President’s Message
By Nancy Huff, MD

It is with great excitement that our society moves forward with our first stand-alone meeting. Preparations are underway to host a truly productive and informative meeting that will also provide ample opportunity for networking and leisure activities. The Inaugural SWIU Clinical Mentoring Conference will take place Friday, January 13 – Sunday, January 15, 2012 at the newly renovated JW Marriott Camelback Inn Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. An exclusive female faculty will deliver didactic and lab sessions on male reconstructive surgery as well as sessions on robotic surgeries in both male and female patients with the aim to expose residents and practicing urologists to surgeries and areas of urology that have traditionally been under-represented by women urologists. Additional sessions will cover pertinent topics of female sexual dysfunction and refractory overactive bladder. Our ability to sponsor such an ambitious meeting with our outstanding presenters reflects the dedication and cumulative efforts of all of the remarkable women on whose shoulders we now stand. I look forward to recognizing many of these women at the banquet on the Saturday night of the conference honoring all of the past presidents of SWIU. This conference represents a watershed moment in the history of SWIU and I hope to see you all in Scottsdale!
Save the Date: SWIU Inaugural Clinical Mentoring Conference
By Melissa R. Kaufman, MD, PhD

Are you ready for some R&R? We could all use some Rest and Relaxation! How about combining that with some Robotics and Reconstruction? This January promises to mark a defining moment in the history of the Society of Women in Urology. We are so pleased to announce the inaugural SWIU Clinical Mentoring Conference scheduled January 13 – 15, 2012, at the Camelback Inn in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Despite immense growth over the past decade in the number of women practicing urology, a large gender gap continues to exist in certain urologic subspecialties. Specifically, the areas of male reconstruction and robotic surgery are inadequately represented by women urologists. As part of the SWIU mission, we envisioned and designed an educational conference to bridge these gaps in a learning environment conducive to such endeavors. The goals of this conference are centered upon providing our membership with training opportunities in male reconstruction and robotic surgery mentored by women faculty. We have planned a combination of didactic lectures, surgical workshops and case-based panel discussions of current procedures in male reconstructive and robotic urologic surgery. We have resident scholarships available to introduce our future women in urology avenues for specialization or expansion of their practice into reconstruction and robotics. We are additionally planning didactic and interactive sessions on therapies for refractory OAB as well as female sexual medicine.

The conference culminates with a Sunday “Brunch with the Experts” to provide a more informal interaction for the members with the conference faculty. If you have not had the opportunity to experience the venue, The Camelback Resort is spectacular. There will be ample occasion for the rest and relaxation component of the weekend!

We sincerely hope your schedule will allow you to participate in this unique opportunity for SWIU members as it truly represents a new frontier for our society. We believe this will be an enjoyable and highly gratifying conference and are exceptionally enthusiastic about the future of these endeavors to support women in urology. Program, hotel and registration information is available at www.swiu.org.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2012
7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Registration/Information Desk Open
Location: North Foyer
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Exhibit Hall Open
Location: Sunshine
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Robotic Surgery
Location: Town Hall
8:00 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. Oncology – Prostate, Bladder, Renal Cancer Procedures
Carol Salem, MD
8:40 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Female Reconstruction
Elizabeth R. Mueller, MD
Leslie M. Rickey, MD, MPH
9:15 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. Didactic Session: Female Sexual Dysfunction
Leslie M. Rickey, MD, MPH
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Break in Exhibit Hall
Location: Sunshine
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Didactic Session: Female Sexual Dysfunction
11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Refractory OAB Panel Discussion
Panel: Tamra E. Lewis, MD
Leslie M. Rickey, MD, MPH
Harriette M. Scarpero, MD
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Industry Sponsored Lunch
Location: Town Hall
1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Hands-On Simulation and Procedural Training
Sexual Medicine, Incontinence and Robotics
Location: Sunshine
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Presidents Banquet
Location: Arizona Ballroom A, B, F

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Registration/Information Desk Open
Location: North Foyer
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Brunch with the Experts
11:30 a.m. Adjournment

2012 SWIU Annual Meeting Program Schedule

*All sessions will be located in the Cholla unless otherwise noted
*Speakers and times are subject to change

