Northwestern has always been one of the historic programs within the field of Urology. With its inception back to 1900 through today, the department has trained outstanding clinicians, scientists and leaders in the field. I am honored to lead this department as its fifth Chair.

I want to recognize the significant influence you, the Alumni, have had on the success of our educational, clinical, and research enterprise. The alumni base and reputation is extraordinarily impressive. Furthermore, I want to thank Dr. Anthony Schaeffer for his innumerable contributions. As Chair since 1990, he has built Northwestern Urology to its current, outstanding position in the field. Fortunately, he will continue to contribute to the mission of the department through his research and clinical efforts.

I am excited to advance the mission of Northwestern Urology by fostering increased discovery, education and enhanced patient care. In my mind, these three tenets drive the future of top-tier urologic care and are my priorities as we grow in both the clinical and research arenas.

I look forward to working together with you and meeting you at the 2016 American Urological Association in San Diego.

Regards,
Edward (Ted) M. Schaeffer, MD, PhD
Congratulations to the eleven residents who presented abstracts at the 2015 AUA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Notably, Dr. James Kashanian was awarded Best Abstract for his plenary presentation, and Dr. Joceline Liu’s abstract was named Best Poster in her category. In addition, the following abstracts were named “Top Picks” by Urology Times:

- Liu JS, Hofer MD, Oberlin DT, Milose JC, Flury SC, Morey AF, Gonzalez CG. “Changing Practice Patterns in the Treatment of Urethral Stricture amongst American Urologists.”
- Liu JS, Doolittle J, Hofer MD, Flury SC, Kielb SJ. “Changes in Female Urologic Case Distribution with New Subspecialty Certification and Surgeon Gender.”

Residents, attendings, and alumni compete against NYU in the annual AUA bowling match.
Aziz Khambati: Endourology Fellow

Aziz Khambati is the 2015-2017 endourology fellow at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He received his medical degree from DeGroote School of Medicine, McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario and completed his urology residency training at University of Toronto. He will train under Drs. Nadler and Perry to specialize in endoscopic and minimally invasive surgery for endourological conditions.

Jared Moss: Andrology Fellow

Jared Moss is the 2015-2016 andrology fellow at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He specializes in general urology and male infertility. He received his medical degree from Louisiana State University Health Science Center in Shreveport, Louisiana and completed his urology residency training at University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine in Knoxville, Tennessee. Following his fellowship, Jared plans to return to Louisiana to open an infertility private practice and collaborate with local medical schools to educate students on andrology and infertility.
Edward (Ted) M. Schaeffer, MD, PhD, an internationally recognized physician-scientist with deep expertise in urologic oncology, has been named Chair of the Departments of Urology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Northwestern Memorial Hospital, effective December 1.

Dr. Schaeffer was previously the R. Christian B. Evensen Professor of Urology, Oncology and Pathology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. At Johns Hopkins Medicine, he served as director of the prostate cancer program, director of international urology and co-director of the Prostate Cancer Multidisciplinary Clinic, as well as a member of the James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute and the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Schaeffer is also a respected clinician with expertise in open, laparoscopic and robotic treatment of urologic malignancies, and founder and chief medical officer of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Norway.

“We are delighted to welcome Ted to Northwestern Medicine. He is at the forefront of the field of urology, with an outstanding background treating patients with aggressive prostate cancers and investigating the molecular mechanisms of the disease,” said Eric G. Neilson, MD, Vice President for Medical Affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean. “I have no doubt that his exceptional leadership will bring the Department of Urology to new heights.”

After earning medical and doctoral degrees at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, Dr. Schaeffer completed an internship in surgery, a fellowship in pathology and a residency in urology at Johns Hopkins Medicine. He became a faculty member of Johns Hopkins in 2007.

“Dr. Schaeffer will make an outstanding addition to Northwestern Medicine and continue to elevate our urology program’s recognition as a national leader for providing innovative treatments and compassionate care,” said Dean M. Harrison, President and CEO of Northwestern Memorial HealthCare.

Dr. Schaeffer’s groundbreaking prostate research, featured in more than 175 publications, emphasizes at-risk populations, diagnosis, treatment outcomes and the molecular biology of lethal prostate cancer. His lab, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the U.S. Department of Defense and the Prostate Cancer Foundation, specifically focuses on the molecular biology of locally aggressive prostate cancers and the impact of race on the biology of prostate cancer. His laboratory also studies novel pathways of prostate and bladder carcinogenesis through utilization of experimental embryology and systems of epithelial injury repair.
On October 5, Dr. Eric G. Neilson presented Dr. Anthony Schaeffer with an official portrait to honor and celebrate his years of service as chair of the Department of Urology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr. Schaeffer was joined by his family, colleagues and friends to pay tribute to his achievements and dedication to the Department of Urology. Dr. Schaeffer began his career at Northwestern in 1976 and became Chair of the Department of Urology in 1990. He has transformed Northwestern Urology into one of the top programs in the country and will continue to contribute to the mission of the department through his research and clinical efforts. Congratulations, Dr. Anthony Schaeffer!
The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University has been awarded a new $11 million, five-year competitive grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for its continued leadership in running one of the Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) in prostate cancer, one of only eight in the country.

