The American Urological Association Annual Meeting is fast approaching. Eleven residents from our department will be presenting abstracts at the annual meeting to be held in New Orleans. This speaks to the strength of our residents and the faculty’s dedication to engaging residents in basic and clinical research. Several years ago we made a commitment to make it possible for all residents with abstracts accepted by the AUA to attend the annual meeting. We are proud to uphold this promise and look forward to continuing this legacy in the years to come.

I am pleased to announce that our andrology fellow, James Kashanian, is first author on an abstract recently awarded “Best Abstract” for the 2015 AUA Annual Meeting. The abstract titled “PI, Scrotal Ultrasound for Pain: Low Frequency of Absolute Surgical Indications” will be given as a podium presentation on Sunday, May 17.

This winter Sarki Abdulkadir was officially invested as the John T. Grayhack, MD Professor of Urologic Research. I am thrilled to congratulate Dr. Abdulkadir on this well-deserved distinction and honor.

I look forward to seeing many of you in New Orleans at the 2015 AUA Annual Meeting and hope you will attend the Annual Northwestern Urology Alumni Dinner on May, 17, 2015.

Regards,

Anthony Schaeffer, MD
On November 25, 2014, Sarki A. Abdulkadir, MD, PhD, was officially invested as the John T. Grayhack, MD, Professor of Urological Research. As part of the official investiture ceremony, Anthony J. Schaeffer, MD, Herman L. Kretschmer Professor and Chair of the Department of Urology, presented Dr. Abdulkadir with his Grayhack professorship medal.

The John T. Grayhack, MD, Professorship was established in 1992 in honor of Dr. Grayhack through the generosity of former residents and patients. Dr. Grayhack began his tenure at Northwestern in 1956. Seven years later he was appointed the Herman L. Kretschmer Professor of Urology and chair of the department. He held both positions until 1989.

During his transformational time at Northwestern, Dr. Grayhack established the Kretschmer Urological Research Laboratories and helped build the department into one of the leading research-oriented departments of urology in the country. He received some of the most prestigious awards in the field, including the American Urological Association's Hugh Hampton Young Award in 1979, the Eugene Fuller Prostate Award in 1989, and a Presidential Citation in 2002. Dr. Grayhack passed away in 2012.

Dr. Abdulkadir was recruited to Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in December 2013. He began his training at Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria, where he received a combined undergraduate and medical degree. He later moved on to Johns Hopkins as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute postdoctoral fellow where he received his doctorate in immunology. He subsequently completed a residency in clinical pathology integrated with a postdoctoral research fellowship in prostate cancer at Washington University School of Medicine.

Prostate cancer initiation, progression, and recurrence encompass Dr. Abdulkadir's primary research focus. He is investigating the molecular mechanisms that drive these processes and hopes to develop therapies that interfere with them. He also has a strong interest in genomics and gene regulation, oncogenic kinases as molecular therapeutic targets, and the use of in vivo lineage tracing to define the fates of specific cell populations in tumorigenesis.

"Endowments like this professorship are so important because they allow scientists to really turn up their research. We can pursue things that we otherwise would not be able to do," said Dr. Abdulkadir in his remarks. "I have already seen the impact of this position on my work."

"Dr. Abdulkadir has a long history of grant support, an outstanding publication record, and an impressive history of mentorship, having trained over 20 students, post-doctoral fellows, and physician scientists," said David R. Gius, MD, PhD, Zell Family Scholar Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Feinberg and interim director of the Women's Cancer Research Program at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University. Dr. Gius served as Dr. Abdulkadir's extoller during the celebratory program.

"I did not have the pleasure of meeting Dr. Grayhack, but I am told that he was truly a great man," said Dr. Abdulkadir. "I am honored and grateful to the Grayhack family, as well as their friends and Dr. Grayhack's trainees who made this fund in his honor possible."
Northwestern University Trustee and alumnus Louis A. Simpson and his spouse Kimberly K. Querrey have made an additional $92 million gift to Northwestern University in support of the University’s biomedical research programs at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

The latest gift comes just a year after the couple made a $25 million gift to Northwestern to endow the Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Institute for BioNanotechnology in Medicine (SQI). SQI is conducting some of the world’s most innovative, interdisciplinary research in applying nanotechnology to regenerative medicine. These gifts, along with the couple’s earlier gifts, bring their total contributions to Northwestern’s We Will Campaign to $117.8 million. This represents the largest amount given by a single donor to the campaign.

