

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- (p. 1) **President's Message**
- (p. 2) **SWIU 11th Clinical Mentoring Conference**
 - o Invitation Message
 - o Guest Speaker Highlights
 - o Program Schedule
- (p. 5) **Research Surveys**
- (p. 5) **Speaker Database**
- (p. 6) **SWIU Task Forces**
- (p. 8) **The State of Telemedicine Policy**
- (p. 10) **Advocacy Opportunities**
- (p. 11) **Job Board**
- (p. 11) **Mentor Program**
- (p. 11) **Member's Corner**
- (p. 11) **Meeting Highlight: ICS 2022**

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WJ Weiser & Associates, Inc.

110 E. Woodfield Road, Suite 350

Schaumburg, IL 60173

P: (847) 517-7225

F: (847) 517-7229

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Jannah Thompson, MD, FPMRS
SWIU 2021-2022 President

President's Message

As I am writing this, the COVID numbers are worse in Michigan than they have ever been. As a urologist, the impact has been slower schedules and postponed/cancelled surgeries. I feel particularly saddened for our ER, ICU and hospitalists who have been working at an insane pace and the light at the end of the tunnel just seems to be moving further away. The focus on burnout in recent years has not significantly changed or prepared the medical community for this pandemic.

In light of this, being together, creating community, mentorship and support are vital. There are many factors that impact each of our ability and decision to attend the 2022 SWIU Winter meeting in New Orleans. I hope to see as many of you as possible in person and virtually. We need

to stay connected and share our stories and experiences.

The momentum of SWIU and our members' impact on the greater urology community continues to build. The AUA 2022 program planning committee asked SWIU to submit courses that highlight our goals and engage our members. We sent out our first vetted research survey to SWIU members. A SWIU Survey Committee reviews the research survey applications and decides if it is pertinent to our members and the mission of SWIU. The committee is sensitive to our member's time and energy and will select the surveys with this in mind. Please take the time to fill out the surveys sent, so our collective voice is heard.

Our SWIU speaker database is up and active. Organizations, such as AUA and various meeting committees have contacted us for a list of speakers. Please take a moment to add your information and areas of expertise to the database. Topics are open ended so please add anything you want to speak on to the database. We want to create a robust resource.

I am excited that Susan Brady from Simmons University Institute for Inclusive Leadership will be returning to SWIU. She was our Keynote Speaker at the 2015 SWIU Winter meeting. She is practical, insightful and brings a unique perspective to professional and personal development. I had another opportunity to work with her at a course for women leaders in medicine at the University of Michigan. She led training on contract negotiation and various self-promotion topics. You will definitely leave this year's meeting with new insights and clear ways to move forward on your professional path.

We continue our advocacy efforts. SWIU Advocacy Chair, Dr. Priya Padmanabhan, attended the 2021 Annual Urology Advocacy Summit and spoke on behalf of SWIU. She presented on the lack of female urologic researchers including barriers to participation, need for more researchers, the potential for improving the presence of female urologic researchers and aiding their progress. She educated those involved in order to obtain federal funding on Capitol Hill for urologic research, while showcasing SWIU's mission.

Lastly, I encourage you to take a moment and read about the Holtgrewe Legislative Fellowship Program and the Gallagher Health Policy Scholar Program. Both are incredible opportunities to get involved in urologic policy and advocacy.

Wishing all a warm Holiday and Happy/Healthy New Year!



Jannah Thompson, Your SWIU President

SWIU 11th Clinical Mentoring Conference

February 4-6, 2022 | New Orleans, LA

Register today at swiu.org/register!



Join Us This February in New Orleans!

by Anne Cameron, MD

We are all very excited about our upcoming 11th Annual SWIU Clinical Mentoring Conference on February 4-6, 2022 at the Westin New Orleans. We are also excited to see you all face to face at this in-person meeting. The program is very rich and diverse with speakers from all over the country. There will be a focus on mentoring, time management, pay equity, antiracism and teaching. We are also bringing back speed mentoring and our resident/fellow poster and podium sessions.

