

President's Message – Natasha Kyprianou



SBUR President
Natasha Kyprianou

It has been an exciting year for the SBUR so far and we are growing stronger.

The 13th SBUR Spring Meeting last May in San Francisco was a great success. The theme was "Apoptosis," the most widely investigated topic in the modern era of biology and medical sciences; The Coffey Lecture was truly a scientific masterpiece, beautifully delivered by Dr. John Reed, President of the Burnham Institute. The feedback we received was phenomenal. On a personal note, it was a unique honor for me to present Dr. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., Past-President of the AUA, with the SBUR Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his tremendous contributions to the Urology Research programs nationwide. The SBUR salutes Dr. Vaughan as a urology research hero, a gentleman and a scholar.

The SBUR membership is rapidly growing in number, attracting the best and newest talent in basic molecular and clinical urologic research. Forty-four new members joined the SBUR in 2004. As the Society grows, changes that will enhance the SBUR website are on the way under the leadership of Dr. Darius Bagli, Website Committee Chair. A Special Service Award was awarded to Dr. Bagli in recognition of his efforts and knowledge of contemporary technology in redesigning the SBUR website. In the year 2005, an effective website (www.sbur.org) is the most powerful networking tool for information sharing, membership expansion and goal promotion.

The SBUR has been enjoying a dynamic interaction with the AUA promoting the TRU Act (Training and Research in Urology) legislation on Capitol Hill and making certain the TRU Act becomes law. With Dr. Monica Liebert (AUA Director of Research) heading the initiative, the progress made to date will help us make the case for bringing long-term structural changes that will enhance urology research.

On the conference front in an inaugural launching, the SBUR is organizing this fall a Satellite Symposium that will take place in conjunction with the ESUR Congress in Athens, Greece. The Symposium will take place at the Caravel Hotel, on November 4-5, 2004, covering the current understanding of the mechanisms underlying hormone-refractory prostate cancer and will feature prominent speakers including Dr. Michael Karin, University of California, San Diego, two SBUR Past-Presidents, Dr. John Isaacs and Dr. Michael Freeman, and our Vice-President, Dr. Shuk-Mei Ho. The setting is a post-Olympic Athens, the theme is one of the most challenging clinical problems in urology, and the speakers are exceptional leaders. It will be difficult to resist such an attractive forum!

The Fall SBUR meeting in Savannah promises to offer an exciting platform for absorbing and exchanging exciting new information on the complexity of the two signaling pathways contributing to cell growth, cell proliferation and apoptosis. Dr. Vijay Kumar (Program Chair) and his Committee members have put together an exceptional scientific program that I believe will attract investigators from all disciplines of urology.

With the efforts of our Treasurer, Dr. Zhou Wang, one of the Society's summer goals has been fulfilled, i.e. hiring a company to manage the finances of the SBUR, seeking stable growth and expansion for the Society. I have also been working closely with the fundraising committee, toward establishing an endowment for the SBUR for a more secure financial future. I hope I will have some great news to share with you in the spring!

The Weiser group, especially our Associate Director, Sue O'Sullivan, continues to put forth its best efforts toward expanding the SBUR and I am grateful for their dedication, hard work and spirit of support. Finally, I would like to thank all the executive board members and the chairs/members of the various SBUR committees for their friendship, support and close comradeship during the initial term of my Presidency. I look forward to many more creative interactions as the year unfolds.

I hope you all have had a productive summer and you have my best wishes for the most rewarding academic experiences and research collaborations in a bright fall season.

Treasurer's Report – Zhou Wang

An analysis of the SBUR's financial situation revealed a rather large balance of funds in the Coffey lectureship accounts that were essentially sitting idle. The SBUR Board of Directors has enlisted Medicus Asset Advisors, Inc., an investment firm specializing in investment plans for medical and professional societies, to manage the portion of the SBUR funds that are not required for short-term operating capital. The move was made for the long-term health of the SBUR in an effort to build/preserve significant assets in reserve.

SBUR Members Visit Capitol Hill Seeking TRU Support



Sen. Bunning, R-Kentucky, poses with the SBUR President, Dr. Natasha Kyprianou.

