President’s Message
By Tracy Cannon-Smith, MD

Women urologists! For those of you planning to attend the AUA national meeting this year, we have an exciting program but also some important changes. With the meeting this year in Washington, DC, we will be surrounded by our lawmakers. The upcoming changes in health care will continue to be on the forefront on every urologist’s mind. The SWIU Annual Breakfast Meeting will be honored to have Dave Penson, MD, MPH who will give us a presentation on health policy and discuss healthcare reform, an obvious concern for all practicing urologists. We will have our Annual Breakfast Meeting at the usual time Sunday morning at Renaissance Washington, DC in Renaissance West A & B.

Dr. Penson trained in urology at the University of California, Los Angeles. He then was simultaneously awarded an American Foundation for Urologic Disease Health Policy Research Scholarship and a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Fellowship. As a fellow, he studied clinical epidemiology and health services research at Yale University, where he obtained a master’s degree in public health.

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He is now serving as the vice chairman of the Health Policy Council of the AUA. His presentation this year at the Annual Breakfast Meeting is entitled **Improving the Quality of Surgical Care: Lessons Learned and Future Directions.** Certainly, many of us in medicine are dealing with quality concerns and this topic is of interest to all practicing urologists. We are excited to have his presentation on cutting-edge issues that could potentially impact our practices.

We also will present our award winners this year at the breakfast meeting. We will again present the combined SBUR/SWIU Award for Excellence in Urologic Research. This is an honor to highlight the achievements of women who have dedicated their careers to studying urologic diseases and are selected by their peers in basic science research within SBUR. We will also have our Elisabeth Pickett Award winners present at the breakfast meeting this year. These women were selected for their outstanding research and will have time for a short presentation at the breakfast meeting. This year SWIU also supported a resident to travel to the AUA and she will also provide a short presentation at the breakfast meeting.

The big change this year is that the second gathering will occur on **MONDAY** evening, May 16 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. rather than Tuesday evening this year. I will say it again. The Women Leaders in Urology Forum and the Networking reception will occur on **MONDAY** night. We did respond to the membership and found that many members were leaving prior to our events on Tuesday evening. We hope the changes this year will accommodate more of the membership.

Dr. Linda Shortliffe will moderate this year’s Women Leaders in Urology Forum. She has formulated a panel to discuss **Antimicrobial Prophylaxis: GU Use and Abuse.** We are excited that panel members include SWIU Past President Martha K. Terris, MD from the Medical College of Georgia; Hillary Copp, MD from UCSF; Ellen Shapiro, MD from NYU; and Carol J. Bennett, MD from UCLA. Some of the topics that will be discussed include:

1) TRUS – Is Current Prophylaxis Appropriate and Adequate?
2) Antimicrobial Prophylaxis for Vesicoureteral Reflux
3) The Evidence for Antimicrobial Prophylaxis for Antenatally Detected Hydronephrosis
4) Antimicrobial Prophylaxis for Catherization and Transurethral Procedures

Immediately following our Women Leaders in Urology Forum, we will gather for our Networking Reception and our ever important Mentoring Award. Please don’t forget. It is **MONDAY** night this year. ☺

Tracy Cannon-Smith, MD
SWIU President

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**Ethnical and Racial Differences in Treating Urology Patients by a Female Urologist**

By Anonymous

It is fall of year of 2004, and I am a fourth-year medical student who has recently decided to pursue urology as my career. I am extremely enthusiastic about future endeavors and cherish every opportunity to experience something new. Therefore, when my resident asks me to go the federal prison to help in the monthly outpatient clinic, I am thrilled. Midday while the waiting room is still full of patients to be seen, I am directed to examine a federal Hispanic inmate. I vividly remember the awkwardness of the circumstance when I entered the exam room with glass windows and no curtains and leaving the door behind me completely open. I already could sense the anxious and concerned look on my patient’s face when I started my examination in the presence of an interpreter, two federal officers, and everyone in the hallway passing by.

The young Hispanic patient was complaining of penile pain. After my physical examination I contributed his symptoms to two nodules of about pea size underneath his shaft skin on the dorsum of the penis. Proud of finding a reason for his discomfort, I suspected these are some sort of cysts and offered to remove the lesions under local anesthesia in the clinic. The patient’s face turned firm and angrily replied that these are pearls which he had paid to have placed on his penis. The translator conveyed to me that the patient was surprised why I was not familiar with this practice.