There will be two keynote sessions. Susan Miller, PhD, CCC is speaking on "Self promotion, gaining visibility and executive presence". I have personally attended this session in the past and it dramatically changed my public speaking presence and style. Susan Brady from the Simmons University Institute for Inclusive Leadership is back at our meeting to give a keynote and breakout sessions on leadership.

Social activities will include a yoga session (bring your leggings), the President's Networking Reception and an optional evening out to dinner, where SWIU has made reservations at several local restaurants for groups of 6-8 people so you don't have to worry about finding somewhere to eat, followed by a night out in New Orleans sponsored by Ellura.

The SWIU board are aware of the current pandemic situation and acknowledge that this may be the first in person meeting you are contemplating attending. We do not take your safety and the safety of your family lightly. To provide some reassurance, there will be strict safety measures for this meeting. These include proof of both vaccinations for all attendees and staff, a negative covid test (antigen or PCR) reported within 72 hours of registration and we will be enforcing mask wearing during the entire meeting. Mask wearing in many parts of the country is not mandatory but given that we are all travelling to attend this meeting it only makes sense to mask up. The value of this meeting is rooted in the mentoring and connections we make in person. We hope you can all attend.

SWIU 11th Clinical Mentoring Conference Guest Speakers

Session Description

As women advance professionally within the medical and science fields, they must continually present themselves powerfully and promote themselves within their departments and institutions. In the workshop, *Self - Promotion, Gaining Visibility and Executive Presence*, attendees will learn to deliver impactful and engaging messages. Participants will discover how their posture, eye contact, gestures and movement affect the quality of daily communications and how to read their listener's body language. Participants will learn how to modulate their vocal tone, breath control, speaking rate, inflection and use of fillers to assure pleasant, compelling vocal production. They will learn strategies to develop succinct meaningful messages and compelling professional introductions.



Susan Miller, PhD, CCC

Dr. Miller writes and speaks about vocal power, vocal health, communication challenges and presenting with impact. For over 30 years, Dr. Miller has worked closely with individuals at all stages of their career, from corporate executives, government officials, broadcasters, doctors, and international diplomats to entry-level associates and summer interns.

Dr. Miller is a popular trainer and riveting speaker whose presentations, group seminars, and training programs have included topics on communicating confidently, using vocal power, developing a commanding presence, diminishing stage fright, diffusing conflict in the workplace, and maintaining vocal health.

Dr. Miller is a nationally and internationally recognized communications and voice expert who has been featured on ABC, CBS, CNN, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, Voice of America, and NPR. Her prestigious client list includes the United States Congress, The World Bank, Lockheed Martin, Pfizer, NBC, CBS, CNN, International Monetary Fund, The Smithsonian Institution, Fannie Mae, and The Marriott Corporation. Dr. Miller currently coaches professionals online from her residence in Southwest Florida.

Dr. Miller is a certified speech-language pathologist, a scientific fellow of the American Academy of Otolaryngology, and Past President of the Twin Isles 18 Hole Ladies Golf Association. She was an Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology at the Georgetown University Hospital.

Dr. Miller received her Ph.D. in Human Development and Communication Science from the University of Texas at Dallas. She holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech Hearing and Language Association. Dr. Miller has directed speech and hearing clinics at The Methodist Hospital - Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, and Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC.

Dr. Miller is a nationally and internationally recognized communications and voice expert who has been featured on ABC, CBS, CNN, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, Voice of America, and NPR. Her prestigious client list includes the United States Congress, The World Bank, Lockheed Martin, Pfizer, NBC, CBS, CNN, International Monetary Fund, The Smithsonian Institution, Fannie Mae, and The Marriott Corporation. Dr. Miller currently coaches professionals online from her residence in Southwest Florida.

“Dr. Miller’s dynamic grand rounds presentation and thoughtful critiques during the workshop are being hailed as one of our best-ever programs.”