The TRU (Teaching and Research in Urology) Act seeks to establish a Director of Urologic Diseases within the NIH. The purpose of this is to oversee programs with a specific emphasis on all clinical pathologies in Urology, not just cancer, with an associated resident training program, research program and the necessary funds to carry out this program. For a summary of the bill you may follow the following link:

www.afud.org/advocacy/truact/bill.asp

Shown here is SBUR President, Dr. Natasha Kyprianou, posing with Sen. Bunning, R-KY, on her recent trip to Capitol Hill to lobby in support of the TRU act. Dr. Kyprianou, Dr. Robert Getzenberg (Pittsburgh, PA) Dr. Dolores Lamb (Houston, TX) and Dr. Monica Liebert (AUA) were part of this recent lobbying effort. The SBUR will

begin to recognize those legislators that have been supportive of research efforts in Urologic Disease. Stay tuned for updates.

The SBUR has joined the AUA and 20 other research, patient and physician organizations in the Coalition for Urologic Research and Education (CURE) to support the TRU Act. This bill would create a separate Division of Urology at NIDDK and provide much-needed senior urology research leadership as well as expand urology grants programs. The TRU act was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives last year as HR 1002, and currently has 24 co-sponsors. We are working hard to have the bill introduced in the Senate within the next few months. To make this goal a reality, we need your help! Urge your House Representative to co-sponsor the TRU act, and ask your senators to introduce the bill in the Senate. It's really easy—just log onto the CURE link on www.urologyhealth.org or go to: www.urologyhealth.org/cure.htm to access a free legislative outreach site.



Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson, R-Texas, poses with Drs. Monica Liebert and Dolores Lamb.

Membership Drive/Retention Efforts

Do you know someone who is doing Urologic Research but is new to the field? Do you have new students that are interested in meeting other young Urologic researchers or want to meet some of the biggest names in the field? Consider promoting the SBUR as an option for these folks. The rather intimate nature of our meetings makes networking a breeze! Don't forget the searchable database of members on the website. In addition, the dues and meeting registrations are VERY reasonable. Most students can easily afford the annual membership, and travel awards are available on a competitive basis.

Has your interest lapsed? Are you are a member of the SBUR who currently is not active? Why not? We would like to have your input! The SBUR has made many things much easier than ever: You can request your website password by clicking the appropriate link on the login window. Dues payment is now available online by Visa or MasterCard through a secure server. Our meetings are getting **hotter** than ever with great locations every fall! Check out the Fall Symposium, below ... There is no SBUR without our members. Thanks to all of you for your support.

Recap: SBUR Spring 2004 Meeting in Association with the AUA

The theme of the Spring 2004 meeting was "Apoptosis: Mechanisms and Significance in Urological Disease." The meeting was on Saturday, May 8, 2004, at the Argent Hotel in San Francisco. The evolution of our knowledge of apoptosis during the last two decades has been as dramatic and dynamic as the process itself. The scientific program of the Spring 2004 meeting integrated a rich combination of senior and junior investigators whose work had a significant impact in this rapidly proliferating field. New information on the significance of this complex process in urology and the role of dysfunctional apoptosis in development, diagnosis and treatment of urologic diseases was presented. Dr. Natasha Kyprianou, Dr. Timothy McDonnell and Dr. Zhou Wang are commended for their efforts to bring this program to fruition. If you did not manage to make it, you missed a very good program in the City by the Bay.

Here are a few highlights:

E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D., Receives Service Award

Dr. Vaughan has served as President of the AUA, President of the AFUD, Chairman of the AUA Research Committee, Deputy Chairman of the NIDDK advisory board, member of the NIDDK advisory board, has received the Gold Cystoscope Award from the AUA, the St. Paul's Medal from the BAUS and the Valentine Medal from the NY Academy of Medicine. He is currently Chairman Emeritus from Department of Urology, the James J. Colt Professor of Urology, Chief Medical Officer at Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York.



E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr.

Dr. Vaughan's contributions to the field of Urologic research are without question. The SBUR is pleased to have been able to honor Dr. Vaughan for all of his efforts. Thank you, once again!

