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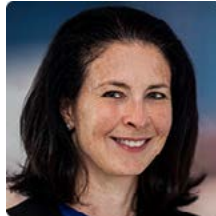
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Kathleen Kieran, MD

Hello all,

I am writing this from the comfort of my sitting room couch, flanked by two of my dogs who are happily snoring. Ordinarily, this would be delightful, but the reason behind this seemingly idyllic picture is the COVID-19 pandemic that has led Washington State (and much of the world) to effectively shut down. In keeping with the mandate to socially distance and avoid large gatherings, the 2020 American Urological Association Meeting (and with it, the Sunday SWIU Meeting) have been canceled. While a fantastic program was planned (including featured speaker Dr. Melina Kibbe, Chair of Surgery at the University of North Carolina), the unique and evolving demands of a pandemic take priority. We hope to see everyone in Arizona in 2021 for the 10th Annual Clinical Mentoring Meeting, chaired by Dr. Jannah Thompson. The 2020 Annual Clinical Mentoring Meeting, chaired by Drs. Brook Brown and Anne Pelletier-Cameron, was an enormous success. Every year, this meeting gets better.

Although we will be unable to gather together to present the awards in person, I would like to applaud the many women who were to be recognized by SWIU at the AUA meeting. First, I would like to congratulate Dr. Claire Yang from the University of Washington as the recipient of the Christina Manthos Mentoring Award. Dr. Yang was a longtime SWIU Board Member and is an ongoing mentor and sponsor to women at all levels of practice in urology. Both Dr. Julie Cheng and Dr. Meena Davuluri are winners of the Outstanding Resident Awards. The Inaugural SWIU/Intuitive Robotic Research Scholar award (\$50,000) was given to Dr. Geolani Dy, now an Assistant Professor at Oregon Health and Sciences University. Dr. Sarah Psutka was nominated as the SWIU nominee for the AUA Research Forum Early Career Investigator Showcase, highlighting her work on the quantification of personalized risk and resilience in patients with bladder cancer.

Last but not least, the SWIU/SBUR (Society of Basic Urologic Research) Award will be presented this year to Dr. Carolyn Best, who currently works at the AUA.

After the AUA, I will be stepping down as president, with just as much fanfare as when I accepted the role (having stayed home for the 2019 AUA to cover call at my practice). SWIU will be in the capable hands of Dr. Brook Brown as President. Our two new board members are Dr. Siobhan Hartigan and Dr. Shree Agarwal. Current Past President Dr. Teresa Beam will be rotating off the board; I would like to take a moment to thank Dr. Beam for her always considerate and thoughtful comments, quiet leadership, and mentorship of women in urology (myself included) over the years. Dr. Denise Asafu-Adjei will be vacating her role as resident representative and SWIU's Social Media Chair; her incredible work getting SWIU up, running, and present on Twitter and other social media sites is greatly appreciated. Finally, all of SWIU owes an enormous debt to Dr. Lindsey Kerr, who has been SWIU's advocacy champion for almost a decade. She will be replaced by Dr. Priya Padmanabhan, who has big shoes to fill and is more than up to the task.

The world can sometimes seem like a big and impersonal place. In the midst of this pandemic, the world suddenly seems very small and personal. Current SWIU Board Member Dr. Angie Smith and former SWIU President Dr. Suzette Sutherland have worked tirelessly to foster relationships with women urologists in other countries. If you were at this year's Annual Clinical Mentoring Meeting, you heard Dr. Maria Claudia Bicudo Furst tell the story behind the orchid pin as a symbol of unity among women urologists worldwide. If you don't have an orchid pin, let SWIU know and we will help you get one!

I hope you and yours stay healthy and safe through the remainder of 2020.



