President’s Message
By Nancy A. Huff, MD

I invite everyone to attend the Annual AUA Meeting in Atlanta this month. SWIU events are not to be missed! Dr. Margit Fisch will deliver the Keynote Address during the SWIU Annual Breakfast Meeting on Sunday. Our Elisabeth Pickett Research Award winners and the recipient of the SBUR/SWIU Award for Excellence in Urologic Research will also be honored. In addition, Dr. Cathy Naughton has assembled an excellent panel for the Women Leaders in Urology Forum on male infertility on Monday. Our Networking Reception follows during which we will honor this year’s Christina Manthos Mentoring Award winner, Dr. Deborah Erickson. I congratulate all of these remarkable women on their personal and professional achievements, and I am so pleased that we have the opportunity to showcase them.

This year has marked an era of great achievement for our society as we held our first academic meeting, independent of our events held during the Annual AUA Meeting. I am so proud of the success of the meeting in Arizona in January 2012 and the overwhelmingly favorable reviews of those in attendance. The all-female faculty delivered outstanding presentations and engendered discussions and networking that have perpetuated long after the meeting’s conclusion. Our society’s ability to hold such a successful meeting reflects the strength, talent and erudition of our membership and the dedication and hard work of the board of SWIU, including not only the current volunteers on the board but also all of its previous members. I know that I speak for all members of the current board when I say how grateful I am to have had the opportunity to build upon the accomplishments of the previous SWIU leadership. It was, therefore, a long-overdue gesture to honor all of SWIU past presidents at the Saturday banquet in Arizona.

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I am pleased to announce that we are already planning next year’s SWIU Clinical Mentoring Conference in Arizona. Next year we will devote the Saturday banquet to honor Jean Fourcroy, MD, PhD, MPH. Dr. Fourcroy, along with the handful of other women urologists in practice at the time, founded SWIU in 1981. She served as president for 10 consecutive years until handing over the reins to Dr. Dana Weaver-Osterholtz in 1992. Showcasing Dr. Fourcroy’s considerable contributions to SWIU and the field of urology at large, along with providing a fascinating perspective on the history of women in urology, will make this an event you don’t want to miss! I invite everyone to mark your calendars for January 25 – 27, 2013.

Resident Reflections from the Top of Camelback Mountain

By Anne Scott, Sarah Fraumann, and Ekene Enemchuwku

Opening remarks by Melissa R. Kaufman, MD, PhD

Residents Ekene Enemchuwku, Sarah Fraumann, Jennifer Cruz Chamberlain, and Anne Scott hiked the beautiful Camelback Mountain during their time at the at the Inaugural Clinical Mentoring Conference in January. They share their educational experiences below.

Below are commentary solicited from several of our resident attendees to the SWIU Inaugural Clinical Mentoring Conference. In addition to participating in the scientific sessions, these residents managed to climb the challenging Camelback Mountain which is adjacent to the resort property. The enthusiasm in their statements is evident, self-explanatory and reflective of the general consensus sensed during the conference. Coupled to the remarkable fact they descended from the mountain before the onset of darkness (barely) and were safely returned to their residency, their participation was a resounding success!

“As attending the SWIU Clinical Mentoring Conference was a truly unique and educational experience. From the quality of the lectures to the memorable networking opportunities, it was without question the most useful conference I have ever attended. I really enjoyed the clinically-focused lectures which transitioned right into hands-on opportunities. The chance to then try out techniques in a cadaver lab with one-on-one teaching by experts in the field was great. The SWIU conference offers a unique clinical spin which sets it apart from the various other urology conferences and meetings. I expect it will become a yearly must-attend conference for female residents in my program.”

As my term as president of SWIU winds down, I would like to extend appreciation to each member of the board for her commitment and service to fulfill our society’s mission: to support the professional advancement of women urologists, to encourage public education regarding urologic issues and to promote urologic research. It has been my great honor and privilege to serve along with you and my life has been richer and more deeply meaningful because of you all. Thank you.

Nancy A. Huff, MD
SWIU President

“Attending the SWIU Clinical Mentoring Conference was a wonderful experience. The lectures were interesting, informative and clinically relevant, and the hands-on training labs were especially useful. To be able to learn skills in the cadaver lab with experts was an invaluable experience. It was also wonderful to be able to meet other women in urology and to discuss what their experience is like and to pay homage to the women who have paved the way for so many women to enter the field. It was refreshing to discuss what it means to be a female surgeon in an open environment and the unique stress that we experience in trying to balance work, family and personal time. I also loved meeting other co-residents and knowing that these are my future colleagues. I look forward to attending the conference again in years to come.”

“As we all know, urology is an exciting, ever-changing field. This very attribute attracted many of us to the field. It is exciting to know that I will be entering the field at the beginning of an exciting new era with mentors who have paved the road ahead. As I complete my residency training, I hope to participate in future SWIU mentoring conferences and one day pass on what I have learned along the way.”