John C. Reed, M.D., Ph.D., Delivers 10th Annual Donald S. Coffey Lecture



Dr. Reed is Professor, President and CEO of The Burnham Institute; Professor of Pathology, UCSD; and Professor of Biology, San Diego State University. Dr. Reed has more than 645 publications. His discoveries include key apoptosis regulators (Bcl-2, IAPs, caspases), and dysfunctional apoptosis mechanisms in cancer development. This has led to programs in apoptosis-based drug-discovery for treating cancer, stroke and autoimmunity.

Dr. Reed regaled us on current developments toward molecular modeling of small

compounds to interact with specific binding sites on molecules that function as effectors of apoptosis. The molecules are designed to either turn on or off specific molecules depending on their role and expression in a given cell type or situation, thereby controlling the apoptotic response in the direction desired (e.g. small molecules designed to turn bcl-2 into a pro-apoptotic agent instead of a survival factor when over expressed). This was a first-rate presentation that had the conference attendees riveted!

Young Investigator Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2004 SBUR/MERCK Young Investigator Awards presented at the Spring Meeting in San Francisco. The awards committee reviewed the applicants and had the difficult task of selecting the top three candidates from the field. In addition to our congratulations and recognition at the Spring meeting during the business luncheon, the recipients of the Young Investigator Awards receive a cash prize of \$2,500 to use at their own discretion. Here are this year's recipients:



Thomas S. Griffith, MD
University of Iowa
Assistant Professor,
Department of Urology



Margot S. Damaser, PhD
Loyola University
Stritch School of Medicine
Associate Professor,
Department of Urology and Hines VA Hospital
Research Biomedical Engineer



Arul M. Chinnaiyan, MD, PhD
University of Michigan Medical School
Assistant Professor of Pathology and
Urology,
Department of Pathology

New Members Inducted

Amir Sherif, MD, PhD
Anastasios Tahmatzopoulos, MD
Anthony J. Kanai, PhD
Arul Chinnaiyan, MD, PhD

Beatrice Knudsen, MD PhD
Carlton Donald, PhD
Carol Ann Podlasek, Ph.D.
Dali Huang, M.D.

Darren Tyson, Ph.D.
David Samadi, M.D.
David Waters, DVM, PhD
Guangyu Gu, M.S., M.D.
Hua Zhong, PhD., M.D.
Jeffrey Arbeit, M.D.
Jin-Tang Dong, PhD
John Copland, PhD
Lori A Birder, MD
Marianne Sadar, PhD
Michael G. Wyllie, PhD

Murali Pagala, PhD
Olga Volpert, M.D.
Prem-Veer Reddy, Ph.D.
Puneet Sindhwani, M.D., M.B., B.S, M.S.
R. Jeffrey Karnes, M.D.
Robert G. Moore, M.D.
Sava Micic, PhD, MD
Shafiq A. Khan, MSc, Mphil, PhD
Shijie Sheng, PhD
Xiuping Yu, PhD
Yair Lotan, M.D.

Upcoming Meetings – Save the Date!

The 18th Annual European Society for Urological Research (ESUR) will be held November 4-6 in Athens, Greece.

Consider Athens, Greece, on the heels of the Olympics! Then consider the speaker list for the SBUR satellite symposium that will be held in conjunction with the ESUR: Dr. **Michael Karin** (University of California, San Diego), Dr. **John Isaacs** (The Johns Hopkins University), Dr. **Christopher Logothetis** (University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center), Dr. **Michael Freeman** (The Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School), Dr. **Shuk-mei Ho** (Massachusetts General Hospital), Dr. **J.T. Hsieh** (UT Southwestern, Dallas) and Dr. **Zoran Culig** (University of Innsbruck, Austria). Bear in mind that these speakers are just the start of an outstanding line-up. For other information and program contents visit http://www.esur2004.org/default_en.asp. The SBUR will host this satellite symposium on November 4-5. See <http://www.sbur.org/meetings/satellitesymposium.asp> for all the "must know" details. This meeting promises to be a packed program in a supercharged environment.

