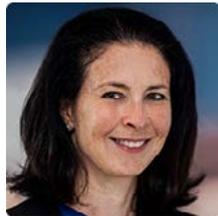


INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- SWIU President’s Message  
(p. 1)
- Christina Manthos Award  
(p. 2)
- Elisabeth Pickett Research Award  
(p. 2)
- SWIU/SBUR Award  
(p. 3)
- SWIU-Intuitive Robotic Research Award  
(p. 3)
- SWIU 2019 – 2020 Board of Directors  
(p. 3)
- 2019 Keynote Speaker: Recap  
(p. 4)
- Save the Date: 2020 Meetings  
(p. 4)
- 2020 Early-Career Investigators Showcase  
(p. 5)
- 2020 Resident Travel Awards Sponsors  
(p. 5)
- 2019 AUA Industry Sponsorship  
(p. 6)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Kathleen Kieran, MD

This weekend, I was in Leavenworth, Washington, in the Central Cascades. Leavenworth was initially a small town that was faltering in the early to mid-1960s. Inspired by Solvang, CA, Leavenworth modeled itself on a small Bavarian village and is now one of the most popular vacation spots in Washington State. As we were driving to dinner on Saturday night, the tree in the picture caught my eye. (I apologize as I know it’s a bit blurry, but so it goes when taking pictures at 60 MPH.). As you can see, the tree began growing out of the side of the mountain and then turned upward toward the sun. This was just one of many evergreens like this: all solidly rooted on a rather acute angle but ultimately headed upwards. While the weekend certainly was relaxing, I also enjoyed the visual metaphor of a tree starting out at perhaps a disadvantageous angle, but nonetheless solidly continuing to grow.

Now in its 39th year, the Society of Women in Urology remains an organization dedicated to the mentorship, sponsorship, promotion, and advancement of women in urology. Our Eighth Annual Clinical Mentorship Meeting, with a focus on “Advocacy: For Yourself, Your Patients, and Your Profession,” was held in January of this year in Scottsdale, AZ. This meeting was well received and in addition to clinical and leadership programming, offered ample opportunity for networking. The 2020 meeting, to be held in New Orleans, LA, from January 17-19, is being chaired by Drs. Brook Brown and Anne Pelletier-Cameron, and promises to be equally engaging and inspiring.

While the Clinical Mentoring Meeting and AUA Breakfast meeting are the two most visible events for SWIU each year, SWIU Board Members and delegates work year round to promote the interests of women in urology. Each year, the Board identifies specific time sensitive goals to be addressed by Task Forces, and SWIU is actively represented at advocacy and educational forums, including the America Association of Clinical Urologists Annual Meeting, AUA Annual Advocacy Summit, and Society of Academic Urologists Annual Meeting. SWIU is increasingly regarded as an organization that needs to have a seat at the table; this is crucial, as Dr. Una Lee mentioned at January’s meeting, because “if you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu.”



As SWIU continues to grow and expand, the Board is always looking for ways to engage interested and motivated women at every level. Please consider submitting an application to become a Board Member, to work on a Task Force, or to speak at an upcoming meeting. Have an idea that we haven’t explored yet? We want to hear from you!

Much like the Town of Leavenworth, SWIU is adaptable: rather than offer the same old musty refrains, we are a living organization open to new ideas to advance our organizational mission.

We look forward to seeing you in January in New Orleans!



Kathleen Kieran, MD  
SWIU 2019-2020 President

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## Dolores Lamb, PhD Awarded Christina Manthos Mentoring Award

By Dr. Claire Yang, MD



Dolores J. Lamb,  
PhD, HCLD

At the SWIU Networking Reception at the AUA in Chicago this year, Dolores Lamb, PhD was honored for her many years of scientific mentorship with the Christina Manthos Mentoring Award. This annual award was established in 2000 to recognize those men or women who demonstrate extraordinary mentoring skills in supporting the career of a female urologist. Dr. Lamb, a former President of SWIU, has been active throughout her career in advancing women in clinical urology and urological research. Many of Dr. Lamb's trainees and colleagues were present to see her receive her award.

The following is an endorsement of Dr. Lamb from one of her former trainees, Rose Khavari, MD, who is now Director of Research at the Center for Restorative Pelvic Medicine at Houston Methodist Hospital:



Claire Yang, MD

"Dr. Lamb is a superlative mentor who has trained over 65 fellows, nine of whom are now chairpersons of urology in the United States and abroad. Many others are division heads and leaders in the field. Collectively, Dr. Lamb's former trainees comprise at least 25% of specialists in the field of male infertility and a high proportion of pediatric urologists and general urologists. As a result of the large network of urologists and researchers that Dr. Lamb has trained, the landscape of male infertility and developmental urology, and quite possibly all of urology, has been altered for the better. And the quality of the science and clinical care of urology continues to grow stronger because of the national and international community she has built and fostered."

