

President's Message



My tenure as President of the SBUR is almost over. As I sit at 11,000 feet and contemplate the beauty of nature in Vail, Colorado, I am also taking some time to reflect on my past 2 years of service to the SBUR, as Vice-President and then as President.

The SBUR has been in existence for 15 years. It started small and with its major goal of bringing urologic researchers together. Much has happened in that time, as the organization has grown.

During the last 2 years, the SBUR has made the very important step of hiring Wendy Weiser and her company to serve as our Executive Secretary. This was a decision which was made with much careful thought, and after a thorough examination of how our organization functions. I am pleased to say that this past year, our first full year with Weiser, has been very successful. We have planned for the 2004 and 2005 Fall meetings [see inside the newsletter for details] using their meeting planning

department, which has negotiated excellent hotel rates for our meetings. They have also been very active in fund raising for our meetings, including obtaining sponsorship of the luncheon at the Spring meeting this year, which we have not had before [again, see the newsletter for more details of the Spring meeting]. Their staff has re-designed our website, making it state-of-the-art. All members have or will have passwords issued to allow them access to members only areas of the site. In addition, all information, registration and abstract submission will be done electronically for the first time for the Fall 2004 meeting. We look forward to a continued partnership with the Weiser group.

This past September, we held our annual Fall meeting in conjunction with the ESUR and the BPG. As is our tradition, every fourth year the meeting is held in Europe, and this meeting was held in London. The meeting featured prominent speakers from Europe and from the SBUR and was quite successful. I would like to thank the American Urologic Association for contributing its support to our Fall and Spring meetings.

I just served as an ad hoc reviewer on the newly formed Urologic and Kidney Development and Genitourinary Diseases [UKGD] study section. This study section serves as one of the main study sections in which [non-oncology] urology-related grants are reviewed. That UKGD exists at all is due to the hard work of the SBUR and several of its members, who were instrumental in establishing the Renal and Urological Sciences IRG when CSR re-organized, and in helping to outline its areas of interest. I was impressed by the high quality of grants which were submitted and in the numbers of investigators working in these areas. I urge SBUR members to continue to submit their grant applications to the UKGD. I also encourage SBUR members to agree to review for the UKGD if you are asked, so that our grants can receive true peer review.

This is an important time for urology-related research. Aside from the new study section, The TRU [Training and Research in Urology] Act has been introduced in the House. TRU will provide the leadership and resources needed to work toward cures for urologic disease, including a re-structuring of the NIDDK. Please see the report by Dr. Monica Liebert, Director of the AUA office of Research, in this newsletter so that you can find out how best to support TRU.

I look forward to the Spring meeting which has been planned by our Vice-President Natasha Kyprianou. It will take place on May at the AUA and is entitled "Apoptosis: Mechanisms and Significance in Urology." Dr. Kyprianou has worked hard to put together this wonderful program. In addition, the Fall meeting, "Signaling Mechanisms in Cell Proliferation and Death" will take place in Savannah, Dec. 9th – 12th. Dr. Vijay Kumar and his committee have also arranged an excellent program. I hope you can all attend both meetings. More information on our meetings can be found in this newsletter and at our website www.sbur.org

I would like to urge members of the SBUR to become more involved in our organization, and to encourage their colleagues to join. Electronic applications are available, and the process is easy. As our membership grows, we can increase our ability to advocate for urologic research and provide more resources for our members.

I would like to thank our current vice-president Natasha Kyprianou, and our immediate past president, Michael Freeman for their advice and encouragement this year. Also, thanks to the executive committee for their interest and participation. A final thanks to Sue O'Sullivan of Weiser for all her hard-work for the SBUR. And a final, final thanks to my family, for all they do and for allowing me to stay home this morning instead of hitting the slopes.

Diane Felsen

ATTENTION:

Important Information in this Newsletter

SBUR Election Information is included. Please take the time to read the candidates statements and then either go online to vote or e-mail your vote before April 15th

The Young Investigator Awards are back. We would encourage all eligible candidates to apply

Details of the Spring and Fall 2004 meetings are included.