Since this memory as a medical student to now as I am graduating from my urology residency, I have learned that as urologists we encounter a wide range of beliefs, cultures and practices concerning very sensitive health-related issues to the patients. Most patients male or female, young or old are usually anxious to come to the urologist office. While sitting in the waiting room, they carefully examine the expression on the faces of the patients exiting the exam rooms. They have been dreading their PSA result, had heard horror stories for his discomfort, I suspected these are some sort of cysts and offered to remove the lesions under local anesthesia in the clinic. The patient’s face turned firm and angrily replied that these are pearls which he had paid to have placed on his penis. The translator conveyed to me that the patient was surprised why I was not familiar with this practice.

As women physicians and surgeons, we are expected to be more understanding towards sensitive topics such as genitourinary disorders. Our patients would like us to listen with more compassion and be able to relate to their stories in a less judgmental way.

In urology there is abundance of literature on effects of race, socioeconomic status, treatment and progression of the disease on patients with prostate, bladder and testicular cancer. These epidemiological studies mainly focus on outcome and survival pattern among different cultures and ethnicities, leaving the area of patient-physician interaction unexplored.

With the United States becoming more and more diverse, we will encounter many people with a wide range of beliefs from all over the world who have unique cultures and practices. I personally believe we need to educate ourselves more and become more familiarized with ethical differences among our patients. Sharing our personal experiences in forums or in the literature will empower us to offer a more comprehensive care to our patients. ☺

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**Congratulations to This Year’s SWIU Award Winners:**

**Christina Manthos Mentoring Award**
Steven W. Siegel, MD

**SWIU/SBUR Award for Excellence in Urologic Research**
Linda A. Baker, MD

**SWIU Travel Award**
Gina M. Badalato, MD

**Elisabeth Pickett Research Award**
Cynthia See-Ming Fok, MD
Kathleen Hwang, MD
Stacy Loeb, MD
SWIU Past President on Dr. Oz Show

Dr. Elizabeth Mueller and her colleagues from Loyola University Medical Center were invited on the Dr. Oz show to discuss pelvic organ prolapse. The show was taped on December 17, 2010, and aired on January 13, 2011, and focused on how little women discuss prolapse along with the diagnosis and treatment options. The approximately 13-minute show can be viewed online by going to the Dr. Oz website and typing pelvic organ prolapse into the search engine.

Be Recognized for Accomplishments in the SWIU Newsletter and Website

Do you have news you’d like to share with SWIU? SWIU is happy to recognize its members for their accomplishments in the field of urology. Please send any information you would like published in the newsletter and the website to info@swiu.org.

Thank You to Our 2011 SWIU Promotional Partners

Diamond Plus
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Thank You Again to Our 2010 Promotional Partners
We Invite Your Continued Support

Allergan
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Watson

Special Thanks to Supporters of our 2011 SWIU Spring Board Dinner

Plan to Attend SWIU Gatherings

Meet with fellow women urologists for intimate gatherings at the American Urological Association section meetings. If you’d like to help plan or host this event, please email SWIU at info@swiu.org. Check the SWIU website for more updates.

Thank you to AMS, Novasy Medical and Uroplasty for their assistance with these events.
Dr. Martha Terris Elected to Head Urology Section at GHSU
By Marina Cheng, MD

Congratulations to Dr. Martha Terris who has recently been elected to head the urology program at Georgia Health Sciences University (previously Medical College of Georgia). She will be assuming the responsibility of chief of urology in the place of Dr. Ronald Lewis who has recently stepped down from the position. Dr. Terris served as professor of urology, program director of the GHSU urology residency program, and the chief of urology at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta, GA, since 2003. She was president of the Society of Women in Urology from 2003 – 2004, president of the Society of Urology Chairpersons and Program Directors, served on the Residency Review Committee for Urology and has held many positions in committees and editorial boards nationally.

Upon assuming this new responsibility, she joins a very small group of top women leaders in academic urology and becomes only the fifth female historically in the US to head an academic urology program. Dr. Terris, a Stanford University trained urologist, has been an inspiration and mentor to many women in a male-dominated field that is starting to see meaningful changes in the gender balance at the residency level. Despite the gradually increasing ranks of women urologists this past decade, there have still been few women to attain the top position of an academic urology program. Presently, only two other women are serving in this role.