— Naomi L.C. Luban, MD, Vice Chair for Academic Affairs, Department of Pediatrics, Children’s National Medical Center

“Dr. Miller is a gifted voice trainer, one who pays attention not only to the sounds of the voice, but to the emotions behind it.”

— Diane Rehm, Host & Executive Producer, The Diane Rehm Show, WAMU-FM 88.5



Susan MacKenty Brady

Deloitte Ellen Gabriel Chair for Women & Leadership, CEO, Simmons University Institute for Inclusive Leadership

Susan is CEO of Simmons University Institute for Inclusive Leadership and the Simmons University Deloitte Ellen Gabriel Chair of Women & Leadership.

Susan ignites, inspires, and advises executives to foster a mindset of inclusion and create a culture of equity in their organizations. She is the author of two acclaimed books on leadership and her third, co-authored by Executive Chair of the Board of Deloitte US Janet Foutty and Simmons University President Dr. Lynn Perry Wooten, is on the way: *Arrive & Thrive: 7 Impactful Practices for Women Navigating Leadership* (McGraw-Hill, spring 2022). Susan has been featured on ABC’s Good Morning America, she has served as a guest expert on the topic of leadership across media platforms, and she has keynoted or consulted at over 500 organizations worldwide.

2022 Program Schedule

All times are in Central Time (US and Canada). Sessions are located in **Magnolia III** unless otherwise indicated. Speakers and times subject to change.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022

6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Registration/Information Desk Open <i>Location: 3rd Floor</i>
6:45 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.	Industry Meetings with the SWIU Board of Directors* <i>Location: TBD</i> *Invitation Only
7:00 a.m. - 7:50 a.m.	Networking Breakfast <i>Location: Bistro at the Bend</i>
7:50 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	President's Welcome and Announcements Jannah Thompson, MD, FPMRS
8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Surgical and Office Ergonomics for Female Urologists Kristin L. Chrouser, MD, MPH
8:30 a.m. - 8:50 a.m.	Actionable Strategies to Optimize Your Time & Energy to Fight Burnout Angela B. Smith, MD, MS
8:50 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.	Mentorship As a Team Sport Anne M. Suskind, MD, MS, FACS, FPMRS
9:10 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Panel - Achieving Equity & Focusing on Personal Action: Salary Pay Disparities Moderator: Anne Pelletier Cameron, MD, FPMRS Panelists: Jessica Hammett, MD Helen Y. Hougen, MD Annah Vollstedt, MD Mary Elizabeth Westerman, MD
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open <i>Location: Azalea</i>
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Networking Break in the Exhibit Hall <i>Location: Azalea</i>
10:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.	Intergenerational Learning Style Gina M Badalato, MD
10:50 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.	Building an Inclusive Medical Practice for Patients Polina Reyblat, MD
11:10 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Panel on Racism - BLM, Asian hate, Latinx Moderator: Shenelle Wilson, MD Panelists: Ekene A. Enemchukwu, MD, MPH Ashanda Esdaille, MD Maria Uloko, MD
12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Industry Satellite Symposium Lunch* <i>Location: Riverbend Ballroom</i> *Not CME Accredited
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	What would you tell your younger self? Moderator: Catherine Nam, MD Panelists: Elizabeth Wagner Bozeman, MD Keow Mei Goh, MD, MPH, MBA Elizabeth Kornfield Chadwell, MD Jannah Thompson, MD, FPMRS

2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Advocacy and Health Policy Update: The Politic of Policy Priya Padmanabhan, MD, MPH, FACS, FPMRS
2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Networking Break in the Exhibit Hall <i>Location: Azalea</i>
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Speed Mentoring* <i>Location: Magnolia I and Magnolia II</i> Moderators: Kathleen Kieran, MD, MSc, MME Anna Zampini, MD, MBA, MS *Separate registration required
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception with Exhibitors and Resident Poster Session* <i>Location: Azalea and Azalea II Foyer</i> Moderators: Divya Ajay, MD, MPH Kate H. Kraft, MD, FAAP, FACS Melissa Ann Laudano, MD *Not CME Accredited
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	President's Networking Reception* <i>Location: Riverbend Ballroom</i> *Networking with Food Stations