President-Elect 2004

I embrace the honor of being elected and welcome the challenge of serving as the President of the Society for the next term 2004-2005. My pledge to the membership of the SBUR and the urologic community is that I will work closely with the Weiser organization and the executive board of directors to establish the SBUR as the strongest advocate of Urologic research globally. I am grateful to all the members of the executive committee for their encouragement, support and friendship during my term as a Vice-President. What a tremendous group indeed: Dr. Diane Felsen, our President; Dr. Michael Freeman, Past-president; Dr. Simon Hayward (Secretary); Dr. Zhou Wang (Treasurer); Dr. Vinata Lokeshwar, Dr. Barry Timms and Dr. Barbara Foster (members-at-large); and Dr. Tim Ratliff and Dr. Zoran Culig (ad hoc members) The goals that I will make my priority as a President are: a) to maximize the opportunities for expanding the number of active members and accommodate their academic needs; b) to build stronger bonds and establish a more dynamic dialogue with the AUA, the American Society of Andrology, the American Association for Cancer Research, the Endocrine Society and the European Society for Urologic Research; c) to enhance and promote the research culture among public, government and private sectors in order to build a solid financial foundation for the SBUR. My vision for the future is that basic scientists and clinical urologic researchers will come together to merge their talents and invest their knowledge in the Society's growth, and taking pride in their association with the SBUR, ask not what the Society can do for them, but we can do as a group to serve the Society best.

Natasha Kyprianou

Treasurer's Report

The overall financial situation for SBUR remains healthy. It has been my pleasure to serve as the Treasurer of the SBUR and to work with colleagues at the SBUR Executive Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our former Treasurer, Dr. Robert Getzenberg, for his services and W.J. Weiser and Associates, Inc. for effective management of our business operations. Also, I would like to thank those who contributed to our fund raising activities. The upcoming and future SBUR Fall meetings are expected to significantly influence our financial conditions. Your participation at these meetings is essential for the society's mission and strength.

Zhou Wang

Notices

Young Investigator Awards

The SBUR is happy to announce the resurrection of the Young Investigator Awards in the form of checks for \$2500 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 2004 meeting. Interested candidates should submit their c.v.'s using the Young Investigators link on the SBUR website (<http://www.sbur.org/>). Awardees will be informed prior to the meeting and awards will be presented at the SBUR business lunch in San Francisco on May 8th 2004.

Membership Information

We welcome applications for membership of the SBUR through our website: <http://www.sbur.org/>

Past Meetings

SBUR Fall 2003 Joint BPG/ESUR/SBUR Meeting, London, UK

Professor Norman Maitland, Director YCR Cancer Research Unit, organized an outstanding joint meeting for the British Prostate Group, the European Society for Basic Urologic Research, and the US Society for Basic Urologic Research. The meeting was convened at the Commonwealth Conference Center in the Kensington area of London September 24-27, 2003. The scientific program was outstanding, covering a broad range of topics including the biology of prostate, molecular genetics of bladder cancer, testis and renal cancer, novel therapies for urologic conditions, and erectile dysfunction. Speakers in all sessions presented cutting edge science that generated much discussion during and after the sessions. A total of 300 delegates registered for the meeting 47 of whom were from the United States. SBUR proudly sponsored the attendance of seven young investigators (listed below) through the provision of travel awards issued based on the scientific merit of submitted abstracts. Not only was the scientific content outstanding but the social events also were most enjoyable. The meeting opened with a Welcome Reception that provided an excellent atmosphere for renewing friendships with our European colleagues. A farewell party, a cruise on the River Thames, was held on Friday night, September 26, 2003. SBUR thanks Professor Maitland and his organizing committee for a job well done.

Tim Ratliff

Travel Award Winners from the 2003 Fall Symposium

SBUR is pleased to announce the recipients of SBUR Travel Award Winners. Our congratulations to the following recipients all of whom received checks for \$1000 towards their expenses relating to attending the September 2003 meeting in London.

Hassan Chaib
Luiz Goulart
Alistair Ramsden
Will Ricke

Anastasios Tahmatzopoulos
Karin Williams
Jim Xuan

Upcoming Meetings

SBUR Spring 2004 meeting

The theme of the Spring 2004 meeting is "Apoptosis: Mechanisms and Significance in Urological Disease". The meeting will take place 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 integrates a rich combination of senior and junior investigators whose work had a significant impact in this rapidly proliferating field and will provide exciting 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. I would like to thank the other two members of the organizing committee, Dr. Timothy McDonnell and Dr. Zhou Wang for their help in putting together a terrific program.