In recognition of their generosity, the new biomedical research center on Northwestern’s Chicago campus will be named the Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Biomedical Research Center.

Construction will begin this year on the 12-story Biomedical Research Center that will be connected to the Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center. The new state-of-the-art research center, comprising approximately 600,000 square feet, will have nine laboratory floors. It has been designed to accommodate an additional 15 laboratory floors of vertical expansion in the future.

“This gift will be a catalyst for Northwestern Medicine’s mission to advance biomedical research informing patient care,” said Dr. Eric Neilson, Vice President for Medical Affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean at Feinberg. “The gift will enable us to both build on established areas of strength and develop new areas of excellence and expertise. In addition, with this gift, the total amount raised for the Campaign for Northwestern Medicine will surpass $1 billion.”

The Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center will provide new space for SQI investigators and collaborators as well as other biomedical scientists working in cancer, heart disease, neurodegenerative disorders and genetics. It will help draw the most talented research faculty, Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows, and will provide new research opportunities for medical students, residents and clinical fellows on both the Evanston and Chicago campuses.

“Regenerative medicine is both a great challenge and a great hope. We want to regenerate parts of the human body lost to trauma, aging, disease and genetic factors,” said Samuel I. Stupp, who has led SQI since its founding. “We are seeking to go beyond the current boundaries of medical science and in doing so, provide hope to those afflicted by these factors.”

In addition, the facility located in the heart of Northwestern’s academic medical campus will facilitate the opportunity for venture space, generate start-up companies and promote scientific discovery that will save lives and improve health. Planning for the new building includes four floors for the Stanley Manne Children’s Research Institute of the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and will accommodate collaborative research conducted by Northwestern’s McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, Northwestern Medicine’s department of physical medicine and rehabilitation and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

“Lou and Kimberly are truly exceptional philanthropists,” said Northwestern President Morton Schapiro. “Their understanding of our biomedical research enterprise is remarkable, and their leadership and commitment to Northwestern inspire all of us. We are deeply grateful for this latest expression of their enormous faith in Northwestern University and the important work that is ahead.”

Simpson is a Northwestern Board of Trustees member and a 1958 alumnus of the University’s Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, and his son, Ted, is a 1996 graduate of Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management. Lou Simpson has been on the Northwestern Board since 2006 and serves on the investment and educational properties committees. He is chairman of SQ Advisors, LLC, an investment advisory firm located in Naples, Florida. Previously, he was president and CEO of Capital Operations at GEICO Corporation.

Querrey is president of SQ Advisors. Previously, she was president of Querrey Enterprises, a consulting firm. She currently serves on the board of directors and executive committee for both Artis Naples and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

The new biomedical research center on Northwestern’s Chicago campus will be named the Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Biomedical Research Center.
Fourth year resident Daniel Oberlin traveled to Vienna, Austria for the month of January with the generous support of the Andlinger Residency Exchange Fellowship. Since 1992, the American Austrian Foundation has sponsored over 150 residents through the residency exchange, allowing American and Austrian residents to supplement their education and broaden their experience through exposure to a foreign healthcare system.

Daniel spent four weeks interacting directly with the urology faculty and housestaff at the largest hospital in Austria, Vienna General Hospital, a 1,500 bed hospital and outpatient clinic with over 1,600 physicians. During his rotation in Vienna, Daniel worked closely with chairman Dr. Shahrokh Shariat and urology faculty in the clinic, operating room, and research facilities.

Daniel learned not only about the field of urology but in particular the nuances of European urologists, which differ from American urologists. “During my time in Vienna, I was able to fully integrate myself into the department with significant interactions with the urology staff, housestaff, nursing, and research department.” In particular, Daniel enjoyed discussing salient topics in urology such as PSA screening and neoadjuvant chemotherapy with the urology staff. Through these discussions he was able to learn new perspectives and management techniques.

