President’s Message
By Tracy Cannon-Smith, MD

SWIU Plans to Expand to AUA Sectional Meetings

This is an exciting time for the Society of Women in Urology. We held three Society of Women in Urology gatherings at the sectional meetings recently. You will read the response to these meetings in this issue. SWIU has heard from many of our members that the sectional meetings are actually easier for many of our membership to attend. We have heard various reasons from the meetings tend to be closer to their location often times and these meetings tend to be more productive educationally than the large AUA meeting. For many women with busy urology practices and families to care for, their sectional meetings may make more sense than the AUA national meetings.

SWIU would like to reach out to our membership that cannot attend the national meeting and expand our gatherings at the section level. This will mean we need more involvement from you! In this issue you will hear the success of each sectional meeting gathering as a pilot projection. You will hear how each meeting had its own flavor and was a great time for women in urology to gather and swap stories and experiences as well as mentor each other. As we expand this program, we will be looking to enlist your help in various ways.

continued on following page
Although I am sure every SWIU president and board member would like to attend all the sectional meetings we all know this is not possible. We will be enlisting more volunteers from each section to help develop the program that will be relevant for the women in their section. We will be also discussing as a board how we need to change our structure to make sure all sections are covered. I am excited about the initial turnout. We will continue to pursue the goal laid out by our Past President Dr. Mueller of finding more ways to reach our membership as well as meet their needs. Providing an opportunity for women to gather, talk, share stories and experiences seems like a start. This is also an important place for women residents to connect with women who are out of residency and a time for them to perhaps find mentors. Mentoring obviously does not stop once you finish residency, as many of us know. There is mentoring that is needed all stages of our careers and lives, and hopefully these gatherings can help provide the connection that is needed in our busy lives. Please contact SWIU at info@swiu.org if you are interested in helping plan a SWIU gathering at one of the sectional meetings.

NCS Gathering Update

By Tamra E. Lewis, MD

SWIU hosted a breakfast session at the North Central Section meeting on October 2, 2010 in Chicago, Illinois. The session, hosted by SWIU board members Tami Lewis and Libby Williams, was well attended. A dozen or so women gathered for the early morning session. Topics discussed included how women are often not as effective as men in negotiating for jobs and employment contracts. The majority of the attendees practiced primarily female urology, and another topic was how to define yourself as a female urologist who does not do primarily female urology — suggestions included doing a fellowship or creating a niche in another area, or positioning yourself in a smaller community. We hope to see many of you next year at the North Central Section meeting in Rancho Mirage, California.

SCS Gathering Update

By Rose Khavari, MD

This gathering at a regional AUA section meeting reminded me of how the SWIU began. A few dedicated and passionate female urologists met informally for breakfast during AUA in 1980 and annually thereafter, leading into the creation of a society dedicated to promoting women as urologists. SWIU hopes to have strong representation in the future regional meetings and provide an opportunity for the medical students, residents, and practicing urologists to meet, mingle and network. I look forward to the next SCS meeting in San Antonio, Texas from September 14 – 17, 2011. I hope to see you there.

Meaningful Breakfast Gathering at the Mid-Atlantic AUA

By Michelle J Semins, MD

I recently hosted a breakfast gathering for SWIU at the Mid-Atlantic AUA section meeting. I was actually a bit nervous for a couple of reasons. I was worried nobody was going to attend, and I was worried about how we would fill the time. I’m not even done with residency yet; how am I going to host an informational meeting about women in urology?

The morning came and I think every woman I saw at the meeting attended the gathering. They ranged from residents, to fellows, to new faculty and to experienced urologists. They were from New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, DC and Washington state! I gave my little blurb about what SWIU is, which was important because some of the women didn’t even know it existed! But after that we enjoyed our breakfast together. We first went around the room and introduced ourselves. It was so interesting to see how unique everybody was. And after that, we just talked. There were beautiful stories told of experiences as females in urology over the past 30 years. Some of them were truly unbelievable.

