President’s Message
By Melissa Kaufman, MD, PhD

I suppose it seems rather unfair that I composed this letter while hiking on an isolated trail in Yosemite National Park a few weeks following another wildly successful SWIU Winter Meeting. The weather in Yosemite was colder, but clearer, than this year in Scottsdale. It actually only took about 20 minutes on the trail to lose contact with the rest of the world, providing a magnificent respite from the realities awaiting me back in civilization. Of course many colloquial thoughts of “paths” and “forks in the road” came to mind during my hikes, especially when I wandered off trail and had to traverse a beaver dam over a very chilly and turbulent creek. But sparing you some of my attempts at analogies and humor, when I grasp the practical impact produced by our gatherings in Scottsdale, I am confident that we as a society are on track. Indeed, immediately following this year’s conference, I went back to my practice and made some pretty specific “recommendations” to my partners, to which they were unpredictably exceptionally receptive. If not motivated by fellow SWIU members and the experiences in Scottsdale, these were issues unlikely to be approached. At Jean Fourcroy’s celebration dinner, I spoke of how fortunate I was to be standing in front of this particular audience at this moment in time, mostly due to the guidance and mentorship of many women present in the crowd. I sensed that was a collective feeling.

Following are some of my opening remarks from the conference I want to share with the SWIU members who could not be present: As I have discussed in the past, most of us have at some point questioned the continued relevance of our organization in our presumably enlightened and equal society. But I contend that today SWIU is more necessary than ever. Regardless of your political affiliation, we must all appreciate the message conveyed at the Presidential Inauguration in January with the plea to America that “our journey is not complete until our wives, our mothers, and daughters can earn a living equal to their efforts.” A recent manuscript published by a female surgeon at Vanderbilt, Dr. Colleen Brophy, was entitled “Women in Academic Surgery: The Pipeline is Busted” (1). Her data demonstrated rather precarious results with regards to academic advancement as a function of gender, augmenting urology specific data on gender discrepancies from the University of California-San Francisco (2). Additionally striking within Dr. Brophy’s report was a faculty survey where gender was identified by the majority of participants to negatively impact promotion.

continued on following page
Thus, despite the significant gains of our past champions, many of whom we were fortunate to have with us in Scottsdale, women in urology continue to face obstacles and unique challenges which differ from those of our male colleagues and it is indeed our task to carry on what the pioneers of SWIU began.

Our winter conference represents our society’s best efforts at establishing solidarity of purpose and furthering our mission of supporting the professional advancement of women urologists. We are honored to have within our ranks so many women with immense talent, knowledge, and the passion to share these gifts without reservation. Our role is one of both opportunity and obligation. I sincerely thank each of you for your participation in this evolving endeavor to help each of us become who we strive to be and provide optimal care for our patients.


Melissa R. Kaufman, MD, PhD
SWIU President

Congratulations to SWIU Award Winners
By Dolores J. Lamb, PhD

The Elisabeth Pickett Research Award is designed to support the urologic research projects of young women who are trained urologists (MD/DO), urology residents/fellows or post-doctoral PhD fellows engaged in urologic research during their training. It commemorates the life and achievements of Elisabeth Pickett, MD, who was the first female board-certified urologist in the United States. The award is supported by generous donations by Dr. Pickett’s family, SWIU members and friends. This year’s winners are Yasmin Iqbal Bootwala, MD, and Una J. Lee, MD.

Yasmin Iqbal Bootwala, MD will receive one of two Elisabeth Pickett Research Awards at the annual meeting of the SWIU at the AUA in San Diego, CA. Dr. Bootwala attended University of Miami where she received her BSc in biology and Spanish with a minor in secondary education. She then attended Baylor College of Medicine where she received her MD degree in 2006 on the BCM International Health Track and the BCM Care of the Underserved Track in Houston, TX. Her internship and residency in urology were performed at Emory University department of surgery and department of urology. Dr. Bootwala is a fellow at MD Anderson Cancer Center Urinary Tract and Pelvic Floor Reconstruction in the urology department where her mentor is Dr. O. Lenaine Westney. She also participates in the Clinical Research Curriculum and focused her research on the Evolution of Urinary Symptoms and Changes in Health Related Quality of Life After Surgical Menopause. This project addresses important problems related to sexual function and menopausal symptoms which seriously affects the quality of life for aging women, as well as younger women after surgically induced menopause. By focusing on women after surgically induced menopause, she can develop precise timelines of symptom development. The objectives of this study are to identify the development of urinary symptoms and health related quality of life in women from the date of urinary distress. She will also assess the sexual dysfunction and menopausal symptoms using a variety of instruments, questionnaires and other patient factors. The long-term goal of this project is to define the gradual genitourinary atrophy that occurs after surgical menopause and to develop interventions that are hoped to spare these women lifelong clinical symptoms while also influencing practice patterns at the primary care level.

