

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SWIU President's Message  
(p. 1)

Past President Highlights  
(p. 2)

SWIU Stars  
(p. 2)

SWIU Board of Directors  
(p. 3)

New SWIU Committee  
(p. 3)

SWIU/SBUR Award for Excellence in  
Urologic Research  
(p. 4)

Elisabeth Pickett Research Award  
(p. 4)

SWIU Intuitive Research Scholar Award  
(p. 5)

Christina Manthos Mentoring Award  
(p. 5)

Research Scholar Program  
(p. 6)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Elizabeth Timbrook  
Brown, MD, MPH,  
FACS

My first AUA SWIU Breakfast Meeting (circa 2008 as a 3rd year med student) was inspirational. I remember being enamored by the many successful women urologists, watching as the gavel was passed from President to President-Elect, and hoping that one day I, too, would be a woman urologist involved in SWIU. While these goals and aspirations have come to fruition over the past 12-years, I certainly never pictured being passed a virtual gavel as I accepted the position as SWIU President. But....here it is....SWIU presidency in the middle of a global pandemic and a national reckoning of the structural racism that permeates everyday life.

As stay-at-home weeks have transitioned to masked, socially distanced months, I have been working feverishly, as everyone has, to adapt to our new normal. Yes, there was the transition to telemedicine and virtual conferencing. Yes, I started a twitter account to keep up with the ever-changing rules and recommendations surrounding resident education and recruitment during "Stage 2 Pandemic Status." And, yes, I mastered the online workout class from my bedroom. Yet, these were all things that I thought were transient. And, while these alterations will hopefully prove to be temporary, it certainly feels that the temporary is becoming permanent as headlines continue to boast soaring case numbers.

Nevertheless, I know women in urology are continuing to make a difference. You are leading your families, practices, clinical teams, and patients through dramatic challenges as we manage the pandemic. You are taking on new roles and responsibilities, mitigating risks and benefits to new models of care, and have good reason to be tired or overwhelmed.

We are proud of these efforts, and want to connect you with other amazing women to share your challenges and celebrate your triumphs.

As an organization SWIU continues to grow. Our 2020 Clinical Mentoring Conference in New Orleans broke record attendance. We reached a milestone 1000 members this year—a testament to the trailblazers that came before us, and the upcoming generation that will further increase female representation in Urology.

During this uncertain time we must seek hope and find ways to adapt both at work and at home—we need our families, friends, and mentors, now more than ever. As such, the SWIU Board of Directors has elected to hold our 2021 Annual Clinical Mentoring Conference virtually to continue SWIU's mission to support, promote, and succeed. While we all love meeting in person, connecting virtually gives us a unique opportunity to reach many medical students, residents, fellows and practicing urologists that have previously been unable to attend our Winter Meeting. My hope is to virtually connect a broader and more representative group of women urologists, and to reunite better and stronger in New Orleans in 2022.

Looking forward to seeing you virtually in January!

Brook

Elizabeth Timbrook Brown, MD, MPH, FACS  
SWIU 2020-2021 President

# Past President Highlight

## Dr. Martha K. Terris

By Jenna Dickman, MD



Jenna Dickman, MD

Dr. Martha K. Terris, MD, FACS was the President of the Society of Women in Urology from 2004-2005 and is currently the Chief of Urology and Residency Program Director at the Medical College of Georgia.

Dr. Terris received her medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine and proceeded to complete a 2 year General Surgery residency at Duke University, followed by a research

fellowship and Urology Residency at Stanford University. She is the recipient of numerous awards and remains a prominent member of multiple editorial boards, including Urology. We were fortunate enough for Dr. Terris to take time out of her busy schedule to discuss with us how SWIU has impacted her and her career.

Dr. Terris grew up in rural Mississippi and her first exposure to Urology was through her advanced anatomy course in high school where she was assigned the ureter for a class project. From there, she went on to Mississippi State for her undergraduate degree and worked as a nursing aide in a local hospital. In her spare time, she shadowed a general surgeon who suggested she pursue the field of urology, as in 1977, there were very few female Urologists. During medical school she was able to spend more time shadowing Urologists and from there, her path was set. By the time she made it to Stanford for residency, there was one female Urologist on faculty and one additional female co-resident.