According to the AUA, there currently are about 280 female urology residents in the US, with a graduation rate of approximately 50 annually. This is a tremendous stride from the days when Dr(118,112),(889,214) Dr. Terris decided to enter the field, and her new position is monumental in the progress of female urologists to leadership positions. As one of her residents at GHSU, I have always been inspired by her ability to juggle life as a surgeon, manage the education of a team of residents and be mother to three sons. As a resident and mom myself, I was drawn to apply to an academic program that had an active female urologist presence. Although I was not sure of the importance of this at the time, it was a gut feeling that having her as support and a role model may play an important role in my training as a urologist. Her easy demeanor and readiness to provide guidance has made her an excellent and effective educator who I am very proud to call my mentor. Here are some excerpts from a short interview with Dr. Terris.

Dr. Cheng: Can you tell us a little about your background and why you decided to go into urology?

Dr. Terris: I grew up in rural Mississippi. I was probably the worst excuse for a country girl that the South has ever seen. I decided to be a physician when I was about 6 years old. I realized I wanted to do surgery at around 13 years of age (working in a butcher shop for a few hours before school every day). While volunteering at a hospital one summer when I was 17, a surgeon who let me scrub with him told me about all of the different specialties; urology sounded the most fun. Once I spent time on a urology service in medical school the decision was solidified by the great surgical cases and the opportunity to have so many male patients and colleagues.

Dr. Cheng: The academic promotion ladder is a very vague entity that does not appear to accommodate the way women interact in either personal or business relationships. How would you advise young faculty with regards to achieving equality in salary, call duties and promotion?

Dr. Terris: First, demand respect with your actions not with words. No pouting, whining, crying, squealing or screaming. Don’t hold a grudge. Don’t show up late to meetings. Take suggestions without being defensive. Don’t have an obnoxious ring on your cell phone. Prepare thoroughly for every meeting and presentation.

Collect data comparing yourself to your peers (number of publications, growth in case volume, revenue, call responsibilities, etc.). If you are not doing as well as your peers, ask for advice on improvement. If you are doing better than your peers, share that data with your chair or department head, not in a confrontational demand for equality, but as part of a discussion about resources to promote growth such as staff, equipment or ways to improve the productivity of a colleague. Focusing on the expansion of your department will not only indirectly highlight your accomplishments but will allow you to practice your problem-solving and leadership skills.

Be aware of your institution’s promotion timeline and requirements and work toward them. Involve your chair or department head early in the process and together set annual goals that will gain you the requirement for promotion in the appropriate timeline. You are in charge of being sure these requirements are met. No one will do them for you.

Don’t be afraid to move. It is common to get a higher ranking position if you move to another institution (if you have been a productive contributor in your prior position). Keep your ear out for jobs in your area of interest or in programs that seem to be on the rise.

Dr. Cheng: If you were a first year urology resident starting the process again, what would you do differently to realize your ambitions?

Dr. Terris: I got angry a lot easier when I was a young doctor. That is a waste of time and energy and does nothing to help your career.

Dr. Cheng: What is your perspective regarding healthcare reform and what in specific may women urologists need to be aware of as this process evolves?

Dr. Terris: Women physicians, not just urologists, have always fared better in large, government (state or federal) medical facilities. The equal opportunity rules are strictly enforced in these institutions. If you work hard you will be paid equally and have equal benefits to someone else who has the same qualifications and has worked the same amount of time regardless of gender. I think these government positions will become more attractive while practice in the private sector will become increasingly difficult.

Dr. Cheng: For the next generation of women in urology, what primary goals do you believe we should focus our efforts on to achieve greater presence within the AUA and urology in general?

Dr. Terris: Start with becoming involved in your state and sectional meetings. Volunteer for committees. Let the leadership of those organizations know you are interested in being more involved by volunteering to review abstracts for the meeting, moderate sessions or other tasks. Do a good job when you are given the opportunity to participate.

Board Members Meet in Boulder, CO
The Society of Women in Urology (SWIU) invites you to participate in SWIU Events at the 2011 AUA meeting in Washington, DC. SWIU will host its Annual Breakfast Meeting, the Women Leaders in Urology Forum and Networking Reception.

SWIU’s focus continues to be mentoring resident members, highlighting women leaders in urology, supporting the research efforts of women urology residents and supporting the research efforts of women who are basic scientists in urology. In the spirit of our mission, the SWIU events at the AUA Meeting are open to all AUA attendees who share SWIU interests, regardless of gender.