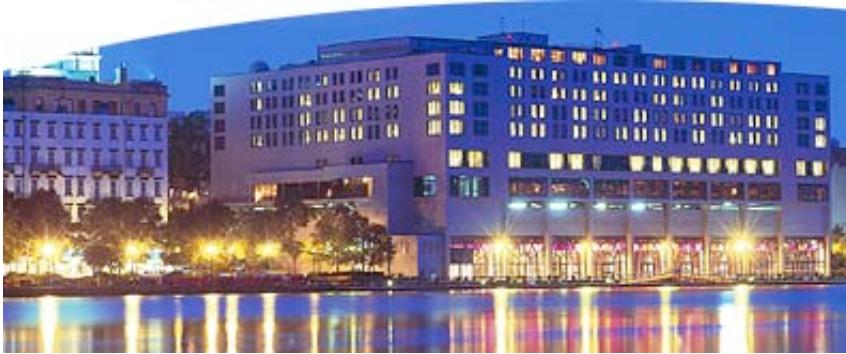
I look forward to seeing all of you in San Francisco to share up-to-the minute information on the ability of cells in the genitourinary tract to follow (or not) a 'death-route' to self-elimination and to learn about powerful new technology-driven approaches to exploit the road to apoptosis at the translational front.

For full program details and registration information see: <http://www.sbur.org/meetings/meetings.asp>

Natasha Kyrianiou

The SBUR Fall 2004 Meeting

The 14th Annual Fall Meeting of the Society for Basic Urologic Research will be held in Savannah, Georgia from December 9th to 12th, 2004. 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, relatively less is known about the role of signaling mechanisms in urologic disorders. Therefore, this conference will provide a review of current knowledge in the field, trace the changes from embryonic to aging adult stage and address variations 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 are very pleased that the invited speakers include several eminent scientists. 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 best three awardees will be invited to discuss their research in podium presentations.



In addition to its historical importance, Savannah was recently chosen as the one of the top ten cities to visit in USA. The meeting is being organized in the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the banks of the Savannah river. We are reserved several rooms at discounted price for the attendees of the meeting. Savannah is serviced by Delta Airlines, Northwest Airlines, United Airlines, US Airway and Air Tran. Savannah is just a

few hours away by road from Atlanta, Charlotte and Washington DC.

For full program details and registration information see: <http://www.sbur.org/meetings/annual.asp>

Vijay Kumar

The SBUR Spring 2005 Meeting

The SBUR Spring 2005 meeting will take place on Saturday May 21st 2005 in San Antonio Texas. 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 1st-4th) in Miami Florida. 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.

AUA Office of Research: News and Upcoming Events

The AUA Annual Meeting will be held May 8 – 13, 2004 in San Francisco, CA. AUA Office of Research Activities that will take place during the meeting include:

1.) Grantscraft course Sunday May 9, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The FREE grantscraft course “Getting a Start: Training and Career Development Grants” is offered in conjunction with the AUA Office of Education. This year’s panelists are Monica Liebert, Ph.D., AUA Office of Research; Terry Bishop, Ph.D., NIDDK; Lester Gorelic, Ph.D., NCI; and Leo Giambarresi, Ph.D., DoD. This course will focus on training and career development grants and will provide an excellent opportunity to speak with program staff at NIDDK, NCI and DoD. If you are looking for a great opportunity to learn about grants, plan to attend the free course!

2.) Research Forum Sunday May 9, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The Third AUA/SBUR Research forum will be held on Sunday, May 9 from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. This year’s forum topic is “Tissue Engineering: Applications in Urology.” The panel will include Dr. Emil Tanagho, University of California-San Francisco; Dr. Bradley Kropp, University of Oklahoma; Dr. Larissa Rodriguez, University of California-Los Angeles;

Dr. Anthony Atala, Wake Forest University; and Dr. Michael Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh, speaking on ground-breaking research in Tissue Engineering, including use of stem cells. Join us for this important conference!

3.) Run for Research, Saturday May 8, 8:00 a.m.

Lace up your running shoes and join us for the second annual Run for Research! This year’s run will be held in the Southeast Presidio against the backdrop of one of San Francisco’s most famous landmarks, the Golden Gate Bridge. Bussing will be provided from the Moscone Center. This fun run will also FUNd urology research—it will benefit you and your colleagues! Register at www.aua2004.org. Registration fee is \$35—and if you can’t run, donations are also accepted. Recruit your spouses, other staff or faculty to participate--all proceeds will benefit urology research. So come join us for some good exercise, some great views and an even better cause!