First funded in 2001, the multi-center consortium provides an integrated scientific environment that leverages the expertise and resources of its members to strengthen the proposed research projects. “The SPORE represents a major investment by the NCI in our prostate cancer research program,” said William Catalona, MD, Principal Investigator of the Prostate SPORE, Director of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Clinical Prostate Cancer Program, and Professor of Urology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. “We are delighted to be selected again for this prestigious award, achieved through an incredible team effort. The translational work performed under the SPORE will have a significant impact on the outcomes and overall quality of life of prostate cancer patients.”

The Prostate SPORE unites basic scientists, clinicians, pathologists, biostatisticians, bioinformaticians, and advocates to examine the basic biology of prostate cancer. In addition, the interdisciplinary teams design and conduct innovative clinical trials that will offer entirely new approaches to the treatment of prostate cancer.

The SPOREs are a cornerstone of the NCI’s efforts to promote collaborative, translational cancer research. In every project, the development of new interventions involve both a laboratory component and a human application that must be performed within the five-year term of the grant. The four major research projects of the Northwestern SPORE focus on two of the most important issues in prostate cancer today:

- Determining germline genetic variations that predispose individuals and their families to prostate cancer, and help to identify which patients need immediate treatment and which can be managed with active surveillance.
- Addressing the need for new treatments for men with advanced cancer that no longer responds to current therapy.
Congratulations to Dr. Stephanie Kielb, a recipient of the 2014 Journal of Urology Best Reviewer award. Dr. Kielb was honored during the annual meeting of the American Urological Association in New Orleans along with other recipients. These awards are given to only a handful of the more than 2,500 reviewers who contribute their time and talent to The Journal of Urology. Award recipients are chosen by the Associate and Section Editors based on the number of reviews performed annually, the timeliness of the responses, and the quality of the critique.

On Saturday, October 24, more than 50 faculty, residents and research staff met to showcase their research and to discuss opportunities for collaboration. Following Dr. Anthony Schaeffer’s welcome message reflecting on the department’s current state of research, eight clinical and research faculty spoke about their current research. This event provided a interactive forum between basic and clinical researchers, students and residents. Ali Shilatifard, PhD, Chair, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, gave the keynote presentation, “Enhancer Malfunction in Cancer.” Dr. Shilatifard’s research demonstrates that enhancer malfunction through point mutations may be the cause of tissue-specific cancer development.

Residents, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and laboratory fellows submitted 38 abstracts to basic and clinical research categories. The retreat committee, led by Dr. Sarki Abdulkadir, selected one winner in each category who later gave podium presentations at the retreat. Dr. Kenji Unno was awarded Best Basic Science Abstract for his project, “Development of Prostate Cancer Organoids from Normal Human Prostate Epithelial Cells in Vitro.” The winner of the clinical category, Dr. J.O. DeLancey, presented his research, “Impact on Health Related Quality of Life and Satisfaction Following Treatment of Prostate Cancer: Results of a Prospective Study.” During the lunch session, the remaining abstracts were featured in a poster competition. Three residents, Drs. Flum, Glaser and Hamoui, tied for Best Clinical Poster, and Lizzie Anguinga of Dr. David Klumpp’s lab received Best Basic Science Poster.
Each year, the upcoming Chief Residents select a professor from an outside institution to serve as the Vincent J. O’Conor, Jr. Visiting Professor. This year, the invitation was awarded to Dr. Margaret Pearle of UT Southwestern.

The Visiting Professor Event will take place on March 17 and 18, 2016. The two-day event will include case presentations and roundtable discussions. The event will culminate with Dr. Pearle’s grand rounds presentation and dinner with the residents and faculty.

Margaret Pearle, MD, PhD, is a Professor with joint appointments in UT Southwestern Medical Center’s Department of Urology and the Mineral Metabolism Center. She is the Ralph C. Smith Distinguished Chair in Urologic Education. Dr. Pearle received her medical degree from the University of Chicago and completed her residency at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She attended Washington University School of Medicine for her fellowship. Her research interests include evaluation of dietary and medical therapies for kidney stone prevention, assessment of outcomes for minimally invasive surgical treatments and development and assessment of resident teaching tools.