The SWIU activities begin with the Annual Breakfast Meeting on Sunday, May 15th, which will feature keynote lecturer David F. Penson, MD, MPH, of Vanderbilt University Medical Center speaking on *Improving the Quality of Surgical Care: Lessons Learned and Future Directions*. Attendees also will hear from the 2011 recipients of SWIU Travel Award and the Elisabeth Pickett Research Awards and the SWIU/SBUR Award will also be presented. Following these presentations, the Annual Business Meeting will commence. All active voting members are asked to attend the Business Meeting.

The events will continue on Monday, May 16th with the 6th Annual Women Leaders in Urology Forum. Please note this new schedule, with the events continuing on Monday instead of Tuesday. We hope this will allow more SWIU members and other AUA attendees to take part in SWIU activities.

Linda D. Shortliffe, MD, chair of urology at Stanford Medical Center, will moderate the discussion on *Antimicrobial Prophylaxis: GU Use and Abuse*. This session will feature the following panelists with further discussions: Carol J. Bennett, MD – *Antimicrobial Prophylaxis for Catheterization and Transurethral Procedures*, Hillary L. Copp, MD – *Antimicrobial Prophylaxis for Vesicoureteral Reflux*, Martha K. Terris, MD – *TRUS – Is Current Prophylaxis Appropriate and Adequate?* and Ellen Shapiro, MD – *The Evidence for Antimicrobial Prophylaxis for Antenatally Detected Hydronephrosis*.

Members are encouraged to attend the SWIU Networking Reception, following the Women Leaders in Urology Forum. This social event is an excellent opportunity to visit with urology friends from around the country, make new acquaintances and enjoy refreshments. SWIU also presents its annual Christina Manthos Mentoring Award to a man or woman who has demonstrated extraordinary mentoring to women urologists. SWIU members look forward to this great annual networking opportunity and hope to see you there!

The SWIU AUA events have been growing each year as more and more women enter and graduate from urology training. We hope that you too will mark your AUA calendar to attend these events.

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**SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2011**

**Annual Breakfast Meeting**

**Renaissance Washington DC, Renaissance West A & B**

6:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

- **6:30 a.m.** Breakfast Buffet
- **6:30 a.m.** President’s Welcome
  Tracy Cannon-Smith, MD
  2010 – 2011 President
- **6:35 a.m.** Improving the Quality of Surgical Care: Lessons Learned and Future Directions
  David F. Penson, MD, MPH
  Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- **7:30 a.m.** AUA Update
  Sushil S. Lacy, MD
  AUA President Elect
- **7:40 a.m.** AUA Foundation and the Urology for Women Initiative
  Sandra Vassos
  AUA Foundation Executive Director
- **7:50 a.m.** SWIU Award Presentations
- **8:20 a.m.** Annual Business Meeting
- **8:45 a.m.** Networking

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**MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011**

**SWIU Women Leaders in Urology Forum**

**Renaissance Washington DC, Renaissance West B**

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

- **5:30 p.m.** Antimicrobial Prophylaxis: GU Use and Abuse
  **Moderator:** Linda D. Shortliffe, MD
  Chair of Urology
  Stanford Medical Center
  **Panelists:**
  Carol J. Bennett, MD
  Clinical Professor of Urology
  UCLA Medical Center
  Hillary L. Copp, MD
  Assistant Professor of Urology
  University of California, San Francisco
  Martha K. Terris, MD
  Professor of Surgery
  Georgia Health Sciences University
  Ellen Shapiro, MD
  Professor and Director, Pediatric Urology
  NYU Urology Association

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**SWIU Networking Reception**

**Renaissance Washington DC, Renaissance West A**

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome! This is a great opportunity to meet with other urologists to discuss the issues in the field of urology, as well as other medical issues. In addition, SWIU will announce the Christina Manthos Mentor Award winner. We look forward to this great networking opportunity every year and hope to see you there!
Attention: SWIU Members Presenting at the AUA

SWIU would like to recognize those speaking at the Annual AUA meeting so fellow members can be sure to attend their presentations. If you are speaking at the meeting, please let us know by filling out a quick form on the SWIU website (www.swiu.org). We ask members presenting to please submit information by April 20, 2011. SWIU will distribute this listing to all members. If you have any questions, please email info@swiu.org.