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012
7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Registration/Information Desk Open
Location: North Foyer
1:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open
Location: Sunshine
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
Location: North Foyer
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Lab Didactic for Male Reconstructive Surgeries
Panel: Jennifer Anger, MD
O. Lenaine Westney, MD
Melissa R. Kaufman, MD, PhD
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Break
Location: North Foyer
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Lab Didactic for Male Reconstructive Surgeries
Panel: Jennifer Anger, MD
O. Lenaine Westney, MD
Melissa R. Kaufman, MD, PhD
11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Perspectives of Women Executives in Medical Industry
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Industry Sponsored Lunch
1:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Male Reconstructive Cadaver Lab
Location: Town Hall
Panel: Jennifer Anger, MD
O. Lenaine Westney, MD
Melissa R. Kaufman, MD, PhD
1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Group A Lab
Group A visits Exhibit Hall
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Group B Lab
Group B visits Exhibit Hall
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Welcome Reception with Exhibitors
Location: Sunshine
Mark Your Calendars: 
SWIU at the 2012 AUA

**Sunday, May 20, 2012**

6:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
**SWIU Annual Breakfast Meeting**  
Omni at CNN Center  
North Tower – International Ballroom E

**Monday, May 21, 2012**

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
**Women Leaders in Urology Forum**  
Omni at CNN Center  
North Tower – International Ballroom E

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
**SWIU Networking Reception**  
Omni at CNN Center  
North Tower – International Ballroom B

Everyone is welcome! This is a great opportunity to meet with other urologists to discuss the issues in the field of urology. SWIU will announce the Christina Manthos Mentoring Award winner and you will also hear from the winners of the Elisabeth Pickett Research Award and SWIU/SBUR Award for Excellence in Urological Research.

We look forward to these great events every year and hope to see you there. Please note that the Women Leaders in Urology Forum and the Networking Reception will again be held on Monday this year. We hope you can make it!

**Women at the Podium**

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), which will be available in January 2012. We ask members presenting to please submit information by **March 15, 2012**. SWIU will publish this listing in the Spring Newsletter.

**The Elusive Work/Family Life Balance in Academic Surgery:  
Notes to Female Surgeons Who Are Considering a Career in the Ivory Tower**

By Claire C. Yang, MD

A young colleague called me the other day to ask my advice, having recently finished her fellowship and appointed as junior faculty in our department. She is married, has a new baby and was wondering about the feasibility of her career choice. I have never been one to push the “woman’s” perspective on anyone, instead trying to remain gender-neutral in my approach to mentoring. For some reason, though, this particular call prompted me to think a little more closely about a woman’s perspective in a career called “academic surgery”. This entity has traditionally called for the “triple threat”—someone who can do (and excel at) clinical work, research and teaching. Note that nowhere is there a mention of family life. However, it is no secret that meshing family life with a challenging career is a major concern for many women. Despite the obvious challenges, academic surgery is a feasible and rewarding career—but there are a few things to keep in mind as you take the plunge.

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**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.
The percentage of women surgeon/scientists in medical school faculties is still fairly low, particularly at the associate professor and professor ranks, and many of those women are not married or do not have children. The explanation for the low numbers in part involves a perennial question: how can a young surgeon fulfill the triple threat and have a family life? There are recognized institutional barriers to success for women in academic surgery, and these barriers notwithstanding, there are also many personal decisions that a female surgeon needs to bear in mind when considering an academic career. This reflection contains some of my observations from almost 20 years in academia.

For me, a critical component to success is a supportive partner, if you are choosing to be partnered. But that holds true for just about any career that you want to pursue. So let’s assume you have or want a supportive partner, and you envision at least one child in your future. With this scenario, the following are some suggestions for balancing the work/family life juggling act, from a mid-career female surgeon/scientist:

1. Get a mentor. A supportive mentor (or better yet, more than one person) who is well-versed in the machinations of academia, is successful in his or her research, and is willing to commit uncompensated time to the development of your career, is a priceless commodity. The presence or absence of such a person can make or break a career. There is a myriad of reasons why a mentor is necessary, and such a discussion is beyond the scope of this essay. If you are starting out, take my word for it and find a committed mentor.