Kathleen Kieran, MD, MSc, MME
2019 – 2020 SWIU President

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Clinical Mentoring Conference 2020

By Brook Brown, MD



Brook Brown, MD

The 9th SWIU Annual Clinical Mentoring Conference occurred this past January in vibrant New Orleans, LA. **This year's conference focused on personal and professional development both in the workplace and at home.** Topics presented this year were pertinent to women urologists across all practice models and subspecialties. Didactic presentations included timely topics such as diversity and inclusion and gender bias as well as opioid utilization, managing difficult patients, and shared decision making. Several lectures focused on physician wellness and decreasing physician burnout—Dr. Angie Smith even reviewed techniques for data and email management. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Emily Nagoski, delivered a resounding presentation on discovering your inner self and promoting sexual experiences for both our patients and ourselves. There was also a fantastic cadaver lab focusing on male and female reconstruction and incontinence as well as a workshop for urologic grant writing, research, and statistics.

Congruent with SWIU's mission of professional development, Dr. Carolyn Best, AUA Director of Research, presented available research scholarships, and Dr. Priya Padmanabhan presented "Lessons Learned in Leadership" after recently completing the AUA Leadership Course. **A competitive podium and poster session featured resident and fellow research, and the speed mentoring session was also held again this year, packed with eager young urologists.**

The conference also hosted several extraordinary panel discussions. Past President Dr. Suzette Sutherland moderated a diverse panel evaluating the role of global education and ethics of medical tourism, including speakers Dr. Kristin Chrouser, representing IVUMed, Dr. Maahun Haider of Brazil, and Dr. Medina Ndoye of Dakar, Senegal. Dr. Anne Cameron moderated a panel on the strategic advancement of women in leadership with Dr. Martha Terris, Dr. Anne Gormley, and Dr. Elizabeth Takacs, all of whom hold current leadership positions on the board of the ABU, AUA, and North Central Section of the AUA, respectively. Dr. Claire Yang moderated a panel with Drs. Elizabeth Bozeman and Teresa Beam discussing advice that they would tell their younger selves, and Dr. Akanksha Mehta moderated a panel on fertility preservation and pregnancy in older patients. Reproductive endocrinologist, Dr. Kate Devine reviewed current options for egg freezing and IVF, while male infertility specialist, Dr. Cori Tanrikut, presented fertility rates and options for older men.

Mentoring continues to be a top priority for SWIU. Eighteen travel awards, including awards sponsored by 7 of the 8 AUA Sections, were given to support resident attendance to the conference. The conference included our largest attendance ever with 137 total attendees including 67 fellows, residents, and medical students.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our SWIU 10th Annual Clinical Mentoring Conference in Scottsdale, AZ, January 22-24 2021!

SWIU Hands-on Male & Female Pelvic Reconstruction Program

By Anne P. Cameron, MD



Anne P. Cameron, MD

This year at our annual SWIU Clinical Mentoring Meeting, participants were invited to join us for an interactive cadaver and dry educational lab. There were eight slots with a range of cadaveric stations such as pelvic nervous anatomy instruction, sacrospinous ligament fixation techniques and male penile prosthesis as well as dry hands on stations on sacral neuromodulation programming, botulinum toxin injection and male incontinence. These were highly interactive stations with superb faculty who are all content experts in the anatomy and procedure they were teaching. Unlike

cadaver labs in medical school, these labs are more flexible in that the instructor will teach what the participants at the station at that minute need and the content is more focused on procedures and surgical technique mastery rather than an anatomic dissection.

SWIU is extremely grateful for our instructors who donated their time for this event and to our corporate sponsors Allergan, Coloplast, Medtronic and Boston Scientific for providing the cadavers and product as well as their own educators. This was a highlight of this year's meeting with enormous potential to learn about male and female pelvic reconstruction from the best.



SWIU 2020 and Orchid Pins

Suzette E. Sutherland, MD, MS, FPMRS

Past President, SWIU

The POWER of a FLOWER --- The Orchid Pin

A symbol of beauty, grace, and utter resilience!



At this year's SWIU Clinical Mentoring Conference in New Orleans (Jan 2020), the Orchid Pin was introduced as a symbol of SUPPORT for fellow female urological colleagues. Each participant received a pin, and was provided with more for colleagues at their home institutions. You may have already noticed these pins on the lapels of your colleagues

at work and wondered, hmmm... What's up?