In addition, Daniel was able to better appreciate the differences in the way medical care is provided in a different health system. “I enjoyed learning diverse perspectives on clinical management and how medical management differs in the United States when compared to Austria. For example, healthcare in the United States is burdened by ever-increasing costs, especially with regard to prolonged hospitalization and the cost of hospitalization. To counter these rising costs, there is significant emphasis on shortening hospital stays in order to maximize efficiency and cost to taxpayers. In Austria, however, there is less attention to decreasing hospital stays. In many ways, this is refreshing because patients are given a couple of extra days in the hospital to recuperate and recover.”

Looking back on his trip, Daniel said, “The experience in Vienna was invaluable and I truly appreciate the support of the Department of Urology in helping to make the international elective an important part of our training. Not only did I build excellent relationships with urology colleagues in Europe, but I was able to do so in a city as beautiful and vibrant as Vienna.”
Dr. Stephanie Kielb will spend two weeks this April in Kigali, Rwanda with the International Organization for Women and Development, a non-profit, volunteer-based medical mission that educates local urologists and provides free treatment and care to patients suffering from obstetric fistulae, gynecologic and pelvic floor disorders.

This is Dr. Kielb’s second mission with the International Organization for Women and Development. During the two-week trip, eight to twelve surgeons typically treat approximately 100 women and perform 40 surgeries, including cystoscopy, ureteral stents, ureteral reimplants, vesico vaginal fistula repair, ureterovaginal fistula repair, hysterectomies, and the placement of slings. She will also assist in the training of local surgeons, nurses, and other allied health workers in the prevention, treatment, post-operative care and social reintegration of fistula patients.
CONGRATULATIONS RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS
CLASS OF 2015

RESIDENTS

Greg Auffenberg
Greg is pursuing a urologic oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering. He will spend two years at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for the research portion of the fellowship.

Elodi Dielubanza
Elodi has accepted a fellowship position at the Cleveland Clinic in Female Pelvic Medicine & reconstructive Surgery.

Matthias Hofer
Matthias is moving to Dallas, Texas for a fellowship with UT Southwestern in Urologic Trauma, Reconstruction, and Prosthetics.

FELLOWS

Barry McGuire
Barry has accepted an attending position in Dublin, Ireland at an academic teaching hospital. He will specialize in endourology and laparoscopic/robotic surgery.

James Kashanian
James will join Cornell University as an Assistant Professor of Urology, Assistant Professor of Reproductive Medicine, and Assistant Urology Attending.

Jaclyn Milose
Jaclyn will remain in the Chicago area and will join the John and Carol Walter Center for Urologic Health at NorthShore University HealthSystem.
Please join us in welcoming Jason Cohen, Adarsh Manjunath, Mehul Patel, and Emily Yura, our newly-matched residents. We also welcome Ashima Singal who will join us as a PGY2 resident. Their exemplary achievements during medical school impressed the faculty and residents. We are very pleased these exceptional individuals will be joining our residency program in June 2015!

**Jason Cohen** is currently a student at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He completed his undergraduate education at Colgate University in Hamilton, NY, earning a BA in Biochemistry. He has several publications and has engaged in numerous research projects with members of the urology department at Johns Hopkins.

**Adarsh Manjunath** is currently a Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine student. He also completed his undergraduate education at Northwestern University, achieving a BA in Biological Sciences and Global Health Studies. He has worked on research projects and published papers with faculty and residents in our department.

**Mehul Patel** is currently a medical student at the University of Virginia Medical School in Charlottesville, VA. He achieved a BS after his undergraduate studies in Biology and Chemistry, also at the University of Virginia. He has several publications from his medical school research.

**Emily (“Emmy”) Yura** is currently a medical student at Rush University Medical School. She completed her undergraduate education at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, achieving a BA in Spanish Language & Literature and Gender & Health Studies. She engaged in research projects with the urology faculty at Rush, which have resulted in publications.

**Ashima Singal** will join our residency program in July 2015, as a PGY2 urology resident. Ashima attended medical school at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine graduating in May 2014. She is currently a PGY1 urology resident at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, New Jersey. We are excited for Ashima to join Channa, Rotimi and Louis in the urology class of 2020!
On March 5 and 6, Dr. Mark Litwin, Professor and Chair of the Department of Urology at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, participated in the annual two-day visiting professor event. Highlights of the event included resident case presentations and a surgical skills lab in the NCASE lab.