2. Be hyper-organized. Time, contrary to the Rolling Stones song, is not on your side, and it will not be on yours, either. A surgeon can never be “off service,” and so the time constraints are even greater than those of colleagues in non-surgical fields of academic medicine. Make the most of your time by constantly prioritizing, getting help for things you do not have time to do, and not procrastinating. Being a good surgeon requires you to be organized in the operating room, so bring that skill into your personal life.

3. Recognize the unexpected influence of a child on your career and worldview. In my observations, the arrival of children into a family has a profound effect on a female academic surgeon’s career. I have seen more than one woman take the fast track toward academic surgery, fully expecting that she will be able to carry out the triple threat, and then get off that track with the arrival of a baby. Whether it’s the hormonal influences, or the recognition that caring for a child and managing a burgeoning career are at odds, or just the joy that motherhood brings—no matter what the reason, many women change their minds about their career at their transition to motherhood. It is hard to know in advance how you are going to feel about it, so reflection about your maternal motivations is important. Realize that your long-held views about yourself and your career may change dramatically.

4. Acknowledge that family cannot always come first, and that you are not indispensable to your children. Bringing a child into the world means a commitment to expend the necessary time and energy to raise that child to his or her full potential. How each person decides what her child needs is highly individualized, and some children need more parental presence than others. If you feel that your frequent or constant presence in your child’s life is necessary, then academic surgery is probably not for you. If you are willing to accept the “it takes a village” view of child-rearing, you may find that there are many people who can love and nurture your little one, just as well as you and your partner can.

5. Be selfish about your career. This concept is particularly difficult for many women. If you explicitly or implicitly acknowledge your partner’s career to be more important to the family than yours, your career will not advance to your satisfaction. You will then be the one always staying home with your child when the daycare is closed, making arrangements for the plumber to fix the overflowing toilet, etc. You cannot be the primary parent, the primary house manager, AND the academic surgeon, otherwise you will be at high risk for burn out. An equal division of labor with regard to childcare and home management (a service which can also be purchased!) is a must, or, your spouse can be the primary parent and home manager. Selfishness must also be extended to the clinical setting: when you are approached to cover clinical duties when you are on your research time, don’t do it! Your protected research time should remain protected. It is easy to get sucked into the never-ending vortex of uncovered clinical duties, and once that happens, invariably the research suffers.

6. Feel excitement about research. In his book “Better: A Surgeon’s Notes on Performance,” Atul Gawande encouraged physicians to “count something,” which is shorthand for doing research or keeping data for review. I would add to that, “count something, and be excited about it.” Feeling excitement is the only way you can do the counting in the hectic life of a surgeon. It is what will allow you the energy to help your kids with their homework after dinner, get them tucked in bed, and then spend another couple of hours finishing that grant, before getting up at 5:00 a.m. to start another day. This kind of crazy schedule is not meant to be in place constantly, and it gets old quickly if there is no personal gratification. The desire to do this can only come from a deep well of curiosity and a drive to convince Mother Nature to relinquish her secrets. As with most things, without the excitement, the effort cannot be sustained.

7. Don’t be afraid to mix work life with home life, and vice versa. Many people try to make their home a sanctuary from work. My husband and I both bring work home when possible and appropriate, because it allows us more time together as a family. I would rather make patient calls or have residents contact me at home during evenings and weekends, than sit in my office during those times, wishing I was home. Also, I have been known to bring the kids to work and to out-of-town meetings, all in the name of familial unity.

8. Set realistic goals and realize you can’t have it all. Although my former chairman says that women who have families require superhuman characteristics to survive and be successful in the academic environment, the reality is that we are only mortals, with many, many limitations, and we need to recognize those limits. By recognizing that I was not omnipotent, I believe I have maintained my family’s integrity and my sanity thus far. The decisions I made definitively slowed my career trajectory compared to that of my colleagues, but I am achieving my career goals—on my own timeline. As a result, I have thus far avoided burnout, I’m still in academic medicine (and enjoying it) and I plan to be in it for the long haul.