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022

6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Registration/Information Desk Open <i>Location: 3rd Floor</i>
7:00 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open <i>Location: Azalea</i>
7:00 a.m. - 7:50 a.m.	Networking Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall <i>Location: Azalea</i>
7:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.	Yoga* <i>Location: Magnolia I</i> Instructor: Lindsey A. Kerr, MD *Optional activity: Wear comfortable clothes and bring a towel
7:50 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	President's Welcome and Announcements <i>Location: Magnolia III</i> Jannah Thompson, MD, FPMRS
8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Workshop: Self Promotion, Gaining Visibility and Executive Presence* Susan Miller, PhD, CCC *Prewrite Assigned
9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Networking Break in the Exhibit Hall <i>Location: Azalea</i>
10:15 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Keynote Session* <i>Location: Riverbend Ballroom</i> Susan MacKenty Brady *Not CME Accredited
11:20 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Susan Brady Breakout Sessions* <i>Location: Magnolia I & II</i> Susan MacKenty Brady *Not CME Accredited

- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** **Industry Satellite Symposium Lunch***
Location: Riverbend Ballroom
 *Not CME Accredited
- 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.** **Leveling Up Your Leadership**
 Moderator: Akanksha Mehta, MD, MS
 Panelists: Lorie G. Fleck, MD, FACS
 Kirsten Lynn Greene, MD, MS
 Simone Thavaseelan, MD
 Elizabeth R. Williams, MD
- 1:45 p.m. - 2:05 p.m.** **Closing the Gap: The Effect of Gender on Operative Autonomy in Urology Training**
 Kate H. Kraft, MD, FAAP, FACS
- 2:05 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.** **Women in Prosthetic Urology**
 Melissa R. Kaufman, MD, PhD, FACS
- 2:25 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.** **Managing your first year in practice: How to stay out of trouble**
 Amy N. Luckenbaugh, MD
- 2:45 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.** **Networking Break in the Exhibit Hall**
Location: Azalea
- 3:10 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** **Zoom is killing my personal life**
 Lindsay A. Hampson, MD, MAS
- 3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.** **Social Media as an Avenue for Justice**
 Casey A. Seideman, MD

- 3:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** **Resident Podium Session**
 Moderators: Doreen Eleanor Chung, MD,
 FRCSC, FPMRS
 Sarah F. Faris, MD
 Heidi Johanna Rayala, MD, PhD
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** **Past President's Reception***
Location: TBD
 *Invitation Only
- 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** **Optional: Dinner with Offered Reservations***
Location: Off-site
 *Sign up at Registration Desk
- 8:30 p.m. - 11:59 p.m.** **Optional Event: Night Out in New Orleans- Ellura**
Location: Off-site

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022

- 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.** **Registration/Information Desk Open**
Location: 3rd Floor
- 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.** **Networking Breakfast**
Location: Magnolia I

Research Surveys

SWIU will consider requests for distribution of research surveys to its members on a quarterly basis. All interested investigators are encouraged to complete a short application swiu.org/docs/resources/swiu-research-survey-application.aspx via a the SWIU website in order to request distribution of their research survey to the SWIU membership. A nominal fee of \$100 will be applied to all applications to cover administrative costs associated with application review and survey distribution. These fees are non-refundable. The SWIU membership committee will only consider requests from SWIU members in good standing, which support the mission of SWIU. The committee will select up to four (4) surveys for distribution every quarter, via the SWIU website, SWIU email notification, SWIU social media accounts, and the SWIU quarterly newsletter. If a survey is not selected for distribution, the investigator will be given the option of re-submitting the survey for consideration for the following quarter, without additional fees.

