the faculty in the urology department at Duke University.

Nate Ballek: Reconstruction
Dr. Ballek has joined the Kansas City Urology care group after completing his fellowship in urologic reconstruction and prosthetics. He is now working at St. Luke’s East and Lee Summit Medical Center in Lee Summit, Missouri, where he specializes in percutaneous procedures for kidney stones and complex urethral stricture repair.

Barry McGuire: Endourology
We welcome Dr. McGuire, who has moved to Chicago from Dublin, Ireland to pursue the Endourology fellowship under Dr. Robert Nadler. Dr. McGuire is not new to Northwestern, having completed a clinical research fellowship in prostate cancer with Dr. William Catalona in June of 2011. Specializing in urologic oncology, laparoscopic surgery, and stone disease, Dr. McGuire will be a welcome addition in endourologic research for our department.

Justin Han: Reconstruction
Dr. Justin Han is currently working with Dr. Chris Gonzalez as the Reconstruction fellowship fellow. Justin also is familiar with Northwestern, having completed his MD at Feinberg in 2008. Since then, he has gone on to complete his Urology residency at New York University’s Langone Medical Center.
Dr. Geoffrey Engel has made a very generous $3 million endowment to the Urology department by creating the Ben and Rose Engel Surgeon Scientist Fund. Once fully endowed as a professorship, this prestigious academic position will support a promising young surgeon-scientist in the Department of Urology here at Feinberg.

Dr. Engel, a Northwestern undergraduate, medical, and resident alumnuus, has always known the value of a good education. "If you don’t get the best training from the start, you’ll never get to your goal," he says. “You only get to build that foundation once.”

Growing up in Cleveland, Dr. Engel was the only child of Ben, a restaurant owner, and Rose, a schoolteacher. Ben and Rose, along with many extended family members, believed that the key to success lay in the quality of one’s schooling. The Engels embedded this ideal in the mind of their son, and it worked.

After his experience as a “cherub” at Northwestern’s business school while a rising high school senior, Dr. Engel went on to enroll in the Honors Program in Medical Education and ultimately completed both his medical school and residency training as a Wildcat. During his internship year at Wesley Memorial Hospital (the last year the program was offered there), Dr. Engel stumbled upon the field of medicine that would become his passion: urology. “I remember thinking ‘this is it’ and never looking back,” he says. Dr. Engel’s career took off from there, as he went on to serve a variety of appointments across the medical field.

Today, Dr. Engel is founding partner and president of Northwest Suburban Urology Associates, SC, in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. “The wealth of positive interactions throughout my career has been my favorite part,” he says. “When my patients leave, they feel better— they are grateful for the relief. I get to work with a convivial and pleasant community of urologists, and I consult with excellent primary care doctors. There is so much support and camaraderie.”

“If you like what you do, you’ll be content in your career. It doesn’t mean you won’t work a day in your life—you’ll work, but you’ll enjoy it,” he adds. Dr. Engel, who is also an accomplished underwater photographer and avid boater, shares this wisdom with everyone he can: “Find what you love and get the best training, even if you have to wait for it.”

For more information on Dr. Engel and his endowment, please see the full story via the Development & Alumni Relations website:

http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/giving/stories/partners/engel-profile.html
Congratulations to Dr. Adam Murphy for being honored with the VA Career Development Award to further his research into Vitamin D and prostate cancer progression. This award is considered a singular honor in the VA system. Dr. Murphy has demonstrated remarkable achievements in research in a short time period. He has been awarded four grants since starting on faculty in 2010:

- Vitamin D Levels and Related Genetic Polymorphisms, Sun Exposure, Skin Color and Risk of Aggressive Prostate Cancer (Department of Defense)
- Research supplement to promote diversity in health-related research (Minority supplement, SPORE in Prostate Cancer)
- Career Development Award (SPORE in Prostate Cancer)
  Project I: West African Ancestry as a Predictor of PSA Velocity
  Project II: Improving Screening in African American Men in Chicago
- Impact of HIV Status and Race on Disparities in Prostate Cancer Treatment and Incidence (subcontract with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, NIAID)

Dr. Stephanie Kielb received Feinberg’s Excellence in Teaching Award for her work as Program Director. This award was designed especially for her by Drs. Anthony Schaeffer and Daniel Dalton, for all of her hard work as the residency program director. Stephanie and Education Coordinator Kelly Ross have provided outstanding leadership, mentoring and novel programs including the urologic electives which allow us to attract the best and brightest students to our department.

Dr. Robert Brannigan is the recipient of the 2012 Journal of Urology® Best Reviewer award. He was honored at a reception during the annual meeting of the American Urological Association in San Diego along with other recipients. These awards are given to only a handful of the more than 2,500 Journal of Urology® reviewers, and recipients are chosen based on the number of reviews performed annually, the timeliness of the responses and the quality of the critique.