Some of these suggestions may sound incongruent, saying on the one hand that family cannot always come first, then emphasizing that raising children requires time and energy, countering with being selfish with your career. Therein lies the conundrum for anyone wrestling with this matter: how can you balance the conflicting messages? It is a constant exercise to assess and reassess priorities, and unfortunately, there is no right answer for everyone.

Although faculty positions in academic medicine are evolving to be more “family friendly,” the surgeon/scientist triple-threat skill set is still being demanded in many institutions. The difficulty in balancing career and family life is a known deterrent for many women surgeons considering this line of work. An academic career can be challenging, fulfilling, exciting and fun. It is a worthwhile endeavor, but it is not for everyone. My hope is that those of you who do want this career path will realize the feasibility of such a pursuit, but with awareness that it will require making weighty personal decisions not only as you start out, but at frequent intervals along the way.

Claire Yang is professor of urology at the University of Washington, and chief of urology at Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA. She conducts research in genitourinary neuroanatomy and electrophysiology, is currently an NIH-funded investigator and has had the privilege of mentoring numerous residents and fellows.

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South Central Section
Gathering Update
By Damara Kaplan, PhD, MD

During this year’s SCS meeting in San Antonio, the SWIU had an informal social gathering. This is the second year that a social event was held during the annual section meeting. The purpose of the gathering was two-fold—it allowed both residents and attending physicians to get to know each other and discuss current topics that were not addressed elsewhere during the larger meeting. We discussed topics of interest including the management of work and family conflicts, fellowship selection challenges and ways to increase resident participation in SWIU. Donna Kelly gave us the most recent information about the upcoming SWIU meeting in Arizona this January. Joe Arite, associate director of government affairs, was our guest at the gathering. We discussed various topics in health policy as they relate to urology and discussed beginning a health policy curriculum for urology residents.

North Central Section
Gathering Update
By Tamra E. Lewis, MD

North Central Section of the AUA met in sunny Rancho Mirage, CA, from October 18 – 22. During the meeting SWIU and Uroplasty hosted a small cocktail reception that was a nice time for us to meet and interact with other female colleagues. Topics of conversation included balancing kids and full time careers, especially with both parents in the medical field. There was also a great session put on by the Young Urologists Committee on personal finance that was very helpful to many of the younger (and more senior) female physicians, and would definitely be a topic to consider for future gatherings. There was also a great deal of enthusiasm from both residents with the scholarships available and for women urologists in practice for the upcoming SWIU Clinical Mentoring Conference as a way to reconnect with colleagues and as an excuse to relax and learn in a beautiful environment.

Western Section
Gathering Update
By Vannita Simma-Chiang, MD

In the gorgeous city of Vancouver, British Columbia, the 87th Annual Meeting of the Western Section of the AUA was held from August 21 – 25, 2011. The sky was a clear blue and the air was cool and crisp against a backdrop of the coast lined with sailboats, and snow-capped mountains in the distance. For the first time at the Western Section, SWIU hosted an intimate wine and cheese reception for our members at the meeting. The topic of conversation ranged from research projects, to family, to the upcoming changes in our careers. It was exciting to make new connections with fellow urologists. I hope that SWIU members of the Western Section come out to our next gathering at the Hilton Waikoloa, on the Big Island, Hawaii!

Mid-Atlantic and New England Section
Gathering Update
By Leslie Rickey, MD, MPH

At the Mid-Atlantic/New England Section Joint 2011 meeting, SWIU held a wine and cheese event in sunny Orlando, Florida. It’s a bit challenging competing with Disney World, but several of us got together and talked shop. It was great to have a range of career levels, from resident to junior faculty to mid-level career urologist, and the various perspectives (along with a few glasses of wine) sparked interesting and helpful conversation. It’s not often that we’re able to get together with female colleagues and just talk about the challenges and successes that we have faced during our training and careers, but the insight provided by colleagues with diverse backgrounds and experiences is really invaluable. I look forward to more of these conversations as well as some robotics, reconstruction and relaxation in Scottsdale at the Inaugural Clinical Mentoring Conference in January!

We would like to acknowledge Uroplasty for their generous support of the 2011 SWIU Sectional Gatherings.