She first became aware of the Society of Women in Urology during residency, when her female co-resident, Dr. Nancy Little, took her to the annual meeting. From then on, she became active in the society and eventually president in 2004. Dr. Terris states that she has made many personal friendships throughout her time in the organization, as well as professional connections with Urologists throughout the country. Being active in the SWIU community allowed her to have access to leadership roles and female mentors early in her career. Dr. Terris felt that her time as president of SWIU came at an interesting juncture when urology was on the cusp of becoming friendlier to females.



Martha Terris,  
MD, FACS

She states that balancing the female generation ahead of her who had to be "tough as nails" to become successful versus her generation who were "just one of the guys" was one of the many challenges. During that time, she reports there were many interesting clashes between the groups. She is encouraged that this new generation of female Urologists gets to focus more on becoming good people and good physicians rather than fitting in or fighting to be recognized by their male counterparts.

Dr. Terris believes that SWIU is important because it allows women Urologists an avenue to find support. Women are still continuously under-represented in leadership roles among the academic institutions and SWIU allows access and promotion. However, when asked about her thoughts regarding the future of SWIU - Dr. Terris reports that she hopes that SWIU is not needed in the future. She hopes that women will eventually be on equal footing with males and will not need additional advocacy.

When asked about the advice she would give to young female Urologists, Dr. Terris replied with, "Don't be angry. Yes, the guys have it easier. They aren't having babies and they aren't the primary child care at home. But don't get into a bind over that. Life isn't fair. Find your core group of friends to share your frustrations with, but don't let it get in the way of work. Don't be angry." She believes that anger leads to frustration and frustration to burn out. Dr. Terris had 3 children during her career and did not let that hold her back. She states that perhaps a man would have been promoted sooner, but with hard work she was able to secure her role as a prominent Urologic Oncologist and Chair at her institution. In closing, Dr. Terris stated that her advice for success is simple; "do a good job at your work, be creative and be nice to people."

SWIU is lucky to have such an accomplished past president and active member!

## Meet SWIU Stars & Nominate Your Own

This year we would like to feature the outstanding women who have contributed to the advancement of urology on our Social Media (Twitter and Instagram @SWIUorg) tagged with #SWIUstar or #UrologysFemale. Recently recognized SWIU Stars include:

- Geolani Dy, MD
- Brook Brown, MD, MPH
- Akanksha Mehta, MD, MS
- Martha Terris, MD
- Melissa Kaufman, MD
- Hadley Wood, MD
- Rena Malik, MD

We congratulate these physician trailblazers! If you would like to nominate an individual for a #SWIUStar feature, you can direct message either the Twitter or Instagram accounts or email [danielle@wjweiser.com](mailto:danielle@wjweiser.com). Be sure to include a few details for why you would like to nominate this individual and their social media account information, if available. Be sure to follow SWIU's Twitter and Instagram to see our weekly features!

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019 – 2020

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### HEADQUARTER OFFICE

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### Senior Associate Director

Danielle Carrier

## New SWIU Committee: The Committee for Young Urologists

By Jenna Dickman, MD



We would like to officially announce the newest committee in SWIU: **The Committee for Young Urologists**. The purpose of this group is to promote a culture of support for female residents and fellows looking to further advance their career and education. We hope to be able to provide an avenue for female trainees to connect with both each other and more established SWIU members to foster advancement.

Within this committee, we aim to create mentorships to help assist in fellowship discussions and career advice as residents transition from life as a trainee to going into practice. We also hope to facilitate connections between trainees interested in research with available mentors outside their home institution.

We would like to have a strong focus on promoting education and connecting young urologists together for board exams or in-service review.

The goal of this committee, similar to the mission of SWIU, is dedicated support and advancement of women urologists. Our hope is to provide more focused opportunities to individuals in training. Stay tuned for more updates and opportunities!

If you are a resident or fellow looking to get involved in the committee, please send information to [danielle@wjweiser.com](mailto:danielle@wjweiser.com).

If you are an established SWIU member looking for a mentorship opportunity or interested in finding a resident or fellow to assist with research please send information to [danielle@wjweiser.com](mailto:danielle@wjweiser.com).

## SWIU Mentor Program

SWIU offers a [Mentor Database](#) for SWIU members seeking a mentor. Select the Mentor Search option on the Mentor Program page. SWIU also welcomes urologists who would like to complete a short application and [volunteer to be part of the Mentor Database](#).