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Christina Manthos Mentoring Award

Deborah R. Erickson, MD

SWIU is pleased to honor Dr. Deborah R. Erickson as the 2012 Christina Manthos Mentoring Award recipient. Dr. Erickson is professor of surgery, department of surgery, division of urology at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky. Her areas of interest include urinary incontinence and vesicovaginal fistulas. She has attained numerous achievements during the course of her career, not the least of which is the legacy of women whom she has mentored professionally. Congratulations and gratitude is extended to Dr. Erickson.

SWIU/SBUR Award for Excellence in Urologic Research

Jill A. Macoska, PhD

Elisabeth Pickett Research Award

Akanansha Mehta, MD
Anne Suskind, MD
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.

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 an event, please email SWIU at info@swiu.org.

Western Section
Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2012
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

South Central Section
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (before Theme night)

Members Corner
Skinner Named as New Chair of Urology
By Bruce Goldman

Eila Skinner, MD, professor of clinical urology at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, will become the new chair of the Stanford University School of Medicine’s department of urology. She will assume the post on May 1. Congratulations Dr. Skinner!

“Dr. Skinner is an active surgeon with a national reputation for her expertise in urology and bladder cancer,” said Philip Pizzo, MD, dean of the School of Medicine. “In my discussions with leaders around the country about her candidacy, I heard over and over again that she was one of the very best and most highly-respected urologic surgeons in the nation. She has been equally committed to the education and training of future surgeons and leaders at USC and nationally. I am very pleased that Dr. Skinner has agreed to accept this important role at Stanford University Medical Center.”

Calling all VA Urologists!
Please join us at our Second Annual VA Urologists Forum held during the AUA
Sunday, May 20, 2012 | 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Marriott Marquis Atlanta
Cash bar

RSVP attendance to Dr. Lori Lerner at Lori.Lerner@va.gov.
SWIU Inaugural Clinical Mentoring Conference: Male Reconstruction

By Melissa R. Kaufman, MD, PhD

Retrospective review. Now there is a term often used, and frequently misused, to describe our attempts to capture data from an existing source. Retrospective review is occasionally accompanied by an excellent hypothesis and assumption of potential outcomes. It seems that much of history as we conceptualize it in the present is in essence a retrospective review of select portions of the totality of whatever situation is being described. And with this type of post hoc analysis, the same pitfalls which limit usefulness in the research environment restrict our capacity to truly experience the past event no matter how well described by parties which may have been present. It is with this perspective that I recollect my thoughts regarding our inaugural SWIU Clinical Mentoring Conference. For those members fortunate to be present, this was undeniably a historic event for women in urology. The sense that we as a society had achieved something very precious and valuable to present and future members was almost palpable. It was humbling to see the enthusiasm of so many talented urologists sharing their experience and knowledge to such an eager crowd. Each of you present was a witness to the dramatic expansion of women in our field and a participant in a special occasion demonstrating our power to further each other in a collaborative fashion.

We kicked off the scientific program with the session on male reconstruction with Drs. O. Lenaine Westney, Jennifer Anger and Melissa Kaufman. Dr. Westney, associate professor of urology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, skillfully reviewed the pathophysiology of male incontinence with a focus on post-prostatectomy incontinence. In addition to a thorough review of current literature, her lecture focused on a multitude of practical information regarding evaluation and management of male incontinence including indications for urodynamics, interpretation of cystoscopic findings, as well as determination of which therapy is suited for an individual patient. Treatment strategies outlined by Dr. Westney included several types of bulbar male sling and artificial urinary sphincter. She shared her extensive surgical knowledge regarding implantation of these devices and expected outcomes to assist us in appropriate patient counseling. Additional discussion focused on complications of therapies for male incontinence and scenarios for management of these complications.

Dr. Anger, assistant professor of urology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, next took us on a fantastic voyage through the pathologic male urethra. She artfully discussed etiology and evaluation of men with urethral stricture disease including complex pelvic fracture-urethral distraction defect associated stricture disease. Indications for dilation, endoscopic management with direct vision internal urethrotomy as well as the appropriate timing to proceed with definitive management with urethroplasty were discussed. Dr. Anger described a range of reconstructive techniques for distal, bulbar and posterior urethra-plasty. Especially intriguing was her counseling on numerous maneuvers for post-traumatic reconstruction to facilitate patient anastomosis without tension. Also addressed was management of recalcitrant bladder neck contractures with particular emphasis on outcomes in the post-radiation population.