Save the Date!!

SWIU Gathering at Southeastern Section of the AUA
76th Annual Meeting
March 22 – 25, 2012
The Ritz-Carlton
Amelia Island, Florida

Following the remarkable turnout from our last SWIU at the SES reception, we encourage members to look for forthcoming information on the date and time of next year’s gathering. Anyone interested in planning or participating is encouraged to email SWIU at info@swiu.org.
Christina Manthos Mentoring Award

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

Dr. Manthos earned her medical degree from USUHS in 1990, receiving the Army Surgeon General’s Award and the Janet M. Glasgow Award from the American Medical Women’s Association. After a surgical internship at Fitzsimmons AMC, where she won Outstanding Intern of the Year, she served in Korea as a clinic commander.

Subsequently, she returned to Fitzsimmons AMC, where she completed her urology residency in 1996. She then served with distinction as the assistant chief of the urology service at the USAF Academy and Fort Carson until she lost her battle with breast cancer in 1999.

Dr. Manthos will be fondly remembered as a gifted urologic surgeon, dedicated officer and inspiring mentor.

The Elisabeth Pickett Research Award

Dr. Pickett was the first woman in the US to be certified in both general surgery (1961) and in urology (1962). In order to qualify to take the urology boards, she actually had to retrain, completing an assistant resident year in urology and a second year as a general urology fellow at MSK. She was also the first woman to be accepted into a urology fellowship.

Throughout her professional life, Dr. Pickett dedicated herself to teaching, holding multiple academic positions at Cornell Medical College, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, New York Hospital and the New York Infirmary. Later in her career, she also directed the spinal cord injury center at Castle Point Veterans Hospital. In addition to maintaining a busy practice and teaching, she devoted herself to oncologic research. Perhaps most importantly, she was a committed patient advocate who took umbrage at any injustice she perceived.

Certainly, Dr. Pickett’s accomplishments as a surgeon and a urologist were vast. She blazed a trail for all future women in urology with hard work and perseverance, and her passion lit the way for those of us who followed. She was an inspiration to all who met her, and SWIU is pleased to offer this award in her honor.

The Elisabeth Pickett Research Award makes funds available for small research grants for basic science or clinical urologic research. The awards may be used to continue or supplement a current project or to initiate new study.

Awardees are expected to attend the Annual Breakfast Meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2012, the Women Leaders in Urology Forum and the Networking Reception on Monday, May 21, 2012. Awardees also shall present a five-minute summary of their work at the Annual Breakfast Meeting.

The 2012 Elisabeth Pickett Research Award is $2,500, payable to the institution where SWIU Research activity will be completed. The award will be presented at the Annual Breakfast Meeting.

Applications are now being accepted. Please visit www.swiu.org for more information. Please note the application deadline is December 31, 2011. Late applications will not be reviewed.

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. If someone has mentored you in a special way, please consider submitting a nomination for this significant award.

Nomination forms for the Christina Manthos Mentoring Award are available on the SWIU website, and will be due on December 31, 2011. For more information, please visit www.swiu.org.

Past Winners of the Christina Manthos Mentoring Award include:

2011: Steven W. Siegel, MD
2010: Donald G. Skinner, MD
2009: Edward J. McGuire, MD
2008: Tamara Ravendam, MD
2007: Michael B. Chancellor, MD
2006: Robert C. Flanigan, MD
2005: Jean L. Fourcroy, MD, PhD
2004: Marguerite C. Lippert, MD
2003: Gloria S. Massey, MD
2002: Martha K. Terris, MD
2001: Margaret C. Wolf, MD
2000: Dave McCloud, MD
  Craig Donatucci, MD

Past Winners of the Elisabeth Pickett Research Award include:

2010: Cynthia See-Ming Fok, MD
      Kathleen Hwang, MD
      Stacy Loeb, MD
2009: Jennifer M. Taylor, MD
      Mary K. Sampfskli, MD
2008: Rose Khavari, MD
      Van A.T. Ginger, MD
      Ruthie R. Su, MD
2007: Katie N. Ballert, MD
      Aimee L. Wiltz, MD
      Nadya M. Cinman, MD
2006: Carley Davis, MD
      Hadley M. Woods, MD
2005: Kathleen Kieran, MD
2004: Adrienne J. Carmack, MD
2003: Joanna K. Chon, MD
2002: Ann-Marie Houle, MD
      Sophia Drinis, MD
2001: Anne-Marie Houle, MD
2000: Karyn S. Eliber, MD
      Jennifer E. Peters, MD
      Margot S. Damaser, PhD
1999: Karyn S. Eliber, MD
      Tracy Cannon-Smith, MD
      Margot S. Damaser, PhD
1998: Martha K. Terris, MD
      Claire C. Yang, MD
      Cathy K. Naughton, MD
      Catherine Rhu deVries, MD
1997: Martha K. Terris, MD
      Mary K. Sampfskli, MD
1996: Larissa V. Rodriguez, MD
      Jennifer M. Abidari, MD
      Beth A. Andersen, MD

www.swiu.org
To make a difference in lives on a global scale, IVUmed, previously known as International Volunteers in Urology, is a non-profit organization dedicated to making quality urological care available to people worldwide. IVUmed educates physicians, nurses, and surgical team members as well as treating thousands of suffering children and adults. The organization teaches the teachers, and their motto is “Teach One, Reach Many.” They empower healthcare providers to pass on their knowledge and expertise.

IVUmed conducted a record number of surgical workshops over the past year. Eleven IVUmed teams and visiting professors provided hands-on and classroom instruction on a wide range of surgical topics. IVUmed also collaborated with a consortium of agencies in a public health initiative to reduce transmission of HIV through adult male circumcision. They contracted with the World Health Organization to provide surgical training and reconstructive urologic service related to anomalies discovered during a screening for a large circumcision campaign in Kenya. During the recent year, IVUmed also expanded its work in Haiti to help build urologic capacity and outreach within the medical community which remains distressed after the earthquake in 2010. In addition to this, the organization provided funding for 17 resident scholars to travel with a mentor to experience urology in resource-constrained settings around the world. They also offer a fellowship which combines international clinical work in urology with a degree in public health (MPH).

So how can you help make a difference? Becoming a member of IVUmed is a great way to support the organization, stay updated on current needs, and to help advocate for surgical volunteerism and training worldwide. Encouraging the program/AUA section where you trained or currently work to support a resident scholar through IVUmed can provide the next generation of urologists with a global worldview that can profoundly impact their careers. Volunteers for surgical teams are always needed; you can check out www.ivumed.org for a list of upcoming trips.

When asked about her regular trips teaching pelvic floor reconstruction in Africa with IVUmed’s women’s health program, Dr. Susan Kolata said, “When I first volunteered with IVU, I thought I had to be able to take care of all the complicated problems that presented themselves to me and it was very stressful and discouraging. Now I have realized that I can’t do everything nor am I expected to be able to do everything. I have grown to be much more comfortable with what I can and cannot do both with my volunteering with IVU and my life in general. So my experiences with IVU have helped me find a balance in my entire life.” Dr. Deborah Lighter, who traveled to Kampala, Uganda in April of this year, put it this way, “We, as urologists practicing in the US, are so lucky, we don’t even realize it. We are so fearful—and have been for decades—about what’s going to happen in our own health care ‘system’. But we have the opportunity to learn from those excellent urologists in resource-poor countries about how to do so much more with so much less. I learned much more than I taught, yet so few of us take the trip to find out. Whether its concerns about travel, money, precious ‘vacation’ time, skills or simply inertia that keeps us from going, I don’t know. While I’ve financially supported IVUmed for many years, I put off a trip far too long under the false worry about me being the sole support of my minor children. But it’s a life-changing experience, really, it is—and I think it’s also a duty, a duty to share our great abundance with those who have less. So go—and if you can’t, support IVUmed. "Teach one" but it’s you who will learn a lot.”
Members Corner

Congratulations to Dolores Lamb, who was recently featured in the Fall issue of Urology Health in an article highlighting her work in male infertility research as well as her role as a mentor in the field of urology research.

Do you have news that you’d like to share with SWIU? Let us know at info@swiu.org.