The Walter Reed Army Urology Residency was started in 1946 by COL James C. Kimbrough, MD at the Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, DC. Presently the Residency Program falls under the National Capital Consortium (NCC). The consortium oversees the administration of over 76 GME military programs in the national capital region. The NCC began in 1995 and is headquartered at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD. The Residency and Fellowship Programs of the NCC are located at Andrews Air Force Base, MD, Fort Belvoir, VA, and new Walter Reed National Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. Other teaching sites include the National Institutes of Health, Ft. Derrick, MD, Ft. Meade, MD, US Naval Academy, the Congressional Clinic, and the Pentagon.

The Hospital

The Walter Reed General Hospital opened on May 1, 1909. During WWI the hospital expanded from 80 beds to 2,500 beds in the matter of months. In 1977, the Walter Reed Army Medical Center opened in its new facility next to the old hospital. This new hospital had 28 acres of floor space. On September 17th, 2011 Walter Reed Army Medical Center closed and combined with the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. This combined hospital - the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center is one of the largest military hospitals in the world.

The Namesake

Major Walter Reed received his medical degree at the young age of 17 from the University of Virginia in 1868. A second medical degree was obtained from Bellevue Hospital Medical College, NY at age 18. He was commissioned to the US Army in 1876. He studied typhoid fever during the Spanish American War but is most known for his ground breaking research in Yellow Fever in Cuba. His work saved countless lives during the construction of the Panama Canal. He provided informed consent for all his research volunteers (US Army Soldiers) in Cuba and a cash award of $500. All of the volunteers refused to accept the cash award. He died at Ft McNair from a ruptured appendix in 1902.

The Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Urology Residency

COL Robert C. Dean, MD, 2LT Rick Otto, MSC, and COL(ret) David G. McLeod, MD, JD

The Walter Reed Urology Residency History

Founded in 1946, there have been over 118 graduates from the residency. The fully accredited ACGME residency presently trains 2 residents a year. After World War II, Dr. Kimbrough saw the need for an urological residency for the US Army. He established a surgical consultant service during WWII. This system provided in-theatre specialists in all of the major fields of medicine to which they were needed on the battlefield. This was the prelude for “specialized surgical care” placed forward in the Combat Theater and the need for the US Army to train these specialized surgeons. Thus the beginning of surgical sub-specialty training at Walter Reed General Hospital.

Initially the urologic training was 4 years then 5 years but since the 1995 the residency has been 8 years in length. All conferences in those early years occurred on Saturdays. It was not uncommon for Dr. Kimbrough to “load up his Packard” with residents and drive to Baltimore to spend the day with Dr. Jewett at the Brady Institute. In those early decades of the residency, significant contributions to the scientific literature mostly focused on testicular cancer, prostate cancer and urological trauma.

In the 1960-70’s, the residency grew in complement. A close association with the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology lead to a body of work on the classifications of testis cancer and renal carcinoma as well as continued advancements in urological trauma care was published. These advancements in trauma care occurred with the increased volume of patients from Vietnam. With the improved evacuation from the battlefield, the wounded warriors had a significantly improved chance of survival to a stateside military hospital. This trend continues today.

Presently, the residents are exposed to complex urological trauma patients due to the early evacuation of the wounded warriors from Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally the primary site for stateside care is Walter Reed. Over 75% of the wounded warriors are seen at Walter Reed and the patients are generally seen stateside within 72-96 hours of their initial injury (a major advance in combat wounded care).

The residency’s close association with the Center for Prostate Disease Research has allowed the residents a basic science research exposure. Since the establishment of the residency, over 30 career military (>20 years service) urologists have graduated the program including 2 past presidents of the Mid-Atlantic AUA.

Noted Faculty and Graduates:

COL James Kimbrough – the Father of Military Urology. Served in WWI and WWII, past president of the Mid-Atlantic AUA, US Army Hospital - Ft. Meade was named in his honor as well as the Kimbrough Urologic Seminar.


COL Kryder Buskirk – Instrumental in the development of MASH units for the Korea War. Served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

LTG Bernhard Mittenmeyer – division surgeon for General Westmoreland in Vietnam and became the 35th Surgeon General of the Army.


COL David McLeod – awarded the Combat Medical Badge for service in Vietnam in addition to numerous military citations. Past-President of the Mid-Atlantic AUA and current director of the Center for Prostate Disease Research.

COL Judd Moul – 1997 AUA’s Golden Cystoscope Award Winner

2010-2011 Faculty and Resident Staff