Una Lee, MD, is the second recipient of the Elisabeth Pickett Research Awards for her studies cytoprotection of urethral tissues from ischemia/reperfusion injury during simulated vaginal delivery. Dr. Lee received her bachelor’s degree in human biology in 1996 at Stanford University. She attended medical school at Stanford where she received her Doctor of Medicine degree in 2003. She was a general surgery intern at the Medical College of Georgia and then Urology resident at the Cleveland Clinic (2004 – 2009). From 2009 – 2011 she trained the University of California in Los Angeles where her fellowship focused on Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery. During this time she was also a fellow in neurourology and pelvic reconstructive surgery and in health services research. Her research studies have been in collaboration with Drs. Margot Damaser, Firouz Daneshgari and Larissa Rodriguez. Her current mentors are Drs. Kathleen Kobashi, James Dennis and Thomas Wright at Virginia Mason Medical Center and the Benaroya Research Institute. Dr. Lee focused her study on the stress urinary incontinence. Her hypothesis is that ischemia-reperfusion injury that occurs during vaginal delivery causes damage to the urethra, leading to stress urinary incontinence and further that administration of cytoprotective agents at childbirth may mitigate the development of incontinence. Her aims are to identify a marker of the ischemia-reperfusion injury. She then wishes to determine whether vaginal delivery-associated ischemia-reperfusion injury can be mitigated by cytoprotection. It is expected that the findings from this study will not only define the injury process during vaginal delivery, but also address stress urinary incontinence in the post-partum period and prevent its occurrence in older parous women.

Resident Reflections
By Kristi Hebert, MD

The SWIU winter meeting was an amazing weekend to spend with other urology residents, fellows and staff from around the country. We learned about robotic surgery, including hands-on experience from docking the robot to sitting at the console for the first time to practice suturing. We were able to practice other clinical skills in a non-threatening environment, including injecting botulinum toxin through a flexible cystoscope as well as performing posterior tibial nerve stimulation on each other! Some of the most enjoyable parts of the meeting for me were the panel discussions. These offered valuable insight and advice for all stages of a career in urology with very honest perspectives from the speakers. The women we shared the weekend with were phenomenal. They are such inspirations, especially to the residents as they have paved the way for us and for more to come in the future. I feel so honored to have been chosen as a recipient of a SWIU Resident Travel Award and to have been a part of this meeting. I look forward to more meetings in the future.

Have News to Share?
Email info@swiu.org to include your news in the next edition of the newsletter.
Dr. Jean Fourcroy Celebrated During Banquet
By Nancy A. Huff, MD

On behalf of the board of the Society of Women in Urology, I am pleased to report that Jean Fourcroy was celebrated on Saturday night, January 26th at the Presidents’ Banquet held in her honor during the SWIU 2nd Annual Winter Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. Past-President Gloria Massey gave an excellent presentation on Dr. Fourcroy's career and many professional achievements. In addition, Past-President Kristene Whitmore spoke about her influential role in founding SWIU and her importance as a mentor to many women physicians throughout her career. Dr. Fourcroy has conducted groundbreaking work in the fields of endocrinology and urology. Among one of the first women to be board-certified in urology, Dr. Fourcroy has created an impressive legacy that inspires all of us who follow in her footsteps.

Through the years Dr. Fourcroy has built an impressive library of photographs and memorabilia, preserving the history of women in urology. She has graciously offered to bestow her extensive collection to SWIU in anticipation of the creation of a new position of Historian for our Society. I am honored to have been asked to serve SWIU in this capacity. There will be a discussion regarding approval of this new position during the Business Meeting at the SWIU Annual Breakfast Meeting on Sunday, May 5, 2013 in San Diego, California. I encourage everyone to attend, and I also encourage all members to consider contributing photographs and other important historical items to our library.