Speaker Database

To support SWIU's mission of professional advancement of women urologists by encouraging diversity and discouraging "manels," SWIU has created another member benefit – the SWIU Speaker Database. The database is available upon request for anyone searching for a speaker. All requests are reviewed by a SWIU committee before speaker information is shared. SWIU also provides the AUA with a copy of the database to assist with its speaker searches. SWIU is happy to report that the database already has over 40 speakers listed, and several organizations have already requested the database to assist with speaker selection. Consider submitting a speaker application. Please note, individuals must be SWIU members to be included. We also welcome requests for speakers to assist in your program development and event planning. Contact info@swiu.org if you have questions or need more information.



Please see the SWIU website for additional details and requirements
swiu.org/resources/research-surveys.aspx





SWIU Task Forces

by Simone Thavaseelan, MD

SWIU Board of Directors elected to charge 4 task forces to advance our mission in 2021. SWIU received many applications from a diverse, talented group of women urologists for the open member at large and resident representative positions on the board of directors and subsequently had to turn away many amazing candidates. **We were impressed with the interest, leadership, ideas and commitment to the mission of SWIU and as such created an alternative leadership opportunity for our membership and charged 4 time-defined SWIU Task Forces for 2021.** We recognize sponsoring women for national leadership opportunities to contribute and gain experience as urologists along the spectrum of the career development will benefit women urologist's subsequent career path contributing to other future professional and networking prospects. Each task force has a proposed charge to create resources and initiatives for women urologists, each addressing one key issue area identified by the SWIU Board of Directors. Each task force is focused on the execution of specific projects, and for the last 4 months have developed strategically outlined goals and tactics to meet their charge. Each is led by a Chair of the Task Force with an identified SWIU Board of Director member to serve as a mentor and point of connection to the BOD.

We are pleased to announce the following members have been working on the following projects and thank them for their efforts.

Achieving Equity & Focusing on Personal Action: Salary Pay Disparities

Diana Londoño (Chair)

Zhina Sadeghi
Helen Hougén
Rena D Malik
Sue Pursell
Divya Ajay
Bethany Desroches
Erika L. Wood
Jessica Hammett
Kristin Baldea
Carrie Johans
Annah Vollstedt
Priyanka Gupta

Elizabeth Ellis
Alexandra Tabakin
Valentina Grajales
Gillian Wolff

Engagement of Women Urologists with Industry

Melissa Kaufman (Chair)

Yooni Yi
Amy Dobberfuhr
Grace Y Biggs
Kara Babaian
Lin Lin
Kara Watts
Amanda Saltzman
Raveen Syan

The Role of Women Urologists in Advancing DEI in Urology Residency Recruitment

Jennifer M. Taylor (Chair)

Kate Kraft
Gjanje Smith, MD, MPH
Gillian Stearns
Paige De Rosa
Lori Landau Dyer

SWIU Census

Lourdes Guerrios (Chair)

Janae Preece
M Francesca Monn
Arshia Sandozi
Kelly Harris
Jessica Dai
Smita De

Task Force Charges

1. Engagement of Women Urologists with Industry; Mentor: Siobhan Hartigan, MD, SWIU BOD

The goal of this task force is to develop a proposal for a virtual industry 101 curriculum/ leadership development program for SWIU members interested in working with industry. Topics to consider are contract negotiations, speakerships, career paths in industry. The TF will work closely with SWIU management and industry sponsors to develop more long-term endeavors apart from annual meeting sponsorship. Work products might include proposed topics, speakers, schedule and facilitation for execution in 2021 with prioritizing active learning strategies such as breakouts, case discussion, for small group mentoring.

2. SWIU Census; Mentor: Akanksha Mehta, MD, MS, SWIU BOD

The goal of this task force is to provide SWIU a proposed draft of an inaugural census for the organization. Many women urologist researchers are interested in equity research and SWIU would like to provide them key demographics and or trends of the SWIU workforce. Review of the literature, development of proposed questions, developing a proposed timeline and process for execution and focus group testing to ensure ideal content is ideal. The end product is intended to be operationalize for the membership and available to the membership via the SWIU website.