The time of #metoo and #timesup has brought to the forefront many global issues of institutional and unconscious gender bias leading to gender-based discrimination and inequality. At SWIU, we are an organization whose mission is to SUPPORT, PROMOTE and help women to SUCCEED; an organization that certainly understands the importance of women supporting women, but also understands the on-going need for discussion, transparency, institutional implicit bias training, and cultural shifts.



Although women still make up <10% of the urological workforce in the US, luckily our leadership at the AUA has been proactively working on bringing more women to the table. Thank you AUA. Your efforts have been noticed! Yet more work and advocacy are needed. And as a sign of that support: The Orchid Pin.

The Orchid Pin originated in Curitiba, Brazil, at the SBU (Society of Brazilian Urology) Conference, August 2019. As past president of SWIU, I was honored with an invitation by Dr. Maria Claudia Bicudo Furst to help organize their own official Brazilian SWIU. With the endorsement of the SBU and AUA leadership, the first formal gathering of women urologists from across Brazil convened. Through a WhatsApp group, these women already referred to themselves as The Orchids -- a symbol of beauty, grace and utter resilience! Dr. Bicudo Furst came to SWIU last January to talk about this historical moment for SBU and to share their pins with us. The rapid ripple effect has been very exciting to see with expansion to other parts of South America, Canada, London, Senegal and even Nigeria, where the newly inducted women Urologists into the West African College of Surgeons (WACS, Feb 2020) all donned an Orchid Pin with their ceremonial gowns!

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment -- women's suffrage -- guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote, we are reminded of the need to continue the pursuit for equality with tenacity...and grace. These are exciting times. We at SWIU hope that you will see this Orchid Pin as a sign of mutual appreciation and support for your female urological colleagues around the world and will wear it proudly!



Resident Travel Award Contributors

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2020 Resident Travel Award Winners

Dr. Nicole Alavi-Dunn	Northeastern Section Award Recipient, US
Dr. Meghan Cooper	
Dr. Alice Drain	New York Section Award Recipient
Dr. Nadia Halstead	South Central Section Award Recipient
Dr. Khushabu Kasabwala	New York Section Award Recipient
Dr. Jennifer Kuo	Southeastern Section Award Recipient
Dr. Diana Lopategui	
Dr. Diana Magee	Northeastern Section Award Recipient, Canada
Dr. Preeya Mistry	New York Section Award Recipient
Dr. Sarah Mozafarpour	
Dr. Tyler Overholt	
Dr. Poone Shoureshi	Western Section Award Recipient
Dr. Ashima Singal	North Central Section Award Recipient
Dr. Kim Thai	
Dr. Hong Troung	Mid-Atlantic Section Award Recipient
Dr. Kyla Velaer	
Dr. Bristol Whiles	
Dr. Erika Wood	

***support completely funded one or more resident travel awards**

The Value of the SWIU Resident Travel Award



Alice Drain, MD
 (New York Section Award Recipient)
NYU Langone Health

The SWIU conference was valuable to me both with regards to professional and personal growth. It came at an ideal time during a research rotation and I left more motivated to work on some immediate projects as well as to take time to consider my career long-term. I appreciated the lecture on time management and email. Already I sorted through my mail and hit inbox zero! The wet and dry labs were another highlight of the conference, two days after returning I was utilizing skills in the OR from these sessions. Most valuable to me was the chance to network and hear from women at different stages of their career. I appreciated that the networking sessions were not rushed and I was struck by the honest and thoughtful comments. I am very grateful to have been able to attend the conference and have encouraged co-residents to attend in future!

grant award I was able to witness the incredible community of female urologists that exists throughout North America, and beyond! The range of speakers spanned the breadth of our specialty clinically and the focus on physician well-being and career advancement was also especially meaningful. It was one of the most impactful meetings I have attended and a welcome reminder of the wonderful support system that has been built and is continuing to flourish under the leadership of the SWIU. I am grateful for the mentorship I received and the awareness I gained as a result of this meeting.