Next was myself (Dr. Kaufman, assistant professor of urologic surgery, Vanderbilt University) reviewing etiologies and therapies for male erectile dysfunction (ED) with specific emphasis on refractory disease requiring penile prosthesis implantation. I will forgo the effusive comments regarding my presentation but trust it was well received primarily due to the clever Saguaro cactus photos depicting various aspects of male erectile function and dysfunction (see below)! Foremost in the general review was emphasis on the link between ED and occult cardiovascular disease. Although there has been an increasing awareness of the myriad comorbid conditions contributing to erectile dysfunction, the audience was counseled that early evaluation by cardiology for patients with presumably isolated ED may allow preventive measures to be implemented to prevent progression of both disease processes. Algorithms for ED treatment were discussed including medication therapy, vacuum erection devices, intraurethral suppositories and intracavernosal injections. End-stage disease treatment with penile prosthesis implantation was extensively reviewed including overview of all types of prostheses, infrapubic and penoscoral implant techniques, as well as numerous tips and tricks for trouble-shooting and complication management.

Following the didactics and a marvelous lunch in the sunshine of the Camelback pool lawn we had a resoundingly well-received on-site cadaver lab. Three stations were available for all the participants to obtain hands-on experience in male sling placement with Dr. Westney, penile prosthesis implantation with Dr. Kaufman, and male urethroplasty with Dr. Anger. The ability to translate the morning didactics immediately into surgical practice enhanced the session dramatically and hopefully awakened new interest in women for the discipline of male reconstruction as well as enriched the knowledge of those women already performing these procedures. The opportunity to participate in cadaver dissections in such a focused environment with women mentors was unquestionably unique for many of the attendees.

As we chart our next meeting and prospectively plan the events and scientific sessions there is a shared hope that the remarkable achievement of this inaugural conference will forever be retrospectively reviewed as a watershed moment for our society. Sincere appreciation goes out to all who shared this moment in time and forever changed the history of women in urology.

The Way a Urologist Sees the Desert

Cactus with ED

Post-IPP
SWIU Events at the AUA

Sunday, May 20, 2012
SWIU Annual Breakfast Meeting
Omni at CNN Center, International Ballroom E
6:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

6:30 a.m. Breakfast Buffet

6:35 a.m. President’s Welcome
Nancy A. Huff, MD
2011 – 2012 SWIU President

6:40 a.m. AUA Update
Dennis A. Pessis, MD
AUA President-Elect

6:50 a.m. The Role of Female Urologists in Europe
Margit Fisch, MD
Director and Chair
Department of Urology and Pediatric Urology
University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany

7:50 a.m. SWIU Award Presentations

8:20 a.m. Annual Business Meeting

8:45 a.m. Networking

Monday, May 21, 2012
Women Leaders in Urology Forum
Omni at CNN Center, International Ballroom E
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Evaluation and Treatment of the ‘Forgotten Partner’ of the Infertile Couple

Moderator: Cathy K. Naughton, MD
Center for Sexual Health

Panelists: Dolores J. Lamb, PhD
Baylor College of Medicine
Wayne W. Kuang, MD
University of New Mexico
Kathleen Hwang, MD
University Urological Associates

Monday, May 21, 2012
SWIU Networking Reception
Omni at CNN Center, International Ballroom B
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. We look forward to this great networking opportunity every year and hope to see you there!

Thank You to Our 2012 SWIU Promotional Partners

Platinum
Allergan, Inc.
American Medical Systems, Inc.

Silver
Astellas Pharma US, Inc.
Uroplasty

Bronze
Intuitive Surgical

Announcing Keynote
Speaker Margit Fisch

SWIU is pleased to announce that Dr. Margit Fisch will deliver the Keynote Address at the SWIU Annual Breakfast Meeting during the Annual AUA Meeting this year. Dr. Fisch is professor of urology as well as director and chair of the department of urology and pediatric urology at the University Medical Center Eppendorf in Hamburg, Germany. Her areas of interest include reconstructive urology and pediatric urology. She will deliver a presentation on both reconstructive urology and the role of female urologists in Europe. Her presentation will highlight the history of women in the field, and she will include a perspective of her own career development. Please plan to attend the SWIU Annual Breakfast Meeting from 6:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Sunday, May 20, 2012, at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center.

Women Leaders in Urology Forum 2012

Dr. Cathy Naughton has assembled an excellent panel for discussion on male infertility for this year’s Women Leaders in Urology Forum with Drs. Dolores Lamb, Kathleen Hwang, and Wayne Wei Kuang. The forum will be held from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday, May 21, 2012, at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center.
Save the Date!
2013 SWIU Clinical Mentoring Conference
January 25 – 27, 2013
JW Marriott Camelback
Scottsdale, Arizona

Featuring Invited Speakers: Kristene Whitmore, Teresa Beam, Elizabeth Mueller, Jennifer Anger, Carol Salem, Elizabeth Williams, Karyn Eilber and Lynda Jayjohn