SWIU believes that a mentor is an important element in the life of each professional woman and is proud to recognize outstanding men and women for their contributions in mentoring women in urology. Congratulations to Dr. Lamb!

## Elisabeth Pickett Research Award: Caroline Kang, MD, PhD

By Dr. Jerilyn M. Latini



Caroline Kang,  
MD, PhD

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 Caroline Kang, MD, PhD, a Urology resident from Vanderbilt University Medical Center and School of Medicine.



Jerilyn M. Latini, MD

Dr. Kang aims to determine whether oncolytic reovirus may be a novel intravesical agent for the management of BCG-refractory bladder cancer. Oncolytic virotherapy may provide an additional intravesical treatment option in the management armamentarium of BCG-refractory nonmuscle invasive bladder cancer. Reoviruses are naturally-occurring, oncolytic viruses that have demonstrated anti-cancer effects in various cancers. In her studies, she has found that

oncolytic reovirus, an oncolytic RNA virus currently used in phase 3 clinical trials for the treatment of other cancers, is capable of infecting and replicating within urothelial carcinoma cell lines. Additionally, infected cells die after treatment with reovirus. The central hypothesis of Dr. Kang's proposed work is that intravesical reovirus treatment will lead to decreased bladder tumor burden using an orthotopic human bladder cancer mouse model. The proposed research will ideally provide a framework for additional investigation of intravesical reovirus as a novel treatment option for patients with BCG-refractory nonmuscle invasive bladder cancer. SWIU looks forward to seeing Dr. Kang's forthcoming 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.

## 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.

## SWIU/SBUR Award for Excellence in Urologic Research: Kerry L. Burnstein, PhD

By Dr. Jerily M. Latini



Kelly L. Burnstein, PhD

The annual SWIU/SBUR Award for Excellence in Urologic Research was awarded to Kerry Burnstein, PhD. Professor Burnstein is Chair of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Associate Director for Education and Training at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, and a Research Health Scientist at the Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center. She has numerous grants supporting her primary research focus studying androgen receptor signaling pathways that may be capitalized on therapeutically for the management of advanced prostate cancer. By seeking to understand the mechanisms by which androgen receptors regulate genes that contribute to prostate cancer progression, potential downstream targets may be identified with the aim of pharmacological intervention. Professor Burnstein 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 Kerry L. Burnstein, PhD, with the 2019 Award for Excellence in Urologic Research.



Jerilyn M. Latini, MD

## SWIU-INTUITIVE Robotic Research Scholarship Award: Geolani Dy, MD

By Dr. Suzette E. Sutherland



Geolani Dy, MD

Congratulation to Geolani Dy, MD, who won our 2019--and first ever--SWIU-Intuitive Robotic Research Scholarship for \$50,000! Dealing with transgender/non-binary women (TGNB), her aim is to evaluate a robotic approach to gender confirming surgery (GCS). Among transgender women, standard perineal vaginoplasty may not be feasible for the growing population of patients with limited genital skin from pubertal blockade or prior failed vaginoplasty. In preliminary studies, robotic vaginoplasty provides vaginal depth without morbidity of extragenital donor sites. Her aim is to evaluate robotic primary and revision vaginoplasty, as compared to the standard open or perineal approach, specifically with regard to vaginal depth and other intraoperative and post-operative outcomes. This will further be accomplished through the development of a robust registry at her institution, OHSU Transgender Health Program, with the ultimate aim to share it with other like institutions. This will allow for more informed preoperative counseling, decision-making, and quality improvement efforts to optimize health outcomes of TGNB individuals considering GCS. SWIU and Intuitive are extremely pleased to enthusiastically support Dr. Dy's novel research and follow her future accomplishments.