Natalie Halstead, MD
 (South Central Section Award Recipient)
University of Colorado

“Trust me – you need to go to this conference.” This was my first introduction to the meeting by another resident who had been the year prior. I am truly grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the South Central Section resident travel award - this conference was invaluable!



Diane Magee, MD
 (Northeastern Section Canada Award Recipient)
University of Toronto

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to attend the Society of Women in Urology Clinical Mentorship Meeting. As a result of the travel

SWIU Clinical Mentoring Conference was filled with powerful women. Leaders in the field, academics, private practice, fellows, residents, and medical students. The networking

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The Value of the SWIU Resident Travel Award

breaks allowed me to meet, discuss, and create friendships with the final networking breakfast lending itself to a more intimate discussion. The leadership panel provided clear direction on how to start getting involved by using resources already available. While I may never fully achieve "Inbox Zero", I at least have some strategies available for maximizing my efficiency.

Overall, this conference helped create a sense of community and was honestly better than any wellness lecture I could have received! I returned refreshed and motivated towards my goals. Now I'm the one telling my colleagues "trust me-you need to go to this conference."



Kim Thai, MD

Baylor Scott & White Health

Working in a field where I am constantly surrounded by men has become my new normal. Often, it feels daunting as I feel the need to prove my worth and that I belong. Females in urology are few and far between, making finding a mentor challenging. I have to admit that I had some angst traveling to New Orleans, for my first SWIU mentoring conference. I did not feel emotionally prepared to meet and mingle with women, from all over the world, who have travelled or are currently travelling my same path; I essentially felt out of my element. Walking into the room full of female urologists, residents, and students, I felt overwhelmed but also a sense of ease. As the days went by, I realized that this conference is more than just finding a mentor. I left this conference feeling empowered. I can do what men do, and more. I can still be a surgeon and elect to have a family. I can be a leader in urology. I can choose to advance medicine through research. Being a woman should be limitless. Most uniquely, by having females only at this conference, residents were forced to seek each other out. Through this, I was able to form connections with other female residents across the nation. We were able to express our challenges and successes from our individual programs and ask for advice as a peer.

I want to thank SWIU for providing the support for me to attend this conference. SWIU clinical mentoring conference has been one of the best conference experiences I have had. Without my funding, I would have never known that this type of support exists. Without a doubt, I will continue to attend this conference in the future and recommend all female residents to attend.



Meghan Cooper, MD

University of South Florida

I had the privilege to attend the SWIU 9th Annual Clinical Mentoring Conference in New Orleans as a Travel Award Recipient this year. In my personal essay for the Travel Award application I focused on my goals for the meeting as developing both personally and professionally through expansion of my networking contacts, becoming a contributing member of the organization and learning more about the opportunities and potential leadership roles for me within SWIU. My experience at the conference allowed me to meet all of these goals. I met so many amazing and successful women within the field of urology who offered me invaluable advice, as well as an

invitation to reach out at any time with questions as I begin my own career. I learned about upcoming leadership roles within SWIU and how I can become more involved within the organization.

In addition to my anticipated goals for the meeting, I also came home with an even greater appreciation for my fellow female colleagues. I shared my residency experience with female residents from other programs as we discussed our hardships and future career plans. I also learned so much from the incredible speakers about dealing with professional organization, infertility, difficult patients and work life balance. I am truly thankful for this opportunity and I appreciate receiving the Travel Award to help me attend this meeting. I look forward to continuing being an active member within the organization and hopefully providing future residents with the same advice and mentorship I received there.



Bahareh Nicole Alavi-Dunn, MD

(Northeastern Section, US Award Recipient)

University of Buffalo

I realized I was probably setting too much importance on the SWIU 9th Annual Clinical Mentoring Conference, expecting some type of life-changing (or at least practice-changing) benefit of attendance. Regardless, I had to try and make it there. Halfway through my residency, I was in desperate need of a lift. Although feeling more confident in my skills, I was falling prey to the exhaustion of long days/weeks/months that were passing by with little time for my family and myself, much less for the passions that used to drive me. Prior to and during medical school, I was always highly involved in education: tutoring, mentoring, leading organizations such as AMWA, and participating in curriculum committees. After advancing to residency, I was floundering in this area, desiring a way to connect with and assist other females. Selfishly, it certainly couldn't hurt to see how others in my situation were coping with the strains of residency.