AUA/SBUR Summer Research Conference August 13-15, 2004.

The SBUR/AUA Summer Research Conference will be held August 13-15, 2004 in Tysons Corner, Virginia. This year’s topic is Neurourology, and the conference co-chairs are William Steers, M.D., and Jeremy Tuttle from the University of Virginia. This invitation-only meeting is intended for younger or new investigators but we welcome all interested investigators. Applications will be available on April 14. Information about the conference can be found at http://www.auanet.org/meetings/oe_mtg/index.cfm?categoryid=2.

Legislative Activities: TRU Act

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 Training and Research in Urology (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 US 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: <http://www.urologyhealth.org/cure.htm> to access a free legislative outreach site.

Candidates for Office

Vice President

Darius J. Bāgli, MDCM, FRCPC, FAAP University of Toronto

Education and Training: B.Sc., L.Mus. (1980), MDCM (1984) McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. General Surgery (84-86) Boston University, Boston, MA., NIH Immunology/Oncology Research Fellowship (86-89), Deaconess Hospital/Harvard Medical School (HMS), Boston, MA., Harvard Program in Urology (89-93), HMS/Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston MA, Pediatric Urology Fellowship (93-95), Seattle Children's Hospital/Washington University, Seattle, WA. Fellow: Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada; Diplomat: American Board of Urology; Specialty Fellow in Urology: The American Academy of Pediatrics; Fellow: The Society of Pediatric Urology.

Current Affiliations: Associate Professor of Surgery (Urology), University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Attending Urologist and Director of Urology Research, The Hospital For Sick Children (HSC), Toronto, Ontario; Associate Scientist, The Research Institute (HSC), Division of Infection, Immunity, Injury & Repair; Associate Chair, Institutional Review Board (IRB), HSC; Graduate School cross-appointment to The Institute For Medical Sciences, University of Toronto, Member Governing Board, Canadian Continence Foundation.

Research Interests: Bladder dysfunction, bladder smooth muscle signaling in cell—extracellular matrix interaction and mechano-transduction, bladder stem cell function, tissue regeneration and engineering.

SBUR Activities: SBUR Membership Committee (97-99); redesigned and supervised construction of new SBUR website (02/03), Chair: website committee.

Vision Statement: Whether the membership is aware or not, the SBUR is fighting a collective uphill battle. Urology is a collective of medical and surgical disciplines.....it is not confined to one real area, but rather constitutes several "mini-specialties" which together are supposed to constitute a single surgical branch of medicine. Urology has fought perception battles for years in the public arena. Urology's **research arm** is even more nebulous to many who have little focused appreciation for the clinical specialty. This problem has long hampered bringing the full force of public support, greater corporate support, and NIH/CIHR dollars to bear on urologic research. We all know that the traditional 'medical' research spheres and big-ticket Western Hemisphere problems such as cancer and cardiovascular disease garner the relative bulk of attention in the living rooms of the nation and on Capital/Parliament Hill. Recent 'awareness' efforts on the part of the AUA, prostate cancer, and men's and women's wellness groups are helping to turn this tide. Furthermore, we each continue to fight for and worry about our individual research niches and survivals.

But as a Society, we need to use current opportunities, both through personal networking, as well as with contemporary technologies, to **communicate the art and science of Urology** to colleagues in our institutions, within our governments, and the public at large to **educate them about what urology research really means to them and to our society**. We are a United Nations of research disciplines bringing cell, molecular, genetic, and epidemiological tools to the study of genitourinary cancers, fertility, potency, development, and continence. The redesigned SBUR website (www.sbur.org) is one way we can marshal together the collective thoughts and ideas of the Society's membership through discussion and information sharing, to inform and sway opinion in favor of furthering research efforts in our areas. In an era where 'Information is Power', as awareness of the website grows, so will awareness of, and interest in, the SBUR and your investigative efforts in Urology. **As a clinician-scientist**, I have ties to all branches of urology and science working in the largest Pediatric Health Science Center as well as one of the strongest academic Urology Residencies in North America. As SBUR vice-president, I see my role as helping to champion this process of growth and development of the **Society**.