Jean L. Fourcroy, MD, PhD, MPH

SWIU Winter Meeting Banquet Highlights
By Brook Brown, MD, MPH

Jean Fourcroy, MD, PhD, MPH, was honored at the SWIU 2nd Annual Winter Meeting: Professional Development and Clinical Mentoring Conference banquet in Scottsdale, Arizona. Former SWIU president and friend Dr. Gloria Massey introduced our founding president, Dr. Fourcroy. In attendance were 11 past presidents as well as 64 members, 13 of which were residents and fellows. In her speech, Dr. Fourcroy stated that she didn’t realize the impact urology would eventually have on her life or what a challenge it would be without other female mentors along the way. She said she believed she needed to obtain a doctorate degree before she could even apply to med school, and stated jovially, “I've been pre-med since I was two years old.” Afterwards, Dr. Fourcroy spoke with all attendees and offered sage advice to the residents and fellows. The evening was complete with an elegant dinner and photomontage of the meeting’s events.

Jean L. Fourcroy, MD, PhD, MPH

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Front Row (Left to Right): Dolores J. Lamb, PhD; Leslie M. Rickey, MD, MPH; Melissa R. Kaufman, MD, PhD; Nancy A. Huff, MD; Jennifer L. Dodson, MD, PhD. Back Row (l to r): Ellen Shapiro, MD; Elizabeth A. Williams, MD; Claire C. Yang, MD; Elizabeth Brown, MD; Joanna K. Chon, MD. (Not pictured: Vannita Simma-Chiang, MD.)
Female Sexual Dysfunction Panel Review
By Claire C. Yang, MD

The Saturday morning session began with an expert panel discussion on Female Sexual Dysfunction (FSD), moderated by Kristine Whitmore, MD, Philadelphia, PA. The other panelists included Suzette Sutherland, MD, Minneapolis, MN; Erica Fletcher, PT, MTC, Philadelphia, PA; and Susan Kellogg Spadt, PhD, CRNP, Philadelphia, PA. The panel focused on the different factors related to sexual dysfunction, particularly sexual pain. Dr. Sutherland reviewed the definitions of sexual dysfunction in women, as well as some of the paradigms of the female sexual response, with its corresponding physiology. She stated that one of the most important factors to women for sexual satisfaction is emotional intimacy. Dr. Whitmore shared her wealth of experience in the care of women with chronic pelvic pain, and addressed how the same concepts are applicable to the treatment of sexual pain. She emphasized that all of a patient’s pain generators need to be identified and treated, not just those related to the genital organs. Ms. Fletcher reviewed the skeletal muscle anatomy and mechanics of the pelvic girdle, and how they relate to FSD. She also outlined the role of the physical therapist in the assessment and treatment of FSD. A physical therapist trained in pelvic floor techniques is an invaluable colleague to the provider treating FSD. In addition to the identification of medical and pelvic structural etiologies of sexual pain, there are also treatments such as trigger point injections and behavioral approaches, which Dr. Spadt presented. Vulvar pain is a frequent contributor to sexual pain, and its diagnosis and treatment were reviewed.

During the second part of the session, individual cases of FSD were presented. Each case presentation was followed by panelist commentary and many questions from the audience. There was a lively and engaging interaction during this session, and Dr. Whitmore commented that the tone of the discussion was different than it would be at other gatherings of urologists. The audience came away from the session with a greater appreciation and understanding of the complexity of the management of FSD, thanks to the wonderful presentations of the expert panel.

SWIU Robotic Panel and Hands-On Session Review
By Leslie M. Rickey, MD, MPH

The goal of the robotic session was to provide practical advice on starting a robotic program as well as offer tips for dealing with challenging situations and allow the audience the chance to ask questions directly to our experts. We also wanted to present an opportunity to get in depth one-on-one skills training in the hands-on lab. SWIU could not have achieved this endeavor without the amazing amount of time and energy dedicated by Carol Salem, MD, Elizabeth R. Mueller, MD, Jennifer Anger, MD and Lynda A. Jayjohn, RN, MBOE, CNOR, and we are also deeply appreciative of remarkable generosity and participation by Intuitive.

Challenges in Robotic Surgery/Case Presentations
Drs. Anger, Mueller, and Salem led a great morning discussion of the challenges and advantages of robotic surgery based on their minimally invasive surgical experience that spans the urologic spectrum of oncology, female reconstruction, and fistula repair. Attendees had the opportunity to watch videos highlighting difficult steps of a procedure and ask questions about surgical details such as suture type and incisional approach.