3. Achieving Equity & Focusing on Personal Action: Salary Pay Disparities; Mentor: Anne Cameron, SWIU BOD

Female urologists are significantly less compensated compared to male urologists after adjusting for several factors (Spencer ES et al Gender Difference in Compensation, Job Satisfaction and Other Practice Patterns in Urology. J Urol 195, 450-5, 2016). This task force will focus on developing best practices at the individual level (personal goal setting and self-reflection, negotiations, mindset, and strategy). While acknowledging the structural and institutional sexism that drives salary disparities, this TF will focus instead on delivering curated professional development targeted to women urologists at the individual level. Priority tasks will include preparation of a toolkit/presentation to disseminate to SWIU members via the website.

4. The Role of Women Urologists in Advancing DEI in Urology Residency Recruitment; Mentor: Jannah Thompson, MD, SWIU BOD

This task force will address how programs are already incorporating antiracist and antisexist practices into the recruitment process and develop a toolkit/presentation to disseminate to other women across the country to encourage grassroots efforts of reducing bias in the application review and interview process as well as share representative strategies that have been successful. This might include collection of various programs processes at various levels of recruitment and recommendations for best practices.

Goals of SWIU Task Forces

The SWIU task forces are designed to be short term, goal-oriented working groups, which are optimized for efficiency that connect SWIU candidate members who share a common interest around task force topics. The goal is for members to participate in a fast-paced, professional development opportunity that will contribute to the mission of SWIU. The final work product will be determined by the task force itself

Timeline for the SWIU Task Forces

- Workgroup meetings frequency and timing are determined by the task force and planned to occur from June to January 2021
- Consider (optional and informal) in person meet up at the SWIU Annual Breakfast at the AUA
- Submission of 1-page executive summary of work assessment/recommendations by TF Chair to SWIU BOD by **October 1st, 2021** for the fall BOD meeting

Guiding Principles

We aim to sponsor women urologists to a **national task force appointment for their CV** and provide potential national speakership opportunities in order to meet our mission of supporting the advancement and success of women in urology. We anticipate **peer mentoring** and **community building** will be a natural by-product of the work and that the work efforts will benefit the membership at large, increasing our presence in the urologic community and **advancing equity within our sub-specialty**.

Guidance

Chairs are encouraged to work with their assigned BOD mentor to discuss their vision for the charge and consider the following strategy and tactics:

Discovery:

- Initial task force meeting to introduce members, understand individual motivations, and discuss and refine charge
- Identify key stakeholders on the topic
- Identify and organize resources related to the charge

Strategy:

- Outline the ecosystem of the issue in order to decide which point of leverage will be addressed by the task force (what aspect of the issue do you most want to address or impact? How?)
- Determine appropriate work product (recorded presentation? website content? PowerPoint toolkit?) timeline and process

Execution:

- Carry out tactics as you see appropriate or relevant
- Provide a written executive summary to the SWIU BOD on your assessment
- Narrow and define and provide your deliverable

We look forward to the work products of these task forces and welcome future member participation. In addition, we appreciate the innovation and effort of the 2021 cohort in amplifying the mission of SWIU.



THE STATE OF TELEMEDICINE POLICY

by Priya Padmanabhan

Telehealth was essential for the maintenance of our clinical practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. While telehealth facilitated public health strategies during the height of the pandemic, it also greatly expanded our patient base, to include populations which are otherwise challenged for care (rural, vulnerable populations). With more than 70% of urologists adopting telemedicine during the pandemic, there has been new experience and knowledge in this area. Thus, the “Telemedicine in Urology White Paper,” originally published in 2016, was updated to include the current data on usage rates and updates on legislative efforts around telehealth. Please refer to auanet.org/guidelines/guidelines/telemedicine-in-urology for more details.