As it turns out, my expectations weren't blown out of proportion. SWIU Mentoring Conference was a necessary spark. It inspired me to again become more involved, to apply for a position where I can help connect others with mentors and opportunities. Where I gained the most benefit was from a personal standpoint. The sessions were full of powerful women, who have all faced different challenges with similar undertones. There was work advice, life advice, leadership advice, and time to practice skills. The informal hours were full of opportunities to meet women who were already quite accomplished and plenty who were still paving their ways. No matter their titles, all the women were friendly, approachable, and eager to share what they learned along the way. What an intimate experience to be in the presence of female urologists I've known only by written name. It was alternately awe-inspiring and a time to feel comfortable in my own skin, with a realization that in a short while I will be standing confidently where these influential women have gone before me.

I am extremely appreciative to the Northeast Section of the AUA for a generous Resident Travel Award, allowing this opportunity to be available to me. I am also grateful for my

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The Value of the SWIU Resident Travel Award

residency program, University at Buffalo, for allowing my absence from clinical duties as well as for making up the difference in my travel cost.

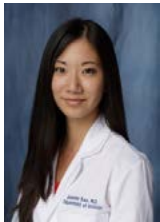


Tyler Lynne Overholt, MD

Wake Forest University School of Medicine

I had an excellent experience at my very first Society of Women In Urology Clinical Mentoring Conference. Each component of the meeting had such a high educational value for me as a junior resident. I had the opportunity to network with so many urologists that have the same career goals and values as my own, and I received great advice for things I can start doing right now to set myself up for the career path I would like to take down the road. I also had the opportunity to connect with many other urology residents from across the country, many of which I had met when I actually interviewed for urology residency myself. This ability to reestablish communication with so many of my colleagues from across the country was such an awesome experience for me moving forward.

I additionally had the opportunity to present the research I have been involved in with my residency program at this meeting. It was my very first podium presentation of residency and I am so grateful that this travel award enabled me that opportunity. I would highly recommend this meeting to any medical student or resident interested in pursuing a career in urology. Thank you so much for this experience!



Jennifer Kuo, MD

(Southeastern Section Award Recipient)
University of Florida College of Medicine

I'm grateful for being able to attend the 2020 SWIU conference in New Orleans, LA, with the assistance of the resident travel award. The experience was so much more than I expected. There were engaging sessions with real advice and great learning opportunities. Personally, I was most inspired by just meeting amazing, strong women who were residents and attendings from all over the country. I came away from the conference with goals of becoming a better role model for the junior residents and medical students at my institution. In fact, I recently organized a Q&A session for medical students interested in Urology at my institution, and I look forward to stepping into more leadership roles as I head into my final chief year.



Poone Shoureshi, MD

(Western Section Award Recipient)
Oregon Health & Science University

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend the SWIU annual winter meeting! After attending my first SWIU meeting I left feeling motivated, invigorated, and more excited than ever about my future as a female in the field of urology. This meeting offers a rare chance to foster mentorship and create strong connections with females in urology, outside of my institution and region. Personal highlights from this year's meeting included a hands-on cadaver course and lectures on time management and grant writing. I had the rare chance to interact with female urologists from all over the world—Senegal, Brazil, and the United Kingdom—and learn

how their patient populations, surgical resources, and health systems differ from ours. Also, I enjoyed hearing how urology department chairs and ABU members navigated their path to leadership. I am grateful for the support of the Western Section of the AUA and my residency program to provide me with the resources and time to attend this meaningful meeting. I look forward to returning next year and sponsoring residents like myself in the future.