Vice President

Shuk-Mei Ho, PhD. University of Massachusetts

Current Position - Professor of Surgery, Cell Biology and Physiology, Director of Urologic Research, and Director of Translational Research for the Department of Surgery at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Other School affiliations: Member of the Diabetes and Endocrinology Research Center, Group leader of the Urologic Oncology group of the Cancer Center.

Background Information:

SBUR involvements - I am a life-time member of SBUR. I served as a Member-at-Large during 1999-2000, and as the Secretary for the term 2000-2002.

Training and previous appointments - I received B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Hong Kong. Following postdoctoral work at Boston University I joined the Department of Biology, Tufts University, in 1981 and became a full professor in 1995. I was the Associate Dean of Research for the Graduate School of Tufts University from 1997 to 1999.

Selected professional activities - I was Chair of the 1999 Gordon Research Conference on Hormonal Carcinogenesis and a member of the organizing committee of the Internal Symposium on "Hormones and Cancer 2000", Port Douglas, Australia. During 1999-2000, I served on the Special Emphasis Review Panel-D of NIDDK, NIH. I have chaired several DOD Cancer Program review panels from 2001 to present. Currently, I am a member of the Reproductive Endocrinology Study Section at CSR-NIH (2001-2005), member of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Toxicology Program, Department of Health & Human Services (2002-2004), Associate Editor, Editorial Board, Environmental Health Perspectives (2002-2004), and Scientific Council Member of the American Urological Association (2002-2003).

Research interests - Hormone action, metal toxicity, oxidative stress, DNA methylation and gene regulation, prostate and testis carcinogenesis, aging of the male reproductive system, and applications of proteomics and functional genomics in urological diseases.

Vision for SBUR:

I see the following as the top priorities of SBUR in the coming year:

- Maintain and fortify the Society's leadership position in representing researchers in the field of basic, translational, and clinical urological research.
- Sustain a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship with the American Urological Association
- Increase the Society's influence on major funding agencies through participation as a society and enhancement of its members' participation in funding and policy-making processes.
- Grow membership with special emphasis on young investigators and junior faculty members. Promote their grantsmanship and career development.
- Improve and expand services provided to members through efficient use of the Website and organizational infrastructure.
- Ensure high quality Fall and Spring meetings by increasing representation of ground-breaking sciences, high profile speakers, and cutting-edge new technologies.
- Strengthen our alliance with the European Urological Society and build new affiliations with urological societies in Asia and South America.

These priorities and other functions of SBUR could only be realized by working closely with Society's executive committee, staff and members. I believe my passion, devotion and creativity in setting new standards of excellence could serve the Society well as it takes on a larger role in the urological research community.

Secretary

Jer-Tsong Hsieh, Ph.D. University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center

Education and Training: Ph.D. (1989), University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. Postdoctoral Fellow, M.D.Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX (1991); Research Associate, M.D.Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX (1993)

Previous Positions: Assistant Professor of Urology, M.D.Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX.

Current Affiliation: Director, Jean H. and John T. Walter, Jr., Center for Research in Urologic Oncology, Department of Urology, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX; Associate Professor, Department of Urology, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX.

Research Interests: Prostate stem cell and cell lineage; signal pathways leading to differentiation of prostate epithelium; signal defects in prostate cancer development; develop of novel treatment strategies of advanced prostate cancer; non-invasive molecular imaging; bladder cancer gene therapy

SBUR Activities: SBUR/Merck Young Investigator Award (1997).

Vision Statement: The SBUR has emerged as a major organization to represent basic urologic researchers from all over the world and become a strong advocate for promoting urologic research. Research funding has always been the priority for our members. To provide comprehensive information of funding resources for our members, the SBUR must establish an effective communication network with various federal and private funding agencies, including pharmaceutical industry. On the other hand, the SBUR should construct an interactive website, send periodic electronic newsletters and invite the key officer from these agencies to our semiannual conferences. Given the broadness and expertise of its membership, the SBUR can provide up-to-date information of urologic diseases for the general public through the website, educating support group and informing local media. Overall, urologic research is a clinical-related subject, therefore, teaming up with clinicians becomes a major step to translate meaningful research outcome into potential clinical application. The SBUR needs to create a platform for the interaction between basic scientists and clinicians. The key mission of the SBUR is not only to expand its involvement in the training and inspiration of medical students, residents and clinical fellows in basic research, but also provides a clinical informatics for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and new principle investigators for initiating research project. With respect to different geographic location of members, the SBUR could encourage members to establish local chapels that would certainly strengthen the close intellectual interaction of research advances from laboratories among members, and also serve as the resources for the general public for current knowledge in urologic diseases. The SBUR stands as a communicating bridge between clinicians, basic researchers and the general public. By doing so, the SBUR itself will benefit from the opportunities of the expansion of its membership and the potential more funding opportunities for research. To achieve these goals, SBUR must make continuous fundraising effort to establish endowment for its future expansion.