Dr. Litwin gave a lecture “Caring for the Uninsured with Prostate Cancer in California” at Urology Grand Rounds and attended dinner with the residents and faculty. The following day he attended pre-op conferences and had dinner with just the residents followed by the annual resident bowling outing.

Dr. Litwin has authored numerous original articles, reports, reviews, and book chapters on urologic oncology and outcomes research. His research includes medical outcomes assessment, epidemiology, health-related quality of life, costs and resource utilization, and patient preferences, all in malignant and benign urologic diseases. In 2001 he received the American Urological Association’s prestigious Gold Cystoscope Award, given annually to the young urologist who has made the most substantial contributions to the field of urology.
Tissue Regeneration Using Anti-inflammatory Nanomolecules

Arun Sharma, PhD, has been working on innovative approaches to tissue regeneration to improve the lives of patients with urinary bladder dysfunction. Among his team’s breakthroughs was a medical model for regenerating bladders using stem cells harvested from a donor’s own bone marrow. The team recently developed a system that may protect against the inflammatory reaction that can negatively impact tissue growth, development and function. Self-assembling peptide amphiphiles (Pas) are biocompatible and biodegradable nanomaterials that have demonstrated utility in a wide range of settings and applications.

Using an established urinary bladder augmentation model, Dr. Sharma’s group treated a highly pro-inflammatory biologic scaffold used in a wide array of settings with anti-inflammatory peptide amphiphiles (AIF-Pas). When compared with control Pas, the treated scaffold showed regenerative capacity while modulating the innate inflammatory response, resulting in superior bladder function.

“Our findings are very relevant not just for bladder regeneration but for other types of tissue regeneration where foreign materials are utilized for structural support. I also envision the potential utility of these nanomolecules for the treatment of a wide range of dysfunctional inflammatory based conditions,” said Dr. Sharma.

The research team includes members of the Departments of Urology and Medicine at Feinberg; Institute for BioNanotechnology in Medicine, and the Departments of Biomedical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Chemical and Biological Engineering at Northwestern University and the Department of Urology at Loyola University Health System.
**2014-15 HIGH IMPACT PUBLICATIONS**

The publications of Shad Thaxton, Kaylin McMahon, Nick Angeloni, and Adam Murphy were recognized as high impact publications for 2014-15. The publications receiving this honor were:


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**2014-15 FACULTY IN THE NEWS**

**Dr. Adam Murphy** was featured on FOX Chicago for his research on Vitamin D deficiency and its link to cancer. His research showed a large number of African American men with aggressive prostate cancer also had severe vitamin D deficiency. In addition, his study indicated that 44 percent of Chicagoans have Vitamin D deficiency and these were individuals that were taking the recommended daily amount of Vitamin D every day. Dr. Murphy found that a lack of Vitamin D can contribute to the formation and progression of breast and colon cancer cells. His research has since been published in the Journal of Clinical Cancer Research.

The Chicago Tribune and WGN News honored **Dr. Courtney Hollowell** in February for Black History Month. Dr. Hollowell leads a men’s health forum for 150 underserved men in Chicago. According to Dr. Hollowell, “Men tend to downplay the importance of taking an active role in their health care. Fifty percent of men don’t see a doctor, even in the best circumstances when they have health insurance.” Dr. Hollowell hopes this education will allow these men to take an active role in their health, ultimately leading to longer and healthier lives.

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**2015 AUA NORTHWESTERN ALUMNI DINNER**

The Annual AUA Meeting will take place in New Orleans May 15-18 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

We hope you will join us for this year’s Northwestern Urology Alumni Dinner to be held on Sunday, May 17 with cocktails beginning at 6:30 PM and dinner to follow at 7 PM. This year’s event will take place at Calcasieu located at 930 Tchoupitoulas Street in New Orleans.

Please contact Michael Kelley at k.michael.kelley@northwestern.edu or (312) 503-5360 if you have questions or would like to RSVP.