Suzette E. Sutherland, MD, MS, FPMRS

SWIU is thankful for the partnership with Intuitive to offer the Robotic Research Scholarship Award. 2019 marked the inaugural year for this award, which provides \$50,000 to support the research endeavors in the area of robotic surgery to a SWIU member during her fellowship. The application deadline for the 2020 SWIU-Intuitive Robotic Research Scholarship is March 15, 2020. [See our website for more details.](#)

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# Dr. Cheryl Lee Keynote Speaker for SWIU's 2019 Annual Breakfast Meeting at the AUA

By Dr. Suzette E. Sutherland



Cheryl T. Lee, MD

At the SWIU/AUA Annual Breakfast Meeting this year (Chicago, May 5, 2019) we were most honored to have Dr. Cheryl T. Lee, MD, FACS, Chair and Professor, Department of Urology, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and the Dorothy M. Davis Chair in Cancer Research as our Keynote Speaker.

Dr. Lee provided an update on newer recommendations for the treatment of bladder cancer. For non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC), enhanced detection is seen with blue light cystoscopy (BLC), as compared to traditional white light cystoscopy (WLC), which led to the current joint AUA and SUO guidelines that recommend offering BLC to all patients with NMIBC. For treatment of low-grade NMIBC, the SWOG S0337 study noted lower risk of recurrence with immediate post-resection intravesical gemcitabine. Advantages of gemcitabine over mitomycin C include less-to-no chemical cystitis and lower cost.

In response to the BCG shortage, the EORTC 30962 trial provides the rationale for decreasing BCG dose while still maintaining efficacy. Recommendations include:

- For low- and intermediate-risk NMIBC use intravesical chemotherapy (mitomycin, gemcitabine, epirubicin, docetaxel) instead of BCG;
- For high-risk NMIBC (high-grade T1 and CIS) use full-strength BCG induction therapy if available (prioritizing BCG-naïve patients), otherwise use 1/2 to 1/3 dose;
- For maintenance therapy, use 1/3 dose, and limit to 1 year; if BCG not available, use mitomycin (induction and monthly maintenance up to one year) or consider cystectomy.

Cystectomy, robotic vs open? The RAZOR study noted less blood loss and lower LOS in the robotic group, but more robotic surgeons were early adopters of the ERAS protocols, which also influence LOS. Bottom line, what's best in your hands is what matters, as progression-free survival seems to be the same.



Suzette E. Sutherland, MD, MS, FPMRS

What's new for patients with locally advanced or metastatic disease who have progressed on cisplatin-based therapy are the immune checkpoint inhibitors – pembrolizumab, atezolizumab, durvalumab, nivolumab, and avelumab – and the recently FDA-approved targeted therapy erdafitinib (Balversa) which targets tumors with FGFR3 or FGFR2 mutations. It's an exciting time with active advances across the spectrum of bladder cancer and numerous clinical trials resulting in increased evidence-based medicine for the treatment of bladder cancer.

On another note Dr. Lee shared with us her thoughts on successful career development as a woman. She stressed the need for role models — who embody the characteristics that you admire — and mentors — who will invest in you to help you stay focused on your goals. Setting goals is a must! Mistakes commonly made in setting goals include: too big, too many, not specific ... and not written down! We need to learn the strategies to get around barriers, no matter what the barriers are: gender-based, race-based, resource-based. And what's most important is defining your strengths and what you do well. Focus on what you can do .... not what you can't!

From one of Dr. Lee's role models, Condoleezza Rice, former national security advisor and US secretary of state, "**We need to move beyond the idea that girls can be leaders and create the expectation that they should be leaders.**"

## SAVE THE DATES



SWIU 9th Annual Clinical Mentoring Conference  
January 17 - 19, 2020  
Hilton New Orleans Riverside  
New Orleans, LA



SWIU 2020 Annual Meeting  
At the AUA  
May 15 - 18, 2020  
Washington, DC

# Call for Nominations for the 2020 AUA Research Forum: "Early-Career Investigators Showcase"

Sunday, May 17, 2020  
Walter E. Washington Convention Center – Washington, DC

The AUA Research Scholar Program is accepting applications for at least 16 funding opportunities which provide \$40,000 per year for one- and two- year mentored training. These awards are the leading funding opportunity available through the Urology Care Foundation and AUA. Funding is available for clinical and postdoctoral fellows who are no more than five years beyond completing a doctorate or residency and early career investigators who are in the first five years after beginning a faculty position.

For more information and to apply, visit [www.auanet.org/research/research-funding/aua-funding/research-scholar-awards](http://www.auanet.org/research/research-funding/aua-funding/research-scholar-awards)



Anne M. Suskind,  
MD, MS

Dr. Anne Suskind, SWIU's nomination for the AUA Research Forum "Early Career Investigator Showcase" won third place with her presentation "Functional outcomes after "minor" urologic surgery among nursing home residents: a national study". Congratulations Dr. Suskind!

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