Secretary

Robert Sikes PhD University of Delaware

Graduate Education: University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Major: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Minor: Reproductive Biology and Endocrinology

Post-Graduate Education: Senior Research Associate: William A. Horton, PhD., Director and Chairman,
Dept. of Pediatrics and Genetics, The University of Texas Medical School, Houston, TX 77028

Post-Doctoral Fellow: Leland W. K. Chung, PhD. and Director, Urology Research Laboratory
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX 77030

Previous Positions: Assistant Professor, Department of Urology Box 800422
University of Virginia School of Medicine
Charlottesville, VA 22908-0422

Current Affiliation: Assistant Professor and Director, Laboratory for Cancer Ontogeny and Therapeutics, University of Delaware. Adjunct Faculty, Delaware Biotechnology Institute, Newark, DE 19716

Research Interests: I am interested in the development of the prostate and the development and metastatic progression of prostate cancer. My lab currently is examining the persistence of urogenital sinus gene expression into the adult prostate. Our research continues to bridge development with cancer by finding urogenital sinus genes whose expression changes in cancer progression. From the cancer progression and metastasis side, my lab examines both gene expression changes in the LNCaP progression model and testing the efficacy of new classes of inhibitory compounds on prostate cancer growth. In summary, my research spans both basic and pre-clinical experimentation in prostate growth, prostate cancer growth and progression.

Vision Statement:

The SBUR has grown significantly from a very small society to an organization that hosts two annual meetings each year, one in the Spring in conjunction with the AUA and a separate Fall meeting that is uniquely focused. The use of a professional management company has dramatically improved book keeping and dues collection. The company also has begun fund-raising on behalf of the SBUR. This does not mean that our obligation to the SBUR has diminished. As a society, we should continue to lobby for more Federal Dollars to support Urologic research. Integration of our efforts with those of the AUA and other reproductive biology groups (e.g. Endocrine Society and American Society of Andrology) should be a concern to ensure continued high levels of funding and advancement. Along these lines, we need to extend/alert other disease-focused societies (e.g. ASCO, AACR, Metastasis Res. Soc., FASEB, Rock Society and ASCB) to the SBUR's presence and mission that we may benefit from an expanding membership domestically. We also should continue our outreach efforts to include more international groups, as we have done with the ESUR, in order to foster more international membership and facilitate interaction across the pond. In addition to helping the balance sheet, a larger membership carries significantly more impact from a lobbying perspective. Finally, the SBUR should negotiate with the Journal of Urology for improved handling of scientific manuscript submissions. Efforts should be made to improve the speed of review and publication. As secretary for the society, I will be learning more about what is involved with each of these goals and will be assisting with some or all of these tasks.

Member at Large (two positions open)

Toby Chai M.D. University of Maryland

Education and Training: M.D., Indiana University (1989), Urologic Surgery residency training, University of Michigan Medical Center (1994), AFUD post-doctoral research fellowship under William D. Steers, M.D. and Jeremy B. Tuttle, Ph.D., University of Virginia (1997)

Current Position: Associate Professor with Tenure, Department of Surgery (Urology), University of Maryland School of Medicine

Research Interests: urothelial physiology, micturition afferent pathways, cellular membrane potential, ion channels, purinergic pathways in bladder urothelium

SBUR Activities: member since 1997, Young Investigator Award 2001

Vision Statement:

As a clinician-scientist, I understand the importance of having a strong organization representing scientists who have devoted their careers to studying basic science of the genitourinary tract. We need to have a voice in the urologic community to highlight that basic science research is at the core of advancement and innovation in urologic care. A field is propelled forward only through advances in fundamental knowledge. One of the goals of mine is to have the SBUR partner with the AFUD to identify those students early on in their medical / graduate careers who will have the potential to pursue a career in basic urologic research. Along this same line, the SBUR should have a presence at the Basic Science Course in Charlottesville to highlight the importance of research to the urology residents, whether they end up in private practice or become academicians. The SBUR also needs to work closely with the AUA Office of Research to promote research to the AUA members and to also help strategize future research goals/funding opportunities. Finally, because all organizations become more visible and have more impact when there is more financial backing, the SBUR needs to develop long term strategies in fundraising to help ensure long term viability of its mission and goals. This strategy will have to be coordinated with the AUA.