SAVE THE DATE: 2014 VINCENT J. O’CONOR, JR., M.D. VISITING PROFESSOR, DR. JAMES LINGEMAN

Each year, the upcoming Chief Residents select a professor from outside Northwestern to be invited to Northwestern as the Vincent J. O’Conor, Jr. Visiting Professor. This year, that invitation was awarded to James Lingeman, M.D., Professor of Urology at Indiana University School of Medicine.

This event will take place on March 6th and 7th, 2014. The two-day event includes a live surgery broadcast, case presentations, and an informal round-table discussion. All faculty, residents, and the Visiting Professor attend the department’s annual dinner.

Dr. Lingeman is internationally acclaimed for his clinical expertise and research in kidney stone disease and holmium laser treatment of prostatic hypertrophy. Dr. Lingeman is an NIH-funded investigator in the treatment of stone disease. Dr. Lingeman’s extensive experience in lithotripsy and percutaneous surgery has earned him an international reputation as a leader in endourology. He is the founding director of the International Kidney Stone Institute.
Dr. Josh Meeks is an Assistant Professor of Urology at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, as well as Section Chief of Robotic Surgery at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. Dr. Meeks was born and raised in Springfield, IL and attended the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign for his undergraduate education. He received his MD and PhD degrees from Northwestern University in 2005, with a research focus on genetics and tumor cell biology. He completed his urology residency at Northwestern University in 2011, and a urologic oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY in 2012.

Dr. Meeks’ clinical efforts focus on minimally invasive and open urologic oncology with a particular interest in bladder and prostate cancer. His research interests focus on both the epigenetics and genetic mutations associated with cancer biology. Specifically, he is studying how chromatin remodeling genes play a role in bladder cancer. In addition, he is studying the “driver” mutations found in bladder cancer. In the future, he hopes to develop novel systemic and intravesical therapies to improve survival of patients with bladder cancer.

"I am a urologic surgeon who specializes in the treatment and surgery of men and women with genitourinary system cancer," he says. “These include tumors of the bladder, prostate, kidney and testis. My area of interest is radical surgery of the bladder and prostate with emphasis on continence sparing and nerve preservation techniques. This includes reconstruction of the urinary system after bladder removal by creation of a new bladder (neobladder) to avoid stomas and improve quality of life. In addition, I believe in performing minimally-invasive surgery whenever possible with laparoscopic and robotic assistance.

“I am actively involved with several clinical and translational research projects with a focus on identifying the causes of bladder cancer and cancer refractory to intravesical therapy (such as BCG),” Dr. Meeks adds. “I am specifically interested in identifying the genetics of genitourinary malignancies to provide personalized treatments that give my patients the best chance for success."
Meet M.L. Farrell, the new Senior Associate Director for Alumni Relations – here to work with (and for!) all of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine’s alumni, very much including our residents and fellowship graduates from the department.

After working at Johns Hopkins and Brown University, ML has returned to her Chicago roots to join the development and alumni relations team at Feinberg. She now serves as the conduit and a main point of contact for all things related to alumni relations at the medical school.

In the coming months M.L. hopes to be able to reach out to graduates of our program to hear ideas and get feedback regarding ways to increase connections between our residency and fellowship graduates and the department and medical school. Her focus will include facilitating the sharing of news and information (both professional and personal) with fellow alumni, our faculty and other Feinberg alumni working in the field; encouraging participation in alumni activities both on campus and around the country; and providing new volunteer opportunities for mentoring, peer networking, and fundraising efforts, to name a few.

Whether it’s to share news, provide updated contact information (especially a current email address), get information regarding an alumni event or mailing, or just to ask a question or present a concern; feel free to contact ML at mlfarrell@northwestern.edu or medalum@northwestern.edu, and look for updates from her office in coming issues of Urology Flow.

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**INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT**

- This past August, we said farewell to our Associate Department Administrator Brittani Miller, Department Data Manager John Cashy, and Clinical Practice Supervisor Mary Jo Mauger.

- We welcome our new Associate Department Administrator, Jill Rubin-Decremer. Jill has been with Northwestern University for 11 years before transferring to our department. Prior to joining us, she was the associate director of admissions and financial aid at Northwestern Law and she has also worked on the Evanston campus as an undergraduate advisor/program coordinator. Let’s welcome her in her new role!

- Francine Romero has been promoted to the role of Practice Manager for the department. In her new role, she has oversight over the day to day clinic operations. Francine has been at NMFF for 16 years, the last two years as Billing Supervisor for the department. In her previous roles at NMFF, Francine has managed a revenue cycle department, as well as coding and compliance.

- If you have any announcements you would like to share, please send details to Sara Steinkamp at s-steinkamp@northwestern.edu
Visit The Department of Urology on the web at:
http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/depts/urology