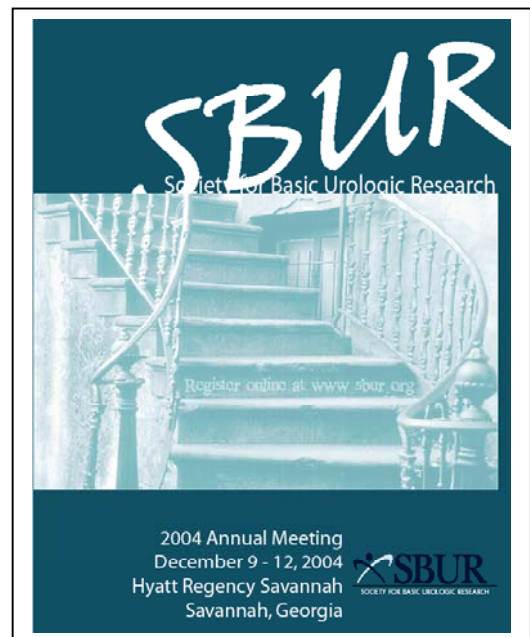
The 14th Annual Fall Meeting for the SBUR – December 9-12, 2004, Savannah, Georgia

signaling Mechanisms in Cell Proliferation and Death

Wow! Mark your calendars now! This program is awesome! Just to mention a few of the speakers to present: Harold Moses, Junying Yuan, Gail Prins, Michael Weber, Ming Tsai, Donald Tindall, Karen Knudsen, Mark Day, David Danielpour, Arthur Pardee, Leland Chung and so on....

To see just how power-packed this program is, you owe it to yourself to go and visit the website: www.sbur.org/meetings/annual.asp. The meeting registration page may be found there, and abstract submission pages are up and running. Junior investigators are eligible to apply for travel awards at www.sbur.org/meetings/transportation.asp. To cap all this excitement, this year's Saturday evening event promises to be one to remember, with all the atmosphere and charm of historic Savannah near the holidays.

The theme of the meeting is "**Signaling Mechanisms in Cell Proliferation and Death.**" Understanding the intricacies of signaling pathways is critical to biomedical researchers engaged in aging, cancer and therapeutic research. Compared to other fields, much less is known about the role of signaling in urologic disorders. Therefore, this conference will provide a review of current knowledge in the field, trace the changes from the



embryo to the aged adult, and address variations observed in urologic disorders. The conference is divided into five sessions to discuss the pathways involved in proliferation, death and the influence of modulating factors such as hormones and growth factors on these mechanisms. We have planned two poster sessions, and these sessions are intended to provide a forum for trainees to present their research and encourage interaction between the poster presenters and the audience. Travel awards will be presented to trainees and the best three awardees will be invited to discuss their research in podium presentations.

The SBUR Spring 2005 Meeting in Association with the AUA

The SBUR Spring 2005 meeting will take place on Saturday May 21, 2005, in San Antonio, Texas. The theme of the Spring meeting is “**Discovery of Biomarkers of Urological Diseases: Proteomics, Genomics and Epigenomic Approaches.**” The development of better biomarkers is sorely needed to better stratify patients for therapeutic intervention. In other words, these are the methods to find the tools to: 1) identify the presence of disease non-invasively and 2) identify patients whose disease is more aggressive and more likely to progress. Dr. Shuk-mei Ho is the Chair of the organizing committee and has recruited some awesome talent for the program... Dr. Richard Caprioli, a leader in the field of proteomics for disease detection, is scheduled to give the Annual Coffey Lecture. Other speakers include Drs. Robert Getzenberg, Arul Chinnaiyan, O. John Semmes and Donald Mays. Two breakout sessions will be offered: Dr. Vinata Lokeshwar is organizing one with a focus on “**Diagnostic and Prognostic Markers of Bladder Disease,**” while Dr. Mark Rubin is organizing the other emphasizing “**Diagnostic and Prognostic Markers for Prostate and Renal Diseases.**” The speakers for the breakout sessions are top-notch! As program details become available, they will be posted on the SBUR website.

The SBUR Fall 2005 Meeting

The Fall 2005 SBUR meeting (a joint meeting with the ESUR) will be held in early December (provisionally December 1-4, 2005) in Miami, Florida. “Membrane Biology in Basic Urologic Research” will be the theme. As dates and locations are formally confirmed and as program details become available, these will be posted on the SBUR website. The program chair for this meeting is Dr. Karl Chai.