## NEW Speaker Database

SWIU has created a new service for members – the SWIU Speaker Database. Individuals must be SWIU members to be listed, however, the database will be available to the general public for anyone searching for a speaker. We are currently collecting speaker listings. Once we have achieved a solid foundation of speakers, the listing will be publicized. You can [sign-up to be part of the speaker database](#).

# SWIU/SBUR Award for Excellence in Urologic Research:

Carolyn J. M. Best, PhD, Director of Research, American Urological Association

By Jerilyn Latini, MD



Jerilyn Latini, MD

The annual SWIU/SBUR Award for Excellence in Urologic Research was awarded to Carolyn J. M. Best, PhD, Director of Research, American Urological Association. She has had an extensive 25 year career as a scientist including her notable 7-year leadership of the DoD Prostate Cancer Research Program of the US Army Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, among many other significant leadership roles and grant support. Throughout her career, Dr. Best has always been an avid

supporter of other researchers to effectively maximize her impact on the advancement of science. As the Director of Research for the American Urological Association, her current professional efforts focus on the support of biomedical researchers as well as



Carolyn J.M. Best, PhD

“to advocate for and facilitate urologic research toward major advances in the understanding, prevention, and cure of urologic diseases and conditions currently challenging patients and practitioners”. Dr. Best has numerous publications that have been influential in urologic oncology and the field of urology. In recognition of these achievements and for her contributions to urologic research, the Society for Women in Urology and Society for Basic Urologic Research are honored to award Carolyn J. M. Best, PhD, with the 2020 Award for Excellence in Urologic Research.

## Elisabeth Pickett Research Award:

Lauren Folgosa Cooley, MD, PhD

By Jerilyn Latini, MD



Jerilyn Latini, MD

The Elisabeth Pickett Research Award recognizes research achievements of trainees working in urologic research. It serves not only to commemorate the lifetime achievements of the first board certified female urologist in the United States, but also to highlight the contributions of these young trainees working in urologic research. The award is supported by a generous contribution by Dr. Pickett's estate,

as well as donations by friends and colleagues. This year's annual Elisabeth Pickett Research Award was awarded to Lauren Folgosa Cooley, MD, PhD, a urology resident from Northwestern University.

Dr. Cooley will be embarking on collaborative research to investigate whether there are gender differences in the immunoregulation of bladder cancer that may explain the very poor outcomes of women with muscle invasive bladder cancer compared with men. According to Dr. Cooley, “Although men are 3 times more likely to be diagnosed with bladder cancer, there is substantial evidence to suggest that women more often present with advanced disease and have worse overall survival” based on prior studies. Through her



Lauren Folgosa Cooley, MD, PhD

research, she aims to determine gender differences in innate and adaptive immune cell infiltration during bladder cancer development, to determine gender specific differences in T regulatory cell function on immune cell infiltrate into bladder and secondary lymphoid tissues, and to determine gender specific differences in myeloid derived suppressor cell function on immune cell infiltrate into bladder and secondary lymphoid tissues. Dr. Cooley's research aligns her interests

in oncology, immunology and gender disparity. SWIU looks forward to seeing Dr. Cooley's future accomplishments and are enthusiastic to help support her research endeavors.

Dr. Pickett was the first female surgeon who completed a fellowship in urologic oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital. She passed her general surgery boards in 1961 and became the first female board certified urologist in 1962. Despite the few women who followed her in those early years to become urologists, she pursued her career with vigor and enthusiasm. It is fitting that this award honors this outstanding urologic researcher.

## Job Board

SWIU maintains a Job Board for [open urological positions](#) that can be accessed on the SWIU website. You can send open positions that you would like posted to [info@swiu.org](mailto:info@swiu.org).



# SWIU-Intuitive Robotic Research Scholarship Award: Past, Present and Future

By Angela B. Smith, MD, MS, FACS



Angela B. Smith, MD, MS, FACS

In 2019, SWIU and Intuitive partnered to create the SWIU-Intuitive Robotic Research Scholarship, intended to support the development of outstanding women research scientists in the area of robotics research who have demonstrated a commitment to improving the understanding, treatment and experience of urology using robotics. Now in its 2nd year, we wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on the success of last year's

awardee, congratulate this year's award recipient and discuss goals for the future.