Member at Large

Daniel Djakiew, B.Sc. (Hons 1st), Ph.D. Georgetown University

Education and Training: Ph.D. (1984), University of Newcastle, Australia; Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Anatomy (1985), Georgetown University Medical School.

Previous and Current Positions: Assistant (1987), then Associate (1995) now Professor (2000 - present), Department of Cell Biology, Georgetown University Medical School. Assistant (1988), then Associate (1995) now Professor (2000 - present), The Vincent T. Lombardi Cancer Research Center, Georgetown University Medical Center. Assistant (1991), then Associate (1995) now Professor (2000 - present), Department of Urology, Georgetown University Hospital.

Research Interests: In chronological order; evolutionary development of the mammalian urologic system; micropuncture studies of epididymal sperm maturation; primary cultures of Sertoli cells in monolayer on porous membranes for studies of polarized function (apical vs. basal) and paracrine interactions with germ cells via soluble factors; regulation of prostate growth via the nerve growth factor axis (e.g. neurotrophin ligands, p75^{NTR} and trk receptors); the role of the p75^{NTR} as a tumor and metastasis suppressor in prostate and bladder; the role of p75^{NTR} in prostate and bladder with respect to signal transduction, regulation of cell cycle, apoptosis, gene therapy and small molecule drug development; clinical/translational applications of basic science research.

SBUR Activities: SBUR Membership committee (2001-2003).

Vision for the SBUR: I see my role as a candidate for Member at Large in the coming year as follows:

Grow membership in the SBUR.

Promote the Fall Annual meeting as the center-point activity of the society.

Enhance membership participation at the Fall SBUR meeting by encouraging the selection of interesting and relatively inexpensive locations.

Maintain the fiscal viability of the society.

My Personal Statement: I believe that my broad background in the urologic sciences, and the experience that I have obtained during my research career, provide me with a relatively unique perspective that may be advantageous to the members of the SBUR. Hence, I offer my service to the SBUR in the capacity of a member-at-large with the commitment that I will promote the best interests of the society and its members.

Member at Large

Paul D. Walden, Ph.D. New York University

Education and Training: Ph.D. (1989) University of Kent, UK. Postdoctoral fellow, Department of Biochemistry, New York University School of Medicine (1993).

Current Affiliation: Associate Professor of Urology and Biochemistry, New York University School of Medicine. Director of Urological Research, New York University School of Medicine.

Research Interests: Regulation of benign and malignant prostate growth; molecular markers of early prostate carcinogenesis; chemoprevention of prostate carcinogenesis.

SBUR Activities: Member since 1995. SBUR/Merck Young Investigator Award (2002).

Vision Statement: The SBUR needs to continue its leadership role in supporting innovative urological research and in lobbying for funding to support such research. Based on my own experience, my vision for the SBUR is to encourage a multidisciplinary approach to tackle urological disease and to attract more private as well as federal funding. Towards these goals, the efforts of the SBUR need to be made known to the broader scientific community to encourage and to identify multidisciplinary research collaborations among scientists, clinicians and clinician-scientists with diverse talents. We also need to do more to attract talented young scientists and clinician-scientists to the field of urological research by increasing awareness of the mission of the SBUR. Finally we need to attract more corporate and private funding to further the mission of the SBUR and to fund innovative urological research.

Please vote for:

Vice-President (President Elect). Vote for one

Darius J. Bägli

Shuk-mei Ho

Secretary. Vote for one

J.T. Hsieh

Robert Sikes

At Large Candidates. Vote for two

Toby Chai

Daniel Djakiew

Paul Walden

Balloting is available online or by e-mail. Votes must be cast by April 15th

Please select one candidate for Vice President, one for Secretary and two for Member at Large and either vote online at <http://www.sbur.org/> or e-mail your votes to: Sue O'Sullivan: <mailto:Sueo@wjweiser.com>

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