One woman was a physician’s assistant in orthopedics before deciding to go to medical school. She knew she wanted to be a surgeon and in medical school her mentor, who was a urologist, was the first surgeon who encouraged her to go into a surgical field. She finished her training in the 1980s and was the second female resident at her program. When she interviewed, the chief of urology said they vowed that they would never take another woman in their program. Well, they took her. When she got pregnant during her training, they had no clue how to deal with it. This was her third child, having had a baby when she was a general surgery intern and as a medical student, and so she had been through this before. She had to guide them through it. When she told them as an employee of the hospital she was allowed 3 months leave, they said she could have 1 month. She operated the day before she gave birth and was induced when she was post-call.

Another woman there always hosts the female residents when they attend the UVA basic science course. She reminisced about the first gathering with less than 5 women present. This past year there were over 20.

Consistent with this notable growth of females in the field, a new faculty member recalled an experience she had recently during residency. She was asked to consult on a prominent individual who subsequently refused her care because she was a woman. He requested she call her chief resident. When SHE presented he was appalled and demanded the attending come in. When SHE presented, he was out of luck, and the joke was on him.

More and more females enter training every year. And, though it is easier in larger numbers, it will never be easy. These gatherings are so important to remind us of where we’ve been and how far we’ve come. The paths our mentors have paved for us should never be forgotten.

Plan to Attend!

SWIU Gathering at the 2011 Southeastern Section Meeting
March 17 – 20, 2011

Attention Southeastern Section members! Plan to join your fellow women urologists for an intimate gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the upcoming Southeastern Section Meeting. If you’d like to help plan or host this event, please email SWIU at info@swiu.org.
Mark Your Calendars:
SWIU at the 2011 AUA

*SWIU veterans — please note the schedule change as the events previously held on Tuesday will now be on Monday.

Sunday, May 15, 2011
6:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
SWIU Annual Breakfast Meeting
Renaissance Washington DC
Renaissance East
Featuring guest speaker David Penson

Monday, May 16, 2011
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Women Leaders in Urology Forum
Renaissance Washington DC
Renaissance West B
Featuring moderator Linda Shortliffe

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
SWIU Networking Reception
Renaissance Washington DC
Renaissance West A

Everyone is Welcome! This is a great opportunity to meet with other urologists to discuss the issues in the field of urology. SWIU will announce the Christina Manthos Mentoring Award winner and you will also hear from the winners of the Elisabeth Pickett Research Award, SWIU Travel Award and SWIU/SBUR Award for Excellence in Urological Research.

We look forward to these great events every year and hope to see you there!

Please note that the Women Leaders in Urology Forum and the Networking Reception will be held on Monday this year. We hope you can make it!

2010 – 2011 Board of Directors

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SWIU Mission Statement

The Society of Women in Urology, Inc., consists of urologic surgeons and other outstanding contributors to the progress of SWIU who reside and practice their profession in the United States and internationally. The purpose of SWIU is to support the professional advancement of women urologists, to encourage public education regarding urologic issues and to promote urologic research.
Christina Manthos Mentoring Award

Christina L. Manthos was an extraordinary young urologist whose life and career were sadly curtailed by breast cancer. As a means of perpetuating the flame of her inspiration and honoring her memory, SWIU established an annual award to recognize men or women who demonstrate extraordinary mentoring skills in supporting the career of a female urologist.

Dr. Manthos earned her medical degree from USUHS in 1990, receiving the Army Surgeon General's Award and the Janet M. Glasgow Award from the American Medical Women's Association. After a surgical internship at Fitzsimmons AMC, where she won Outstanding Intern of the Year, she served in Korea as a clinic commander.

Subsequently, she returned to Fitzsimmons AMC, where she completed her urology residency in 1996. She then served with distinction as the assistant chief of the urology service at the USAF Academy and Fort Carson until she lost her battle with breast cancer in 1999.

Dr. Manthos will be fondly remembered as a gifted urologic surgeon, dedicated officer and inspiring mentor.

SWIU believes that a mentor is an important element in the life of each professional woman and wants to encourage and reward those who set a good example. If someone has mentored you in a special way, please consider submitting a nomination for this significant award.

Past winners include: Donald G. Skinner, MD; Edward J. McGuire, MD; Tamara Ravendam, MD; Michael B. Chancellor, MD; Robert C. Flanigan, MD; Jean L. Fourcroy, MD, PhD; Marguerite C. Lippert, MD; Gloria S. Massey, MD; Martha K. Terris, MD; Margaret C. Wolf, MD; Dave McCloud, MD; and Craig Donatucci, MD.