The Bill HR 366 *Protecting Access to Post-Covid-19 Telehealth Act* was introduced January 19, 2021 with the hopes of making permanent, several telehealth flexibilities that were made during the pandemic. Since its introduction, there is work actively being done to advocate for this bill. Multiple groups are working in parallel and together to further this interest.

AUA delegates participated in various preliminary caucus meetings to create key resolutions:

- **Resolution 201** (“Ensuring Continued Enhanced Access to Healthcare via Telemedicine and Telephonic Communication”), introduced by the State of Maryland.
 - To ensure continued enhanced access to healthcare via telemedicine and telephonic communication by advocating for a 365-day waiting period after COVID-19 public health crisis is over before commencement of audits aimed at discovering use of non-HIPAA compliant modes and platforms of telemedicine by physicians.
- **Resolution 227** (“Audio-only Telehealth for Risk Adjusted Payment Models”), introduced by Integrated Physicians Practice section.
 - Directs the AMA to advocate that audio-only telehealth encounters diagnoses be included in risk adjusted payment models.

The AUA provided the following input to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), which helps the GAO to provide testimony to the Senate Finance Committee:

- need for payment parity to maintain adoption of telehealth services by provider
- crucial role of audio only visits at onset of the pandemic and for traditionally underserved populations
- barriers to telehealth utilization, such as lack of broadband access and technological literacy challenges.

Key policy members of the AUA attended the AUA House of Delegates Annual Meeting (principal policy making body of the AMA) to discuss physician workforce challenges and caring for patients in a pandemic and post-pandemic environment, as it relates to telehealth. On June 18, 2021, Dr. Eugene Rhee and colleagues joined 100 physicians from 11 different medical organizations to meet House and Senate Leaders. Here key health policy issues were discussed, with telehealth and continuation of waivers and benefits being a central topic.

Given our newfound reliance on telemedicine, I encourage you to help in the passage of Bill HR 366.

Advocacy Alert:

Take Action – Preserve Access to Telehealth

SWIU supports expanded access to telehealth, and the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated just how valuable this service is not just to our community but to all Americans. SWIU supports the Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by Reps. Mike Thompson (D-CA), Peter Welch (VT-AL), David Schweikert (R-AZ), Bill Johnson (R-OH), and Doris Matsui (D-CA).

This bill would do the following:

- Eliminate most Medicare restrictions on where a person can use telehealth services, while establishing that patients can use telehealth in their own homes and allow their health care provider to be reimbursed by Medicare.
- Prevent a sudden loss of telehealth availability at the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency by authorizing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to continue to reimburse health care providers for telehealth services for 90 days beyond the end of the public health emergency.
- Make permanent the current disaster waiver authority, allowing the Department of Health and Human Services to expand telehealth during all future emergencies and disasters.
- Require a study on the use of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic, including its costs, uptake rates, measurable health outcomes, and racial and geographic disparities.

Please tell your members of Congress to support this bill. Compose a email message to Officials who did not sponsor/co-sponsor the bill H.R. 366 (U.S.-117th Congress (2021-2022))

Subject: Please Cosponsor H.R. 366

*Message Body: **Please add your own story about this issue to personalize your message.***

As a supporter of Society of Women in Urology (SWIU) and your constituent, I ask that you please cosponsor the Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act (H.R. 366). SWIU supports expanded access to telehealth, and the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated just how valuable this service is not just to the pelvic health community of patients but to all Americans. SWIU supports the Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by Reps. Mike Thompson (D-CA), Peter Welch (VT-AL), David Schweikert (R-AZ), Bill Johnson (R-OH), and Doris Matsui (D-CA). This bill would do the following:

- *Eliminate most Medicare restrictions on where a person can use telehealth services, while establishing that patients can use telehealth in their own homes and allow their health care provider to be reimbursed by Medicare.*
- *Prevent a sudden loss of telehealth availability at the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency by authorizing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to continue to reimburse health care providers for telehealth services for 90 days beyond the end of the public health emergency.*
- *Make permanent the current disaster waiver authority, allowing the Department of Health and Human Services to expand telehealth during all future emergencies and disasters.*
- *Require a study on the use of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic, including its costs, uptake rates, measurable health outcomes, and racial and geographic disparities.*

On behalf of all Americans, I ask that you please cosponsor this bill.