Khushabu Kasabwala, MD

(New York Section Award Recipient)
NYP Weill Cornell

I am sincerely grateful to the New York Section for the resident travel award which allowed me to attend this SWIU Clinical Mentoring Conference. This was my second meeting and it continues to be a memorable experience to connect with inspiring women. I was particularly impressed with the variety of the programming at this conference, including timely and relevant lectures from accomplished surgeons and professionals, a cadaver lab curated by experts in the field, and a "Speed Mentoring" session with women who were recently in my own shoes. Each component of the weekend provided me with the opportunity to develop academically, professionally, and personally. As I near the end of my residency, I truly appreciate the candid and insightful discussions I had with the attendees about the challenges unique to women urologists in practice. I look forward to being part of the SWIU community and attending this meeting in the future as a mentor!



Bristol Whiles, MD

University of Kansas

The SWIU clinical mentoring meeting was an experience of both professional and personal growth. The cadaver lab was a five-star highlight of the meeting. This wet and dry lab solidified topics discussed in the primary educational sessions. It was also a great experience to interact with female urologists during the lab who practice in both academic as well as private practice settings. This was my first meeting experience where I felt the private practice urologist to be well represented among attendees. Many of the urology residents at the meeting commented that it was a pleasure to converse with them and see a different side of medicine that we often are not exposed to as routinely during our training. Other standout events during the SWIU meeting included the resident poster session, which was a great conversational event where I met other residents, fellows, and faculty members, as well as the evening networking functions. I look forward to attending future SWIU meetings and continuing to be a part of this fantastic organization. I encourage other female urology residents to get involved, as the SWIU meeting experience is unmatched.

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The Value of the SWIU Resident Travel Award



Singal Ashima, MD

(North Central Section Award Recipient)
Northwestern University

Society in Women in Urology Winter meeting provided an excellent opportunity to engage with my fellow female urologists, obtain career advice from fellow female physicians and learn about unique aspects of being

a female surgeon as well as potential gender disparities in my profession. I found particularly the session on how to efficiently use my time and the practical wet lab extremely useful. For me, as a soon to be attending urologist, I have found a professional society that I will continue to be involved with as I move forward in my career.



Hong Truong, MS, MD

(Mid-Atlantic Section Award Recipient)
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

Thanks to the generous support of the Mid-Atlantic Section of the AUA and the Society of Women in Urology, I had the privilege of attending my first SWIU Annual Clinical

Mentoring Conference. The conference programming was thoughtful and intentional. Sessions like the cadaver lab and research presentations enhanced my training experience and stimulated new clinical perspectives and research ideas. The unique strength of the conference was the camaraderie, mentorship, career advice, and lessons learned that the speakers and conference attendees shared with candor. Topics like time management, the physician-scientist, and leadership proved relevant and helpful to young urologists and trainees. The conference cultivated a supportive environment conducive to networking and professional relationship building. I was delighted to meet new urologists and fellow trainees from around the United States and other countries. I look forward to attending future SWIU conferences and taking an active part in SWIU. I strongly encourage all of my female urology colleagues to not only attend SWIU conferences, but to also take part in this impactful organization so that together, we can empower and learn from each other.



Erica Wood, MD

UCLA Health

The 2020 Society of Women in Urology (SWIU) meeting in New Orleans was my first time attending a conference in urology led by and for women. While I was introduced to SWIU during medical school, it was not until my dedicated research year in residency that I had the opportunity to attend the leadership

conference. The in-person meeting did not disappoint! I was struck by the collegiality and academic collaboration visible at all levels of training. It was quite apparent that bringing women in urology together in one intimate setting facilitates cross-generational communication and mentorship rarely available in larger conferences.

I sometimes feel conflicted about navigating my role as a woman in urology. On the one hand, I feel the pressure to be an excellent representative of my minority gender status. It is not uncommon to be one of only a few women in the room, particularly at large national urology conferences. Within that context, I feel pressure to conform to the cultural norms within urology, like male dominated socialization, performative

masculinity, clique-culture and trying to fit in by ignoring that being a woman makes me different. On the other hand, I feel very lucky to be entering urology at a time when many strong women leaders have preceded me and made my presence not only acceptable but valued. Rather than suppress that being a woman separates me from my colleagues, especially after attending the meeting, I feel privileged to be in a field which accepts and promotes diversity.