Nomination forms for the Christina Manthos Mentoring Award are available on the SWIU website, and will be due on January 15, 2011. For more information, please visit www.swiu.org.

Elisabeth Pickett Research Award

Dr. Pickett was the first woman in the US to be certified in both general surgery (1961) and in urology (1962). In order to qualify to take the urology boards, she actually had to retrain, completing an assistant resident year in urology and a second year as a general urology fellow at MSK. She was also the first woman to be accepted into a urology fellowship.

Throughout her professional life, Dr. Pickett dedicated herself to teaching, holding multiple academic positions at Cornell Medical College, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, New York Hospital and the New York Infirmary. Later in her career, she also directed the spinal cord injury center at Castle Point Veteran's Hospital. In addition to maintaining a busy practice and teaching, she devoted herself to oncologic research. Perhaps most importantly, she was a committed patient advocate who took umbrage at any injustice she perceived.

Certainly, Dr. Pickett's accomplishments as a surgeon and a urologist were vast. She blazed a trail for all future women in urology with hard work and perseverance, and her passion lit the way for those of us who followed. She was an inspiration to all who met her, and SWIU is pleased to offer this award in her honor.

The Elisabeth Pickett Research Award makes funds available for small research grants for basic science or clinical urologic research. The awards may be used to continue or supplement a current project or to initiate new study.

Awardees are expected to attend the Annual Breakfast Meeting on Sunday, May 15, 2011, the Women Leaders in Urology Forum and the Networking Reception on Monday, May 16, 2011. Awardees also shall present a five-minute summary of their work at the Annual Breakfast Meeting.

The 2011 Elisabeth Pickett Research Award is $2,500, payable to the institution where SWIU Research activity will be completed. The award will be presented at the Annual Breakfast Meeting.

Applications are now being accepted. Please visit www.swiu.org for more information. Please note the application deadline is December 31, 2010. Late applications will not be reviewed.

Past Winners of the Elisabeth Pickett Research Award include:

- 2009: Jennifer M. Taylor, MD
- 2008: Rose Khavari, MD
- 2007: Katie N. Ballert, MD
- 2006: Carley Davis, MD
- 2005: Kathleen Kieran, MD
- 2004: Adrienne J. Carmack, MD
- 2003: Joanna K. Chon, MD
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SWIU Travel Award
The Society of Women in Urology is proud to once again offer the SWIU Travel Award. This award helps subsidize the travel expenses for a female to present their work at the 2011 American Urological Association (AUA) Annual Meeting.

Awardees are expected to attend the Annual Breakfast Meeting on Sunday, May 15, 2011, the Women Leaders in Urology Forum and the Networking Reception on Monday, May 16, 2011. Awardees also shall present a five-minute summary of their work at the Annual Breakfast Meeting.

The SWIU Travel award is $1,000. Awards will be based on the scientific merit of the accepted abstract.

Applications will be accepted after candidates have confirmed notification that their abstracts have been accepted for presentation at the AUA. Applications will be due on January 20, 2011. Late applications will not be reviewed.

Past winners include: Elizabeth Masko, PhD; Julie M. Riley, MD; Stephanya B. Shear, MD, MPH; Mia A. Swartz, MD; Nivedita Dhar, MD; and Melissa M. Walls, MD.

Check Out Job Postings on the SWIU Website
Do you have an open position in your practice/department?
Are you looking for something new?
Consult the SWIU Bulletin Board at www.swiu.org

www.swiu.org

Members Corner
Join us in congratulating Dr. Dolores Lamb as the newly appointed president-elect of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine.

SWIU welcomes Dr. Marina Cheng as a resident representative to our Board of Directors. Dr. Cheng will help represent the resident voice for women in urology for the next two years. Please join us in congratulating her!

SWIU thanks Dr. Tamra Lewis, Dr. Libby Williams, Dr. Rose Khavari, Dr. Nel Gerig and Dr. Michelle Jo Semins for hosting the section gatherings this fall. These programs owe their success to you!

Do you have news that you'd like to share with SWIU? Let us know at info@swiu.org.
Dues are Due!

Help keep SWIU thriving! If you haven’t paid your dues this year, please submit payment today. You can pay your dues quickly and easily online at www.swiu.org. Or, call the SWIU office at (847) 517-7225 for assistance.