Notices:

Young Investigator Awards

The SBUR is happy to announce the resurrection of the Young Investigator Awards in the form of checks for \$2,500 to be used at the discretion of the recipients. Applicants must be SBUR members under 40 years of age on the date of the Spring 2005 meeting. Interested candidates should submit their CV's using the Young Investigators link on the SBUR website (www.sbur.org). Awardees will be informed prior to the meeting and awards will be presented at the SBUR business lunch on Saturday May 21, 2005, in San Antonio, Texas.

The SBUR Website (www.sbur.org)

The SBUR website continues to evolve. The site has a new look, with even more changes planned. Current additions include more links to funding sources as well as up-to-date listings of SBUR-sponsored meetings complete with links to registration pages and online submission. Members can search the member database for contacts, change their personal information, check their membership status, pay dues and read past issues of the newsletter. The website managers are looking for more ways to improve the site. Your suggestions are welcomed.

Your help is needed! The SBUR would like to update the homepage on a regular basis with your data! We will proudly indicate the source of the contribution. Please consider sending some of your really cool pictures of cells or immunohisto/cytochemistry or immunofluorescence, or whatever you think is cool. The web manager will make selections. The members of the executive committee will make the decision regarding which images will be used. We will start rotating through them as soon as we can...

Membership Information

We welcome applications for SBUR membership through our website, www.sbur.org.

AUA Office of Research: News and Upcoming Events

Thanks in part to the support and assistance of the Society for Basic Urologic Research, the AUA Office of Research has continued to develop and progress. Here are just a few items that will be of interest to the SBUR community:

- The AUA webpage, www.AUAnet.org, has just been updated. The Office of Research now has its own page, and we are working to provide even more content and links for the research community. We will launch an improved grants communication corner within the next few weeks. Watch for new additions every month!
- EUREKA!, the Office of Research e-mail funding alert, continues to provide timely and important research information and funding opportunities. If you are not yet a subscriber, please contact us at research@auanet.org to be added.
- The Training and Research in Urology (TRU) act, which would create a separate Division of Urology at NIDDK to streamline and enhance urology research, continues to progress. In May, Sen. Mike DeWine (R-OH) introduced a companion bill in the Senate (S. 2361) to join the House bill (H.R. 1002) that has been under consideration for the past year. Congressional visits this summer by SBUR members Drs. Dolores Lamb, Robert Getzenberg and Natasha Kyprianou led to additions of Sen. Jim Bunning (R-KY) and Rep. Chris Bell (D-TX) to the bill. We have made excellent progress, but we still need your help! Please contact your congressional representatives and ask them to co-sponsor the TRU act. Its easy — just log on to www.urologyhealth.org and click on the CURE logo on the lower left side. That will lead to a computerized link to contact Congress, which includes some suggested letters to send in support of the TRU act. This link can also be used for other congressional contacts, such as requests for appropriation support or other research interests.
- The first donor participation AUA/AFUD Run for Research, held at the AUA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, was a success, raising more than \$20,000 for urology research. We are now planning for an enhanced event in San Antonio, to be held Saturday morning, May 21, 2005. Additional information will be forthcoming shortly. Support urology research by your participation!
- The 2004 AUA/SBUR Summer Research Conference on “Neurourology” was held August 13-15 in McLean, Va. The meeting was timely, topical and extremely well received. Thanks to all the dedicated faculty and participants who made the meeting possible, to NIDDK for their grant support for young investigators, and to Lilly/BI for their support of the meeting. Drs. Bill Steers and Jeremy Tuttle, who co-chaired the meeting, should also be congratulated for an outstanding effort. The 2005 meeting is now being planned. The topic will be “Inflammation in Prostate Diseases,” and Drs. Bill Nelson and Rob Getzenberg have agreed to chair. The 2005 meeting will be held in August at the AUA Headquarters Building in Linthicum, Md., outside of the BWI airport. This meeting continues to be an outstanding mentoring and contact opportunity for new investigators as well as an invigorating experience for established researchers. We thank the SBUR for their continuing participation in this effort, and hope SBUR members will consider attending this outstanding meeting. Registration information will be posted on the AUA website early in the summer of 2005.

The AUA Office of Research continues to develop resources and information for the urologic research community. Together, we can make a difference! More research means better treatment and care for patients with urologic disease. We encourage you to provide feedback and suggestions by email at research@auanet.org.