Advocacy Programs

For SWIU members interested in advocacy efforts, AUA has two programs that may be of interest.

Gallagher Health Policy Scholar Program

This program is geared toward AUA members who have demonstrated commitment to urologic policy and advocacy and are ready to gain a wider understanding of AUA advocacy. Applications open in August and close in October. The 2023 program will run January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. To apply you must:

- Be an AUA member urologist
- Demonstrate a commitment to or have deep interest in the field of health policy
- Be dedicated to advancing urology's health policy agenda

As a scholar, you will spend up to 30 days away from your practice for intensive training on a wide range of health policy issues.

- Attendance at key meetings such as the RUC, CPT, and AMA House Delegate Meetings
- Participation in the Annual Urology Advocacy Summit and Patient Advocacy Connections Program in March 2022
- Participation in the ACS summer course held at Brandeis University in June 2022 (scholar must join ACS, if not already a member)

Stipend and reimbursement for scholars:

A stipend of \$15,000 and reimbursement for travel and other expenses will be provided over the course of the year-long program.

Holtgrewe Legislative Fellowship Program

This fellowship focuses on exposing residents to all elements of AUA advocacy, with a focus on legislative advocacy. The application will open in early 2022. Program begins June 1, 2022 and ends May 31, 2023.

Program Eligibility:

- Open to all AUA residents in their research year, fellows, and first year post-graduates
- Applicants will demonstrate a strong interest or aptitude for health policy issues and legislation
- If a resident, the Fellow's Resident Director must sign-off on and verify that the Fellow will be available for the travel and time allotted for the program

Commitment:

Due to the requirements of the program, the recipient can expect a minimum of 6 weeks away from one's resident/fellowship program or practice. The award recipient must agree to participate fully in all program activities. These include, but are not limited to:

- Participate in the Annual Urology Advocacy Summit
- Attend the Brandeis University Executive Leadership Program in Health Policy & Management
- Participation in four-to-six-week fellowship with a Legislative office and work with AUA DC staff as needed
- Attendance at the Legislative Affairs Committee and Public Policy Council meetings conducted in the fall and the Annual Urology Advocacy Summit in March of the year of the fellowship
- The Fellow will provide a legislative update to the Public Policy Council at the Annual Urology Advocacy Summit at the end of the Fellow's term

Funding:

All travel, lodging and legitimate expenses associated with program participation are covered by the AUA. There will be no out-of-pocket expenses associated with the chosen candidate's participation in this program, but the candidate will not receive any sort of monetary stipend from the AUA.

Job Board

SWIU maintains a job board for open urological positions. You can send open positions that you would like posted to info@swiu.org. You can view posted positions here: swiu.org/resources/bulletin-board.aspx

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.org/resources/mentoring-program.aspx). SWIU also welcomes urologists who would like to complete a short application and volunteer to be part of the Mentor Database. This is a member only benefit. You will need to log into the SWIU website to access mentor resources.

Member's Corner

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

Meeting Highlight

52nd Annual Meeting of the International Continence Society

7-10 September 2022

Vienna, Austria

The ICS Meetings give center stage to cutting-edge continence research, put a spotlight on the latest clinical practices, and provide a variety of career opportunities for those interested in continence related issues.

The Meeting is multidisciplinary and welcomes urologists, gynecologists, physiotherapists, nurses, midwives, research scientists, and all those dedicated to improving the lives of patients suffering from different continence conditions.

Learn more at www.ics.org/2022.