It has been very clear to me that while there are a few leaders in academics who can simply forge their own path without being shown an example, for most, including myself, I need to see women in leadership positions believe I am capable of achieving the same. It was empowering to hear the stories, to understand the path and challenges of the SWIU leadership and to know that it isn't an easy route, nor always a straight path, but that leaders are shaped by their everyday choices to continue to show up and do their best for their patients and loved ones. Particularly in the time of a worldwide pandemic, I am drawing on the empowering experience of attending the SWIU meeting where I met present and future leaders who continue to influence how I am understanding and dealing with this crisis. The connections I made at the conference have led to continued communication and productive collaboration with colleagues across the country and I am excited to continue to build on these relationships in the years to come. I was very excited to have received support from my AUA section and the SWIU leadership in order to travel and explore this meeting in person, which seems particularly special in a time of pandemic when so many conferences and large gatherings have been cancelled. I am grateful for the support and inspiration from SWIU and look forward to many years of continued engagement with the organization.



Sarah Mozafarpour, MD

Massachusetts General Hospital

As the only female currently in my residency program, I applied for the SWIU Resident travel award with the hopes of meeting other female residents and urologists. I was so interested in attending my first SWIU meeting, that I was the first person besides the conference organizers to show up on Friday morning!

Soon, however, the conference hall filled with a diverse group of talented female medical students, residents, and urologists, and I experienced a meeting that exceeded my expectations in the best of ways. That is, I looked around and saw a lot of people like me for the first time in a long time. Shortly after, I was in great conversation with the person sitting next to me, and all the discussions I engaged in were surprisingly relevant to my experiences. I felt that my values, fears, challenges, and concerns were shared and acknowledged by a large group of people. I remember being so engrossed in one conversation during the welcome reception that we did not notice it was near midnight; the hotel staff turned off the lights to make us leave!

I also had the opportunity to connect with accomplished women urologists at different stages of their practice – from private practice to academic urology – along with women in leadership roles such as program directors and chairwomen (which, might I add, that 'chairwomen' alone is a great word to be able to type). These amazing urologists have all paved the way for the current generation of women in urology. They were genuine, approachable and generously shared their paths and challenges with me. Meeting these successful women, particularly those in high-rank leadership positions, was very inspiring.

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The Value of the SWIU Resident Travel Award

Last but not least, the meeting program was full of fantastic presentations that included topics usually overlooked in other urology meetings. These topics ranged from 'transforming sex life' to 'how to take on leadership roles in the urology world'. What could be better than an experienced urologist telling you what she would have told her 30-year-old self? I particularly enjoyed the presentations on the topics of leadership, digital world management and the handling of difficult patients.

At this point in my residency, participating in this meeting was truly an enriching experience for me and beneficial to my personal and professional development. I would like to thank the New England section for sponsoring my travel award to attend this meeting. I will definitely mark my calendar every year from now on for the annual SWIU mentoring conference.

Other 2020 Resident Travel Award Recipients



Diana Lopategui, MD
Mount Sinai Medical Center of Florida



Kyla Velaer, MD
Stanford University



Preeya Mistry, MD (New York Section Award Recipient)
Northwell Health

SWIU 2020 Award Winners



Christina Manthos Mentoring Award:
Clair C. Yang, MD
University of Washington



Elisabeth Pickett Research Award:
Lauren Cooley, MD
Northwestern University



Outstanding Resident Award (Annual Meeting):
Meenakshi Davuluri, MD
Montefiore Medical Center



Outstanding Resident Award (Clinical Mentoring Conference):
Julie Cheng, MD
Loma Linda University Health



SWIU/SBUR Award for Excellence in Urologic Research
Carolyn Best, PhD
American Urological Association

MEMBER'S CORNER

Have News to Share?

Email info@swiu.org to include your news in the next edition of the newsletter.

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