Geolani Dy, MD

The inaugural recipient of the SWIU-Intuitive Robotic Research Scholarship was Geolani Dy, MD, an Assistant Professor at OHSU. With funds from this award, Dr. Dy successfully created a multi-center TRANS Registry to prospectively study outcomes of robotic vs. open vaginoplasty in transgender/non-binary individuals, contributing to the creation of a robotic gender-affirming surgery research program at her institution. Through her work, Dr.

Dy recently was awarded a PCORI Engagement Award to develop a multi-stakeholder group to prioritize research topics and develop a national strategic plan for genital gender affirming surgery research.



Alexandria Hertz, MD

The SWIU-Intuitive Robotic Research Scholarship for 2020 was awarded to Alexandria Hertz, MD, a staff urologist at a Tripler Army Medical Center. Dr. Hertz's innovative project aims to develop a uniform robotic training curriculum across specialties and institutions to ensure translatable standard of performance in robotic surgery.

Looking to the future, SWIU and Intuitive are intentionally building and supporting representation of women leaders within robotic urologic surgery. As part of this endeavor, we invite a [virtual series for Women in Robotic Surgery](#) held on September 23 ("pioneer panel: my journey to medicine") at 7pm ET. We are also interested in gauging your interest in leadership development of women in robotics – so please take 5 minutes to [provide your valuable input](#) (we are seeking input from women at all levels of training and experience).

## Congratulations to Dr. Claire Yang, the 2020 Christina Manthos Mentoring Award Recipient!

By Amy Luckenbaugh, MD



Amy Luckenbaugh, MD

The Christina Manthos mentoring award is given annually to an individual who has been an extraordinary mentor to female urologists. This year the SWIU board was honored to present this to Dr. Claire Yang. Dr. Claire Yang, a former board member of SWIU, embodies the qualities of an outstanding mentor. Dr. Yang, a current Professor of Urology at the University of Washington, is an accomplished academic urologist involved in numerous research pursuits focused on neuro-urology. She has

mentored innumerable female urologists at the University of Washington.

According to Dr. Cheryl Shih who is currently a senior physician at Chesapeake Urology, "Dr. Yang offered honest and straightforward advice on a kaleidoscope of issues: how to discover fulfillment in both home and work life, finding a life partner who is self-assured enough to be with a high-earning female surgeon (I was single at the time), navigating the gender wage gap, being confident and opinionated on topics you are expert on, managing a female-predominant



Claire Yang, MD

staff in the OR and clinic with a firm yet winning style, etc. From Dr. Yang, I regained the confidence that I could be a great urologist, without abandoning my femininity nor my pursuit of happiness in life."

Christina 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 those men or women who demonstrate extraordinary mentoring skills in supporting the career of a female urologist. 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.

As reflected by Dr. Shih, Dr. Yang could always be counted on for sound, insightful advice during her time on the board. SWIU is honored to recognize Dr. Claire Yang as the winner of this year's Christina Mathos mentoring award.

# AUA Research Scholar Award

The AUA offers a portfolio of mentored research training awards to recruit outstanding young investigators into urologic research and foster their career success.

The Research Scholar Program, our premier funding opportunity, provides \$40,000 per year for one- and two-year mentored training for:

- Clinical and postdoctoral fellows who are no more than five years beyond completing a doctorate or residency
- Early career investigators who are in the first five years after beginning a faculty position

## New for 2021: Increasing Diversity in Urologic Research

The AUA is excited to announce the availability of two new 2021 Research Scholar Awards that focus on diversity and the inclusion of women and underrepresented minorities in urologic research. These awards are made possible by a grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb, Inc. and a new endowment from the Society of Urologic Oncology.

## Now Accepting Applications

The 2021 Research Scholar Award competition is now open! A letter of intent is required and is due on October 8, 2020 by 5 p.m. Eastern time. The application deadline is November 5, 2020.

You can [apply now](#) or visit the AUA website for [more information](#).

## Part-time & Full-time Urology Telemedicine Position



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## MEMBER'S CORNER

Have News to Share?

Email [info@swiu.org](mailto:info@swiu.org) to include your news in the next edition of the newsletter.