Comparative Efficacy and Safety of Urologic Robotic Procedures
Dr. Anger’s presentation focused on the cost differential between laparoscopic and robotic sacrocolpopexy. Although the clinical outcomes appear similar, an NIH sponsored randomized trial demonstrated higher costs associated with the robotic approach due to the initial purchase price of the robotic platform. Dr. Salem, on the other hand, highlighted the challenges in interpreting the oncologic data because of differences in outcome definitions and variations in the populations that are compared. There was a discussion initiated by some of the trainees in the audience voicing concern over lack of open prostatectomy training in their residencies.

How I Approach Resident/Fellow Training
Dr. Mueller talked about teaching residents and fellows and the importance of figuring out how to relate to your learner. There are different types of learners including “visual,” auditory” and “kinetic,” and a single instruction technique doesn’t always work for all trainees. Although this approach might take more effort on the part of the teacher and may be a new philosophy as opposed to the mantra of “see one, do one, teach one,” investing some time into analyzing your “apprentices” will likely lead to improved communication and a better educational experience for surgeon and trainee.

Robotic Dry Lab
Lynda A. Jayjohn, RN, MBOE, CNOR, organized a robotic dry lab that started off with a presentation of the practical aspects of starting a robotic program including the necessary equipment, how to optimize room turnover, and the importance of a consistent team approach. Due to the generosity of Intuitive, we were able to offer a variety of hands-on training in the afternoon. There was an actual OR table with various positioning devices, and participants had an opportunity to experience “steep Trendelenburg” and also help an OR nurse position the “patient” and ensure proper padding and support. We were also fortunate to have both a dual console robot to practice manipulation techniques and also a da Vinci simulator for virtual exercises. Finally, Intuitive also provided a docking site so that participants understood proper docking methods, how to adjust the robotic arms, and learn how to place and remove instruments. We had both Intuitive representatives and physician proctors available to assist participants at each station and give one-on-one feedback and advice.


"Perspectives of Women Executives in Medical Industry" Panel Discussion
Melissa R. Kaufman, MD, PhD

In retrospect, it is indeed amazing to consider the tremendous impact fashioned by the incredible variety of talented people that we are fortunate to encounter. Nowhere was this concept more apparent than at the SWIU 2nd Annual Winter Meeting. Our goal of "Professional Development and Clinical Mentoring" was achieved in numerous ways, but the remarkable contribution of our industry partners was indeed humbling. For the second year we enjoyed an insightful, entertaining, and sometimes heart wrenching panel discussion "Perspectives of Women Executives in Medical Industry." Their journeys, albeit in the business realm, resonate with our own paths and provide us perspective and practical advice that will benefit all members as women striving to succeed. Indeed, last year’s session resulted in a fantastic article in the 2012 Winter Newsletter from a participant at the inaugural meeting, Nancy Kolb, MSN, RN; vice president of global marketing for Uroplasty, Inc. If you have not yet had the opportunity to read her article “The Know on Getting to Yes” I encourage you to find your newsletter in that stack of documents on your desktop or access it at www.swiu.org. If you did have the chance to previously enjoy this article, I encourage you to visit it again as the information is never stale and takes on new meaning as we ourselves progress.

Our participants this year were Sally Lam, PharmD, director of strategic communications with Allergan Urology; Cindy Whitehead, chief commercial officer of Sprout Pharmaceuticals, and Sue Holman, chief operating officer of Uroplasty, Inc. Each provided a unique perspective and it speaks volumes that they found it a priority to participate in our conference.

Sally Lam, PharmD began with a “top ten” list of success factors relevant to business, clinical practice and life. Her overriding points were to put ourselves out there, use what we have to our advantage, be a little selfish, and remember that our home life is just, if not more, important. It’s only business….

1. Take calculated risks
2. Mentor and be mentored
3. Use what skills you have to expand or create your role
4. Develop new skills so you continue to grow and be marketable
5. Be OK with self-promotion – take credit where it’s deserved
6. You can’t do it all – ask for help

Cindy Whitehead then led us to pastures of purple cows. She gave accolades to author and marketing guru, Seth Godin and his book “Purple Cow” as inspirational in her concept of starting a business on her own rules. In a very basic form of the idea, the purple cow is unique and thus stands out from the crowd of brown cows. Cindy gave us insight as to how she chose to stand out from the herd. Prior to Sprout, she built and then recently sold Slate Pharmaceuticals. As you may appreciate, the names she has chosen for her companies are replete with nuances reflecting her dynamic personality. She shared with us the tenets she and her teams employ to “collectively help our mutual success.” Cindy asks her colleagues to choose to be:

• Owners
• Bold
• Quirky
• Learning
• Family
• Appreciative

Cindy is the embodiment of her tenet of being "religious about your own identity" and is a true inspiration. And it was particularly moving that after the conference she let me know she looked out to the audience of SWIU members… and saw a herd of purple cows.

Next, Sue Holman, COO of Uroplasty, Inc. graciously stepped in as a last minute addition and gave a remarkable glimpse of her amazingly successful and emotional professional and personal journey. Her theme revolved around one concept … fearlessness. During her career she has helped pioneer gene toxicity testing with Bruce Ames, developed Uroplasty, Inc. from a concept to its current international stature, led panels in regulatory affairs developing professional codes of ethics, and spearheaded grants programs for teenage girls. In addition to the inspiration of her family, she credits activist Gloria Steinem in teaching her notions of tenacity and fearlessness in her interactions in a male dominated business environment. Her passage was compelling, complex and motivating and we are incredibly grateful she shared her story with SWIU.

By Elizabeth A. Williams, MD

One of the main goals of SWIU’s second annual conference was mentoring. A practice panel was assembled to discuss the various career paths that females in urology have taken. I had the honor of serving on this panel with three dynamic women in urology, Drs. Teresa Beam, Karyn Eilber, and Harriette Scarpero. Each of these women has had a unique path leading to her current position in urology. Along each of these paths, a number of lessons were learned and insights were gained. These women were gracious enough to share these lessons and provide some guidance for those embarking on their path as well as those in the process of changing the trajectory of their career path. The panelists were able to speak to the benefits and challenges of private versus academic practice, solo versus large group practice, pay for performance versus equal-share models. The work/home balance was also a major topic of discussion. Though there was no “right” answer, it was reassuring to know that other females in urology are struggling with the same issues and trying to find that balance in their lives. The audience posed a number of insightful questions and had the opportunity to poll the other members of the audience to see the types of practice patterns exist across the nation. As a board member of SWIU, I want to thank each of these panelists for their time and willingness to share their experiences as well as the audience members for driving the discussion. Thank you all for being mentors to one another.
SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2013
SWIU Annual Breakfast Meeting
San Diego Convention Center, Room 24 ABC
6:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Featuring Keynote Speaker: Roberta E. Gebhard, DO

6:30 a.m.  Breakfast Buffet

6:45 a.m.  President’s Welcome
Melissa R. Kaufman, MD, PhD
2012 – 2013 SWIU President

6:50 a.m.  AUA Update
Pramod C. Sogani, MD, FACS, FRCS(C)
AUA President-Elect

7:00 a.m.  Gender Equity in Medicine and Negotiation Skills for Women Physicians
Roberta E. Gebhard, DO
Co-Chair American Medical Women’s Association Gender Equity Task Force

8:00 a.m.  SWIU Award Presentations

8:20 a.m.  Annual Business Meeting

8:45 a.m.  Networking

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2013
Women Leaders in Urology Forum
San Diego Convention Center, Room 28E
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Update On Interstitial Cystitis/Painful Bladder Syndrome

Moderator: Claire C. Yang, MD
University of Washington

Panelists: Jane L. Miller, MD
University of Washington
Larissa V. Rodriguez, MD
University of California Los Angeles
Deborah R. Erickson, MD
University of Kentucky

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2013
SWIU Networking Reception
San Diego Convention Center, Plaza Terrace
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome! This is a great opportunity to meet with other urologists to discuss the issues in the field of urology, as well as other medical issues. In addition, SWIU will announce the Christina Manthos Mentor Award winner.

We look forward to the Networking Reception every year and hope to see you there!
Are you seeking employment and interested in relocating to St. Petersburg, FL? Looking for a urologist to take over a solo practice with call coverage. Interested candidates, please contact (727) 647-4690.

SWIU members in the news!

Please see the following links for member updates:

Women Physicians in the Specialties: Making Gains:

The Elusive Work/Family Life Balance in Academic Surgery:
Dr. Oz’s Ultimate Insider’s Guide:
The Newest Medical Breakthroughs (video):
http://www.urologymatch.com/node/2508


How Botox Can Treat Urge Incontinence (video):
http://www.thedoctorstv.com/videolib/init/7557

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