

SBUR Winter 2019 Newsletter

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Words from Our President — Rosalyn Adam, PhD

Thank you to our outstanding faculty and everyone who attended the SBUR 2019 Annual Meeting entitled, "Novel Discoveries in Urology: Big Data to Microbiome" in New Orleans, LA last month. This year's meeting broke attendance and abstract submission records for the Society! I would like to give special thanks to Dr. Zongbing You and the entire SBUR Program Committee for creating an exceptional scientific program that provided a unique environment to learn about the most recent advances in basic, translational and preclinical urologic research.



The meeting began with the Trainee Affairs symposium led by Drs. Larisa Nonn and Arun Sreekumar, and this year focused on different career paths in academia and industry. Panelists gave a short introduction to the entire group and then hosted small group discussions with the trainees. For academic research with a twist, Gal Prins discussed running a clinical lab in addition to her research lab, whereas Moray Campbell, discussed his experience with retraining mid-career in bioinformatics. Magda Grabowska and Tim Ratliff provided perspectives from early stage and established investigators, respectively, on the more conventional academic research career path. Laura Pascal shared her experience of a career as an academic staff scientist, while Adam Murphy discussed his path to becoming a urologist-scientist in the field of prostate cancer disparities. Trivia Frasier shared her experience in leaving her tenure-track position to establish a start up company while Tamara Bavendam discussed her career path from urologist to program officer at the NIDDK. The symposium was very well attended with 38 trainees gathering to hear from the panelists and also from Drs. Nonn and Chad Vezina regarding funding opportunities at different stages along the career path.

Our opening speaker Dr. Arul Chinnaiyan presented the Leland W. K. Chung Lecture entitled Fast, Furious and Loud: The Role of FOXA1 in Prostate Cancer Progression. His lecture was a tour de force discussion of recent data describing discrete classes of FOXA1 mutations and their contribution to prostate cancer pathogenesis, and provided a foundation for many subsequent talks at the meeting. Dr. Joel Nelson presented a thought-provoking AUA Lecture entitled "Prostate Cancer Revisited" in which he discussed the pros and cons of PSA testing in prostate cancer management. Presentations from the NIDDK-supported O'Brien Centers and P20 Developmental Centers provided new insights into a range of benign urologic conditions, and highlighted a new initiative entitled Collaborating for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research in Benign Urology (CAIRIBU) to promote interactions among researchers conducting benign urology research. In addition to plenary talks our poster sessions were exceptionally successful, with over 170 posters presented over two evenings. Thanks to the efforts of the program chair and committee, moderators, speakers, attendees and management team we enjoyed a highly successful meeting. I congratulate all the travel award winners, our Young Investigator Awardees (Bethany Kerr, Andrew Goldstein, and Ping Mu), the recipient of the SWIU/SBUR Award for Excellence in Urologic Research, Kerry Burnstein, the Meritorious Award winner (Dan Theodorescu) and our Distinguished Service Award recipient Gail Prins.

Now we turn our attention to the SBUR Spring meeting at AUA 2020 in Washington, D.C. Our new SBUR Vice-President Dr. Susan Kasper has organized an exciting morning program held in conjunction with the Society of Urologic Oncology focused on "Molecular Diagnostics in Managing Urologic Cancers", as well as an afternoon breakout session on cellular targets in urologic malignancies. I hope to see many of you there, to enjoy not only the SBUR events but also other basic science offerings at the meeting. More program details will be sent to your inbox in the new year, so please stay tuned!

I would like to conclude by thanking the current members of the Executive Committee, our outgoing President, Allen Gao and Director-at-Large Yan Dong. I also extend a warm welcome to our incoming Vice President, Susan Kasper, incoming Director-at-Large Leigh Ellis, and Treasurer-Elect Beni Li. I would also like to thank our new management group Affinity Strategies led by Elizabeth Schumacher for a successful first year, and to extend thanks to our director Amy Owens for her sterling efforts during the transition and our recent Fall meeting. We are grateful for your service.

I am honored to serve the SBUR as President and look forward to working together to strengthen the Society over the next year.

Vice President's Report — Susan Kasper, PhD

I am delighted to invite you to attend the joint SBUR/SBUO Spring Meeting being held on Saturday, May 16, 2020 during AUA2020 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington DC. The SBUR/SBUO Committee has put considerable effort into creating an exceptional scientific program and we invite you to join us there.



The overarching theme for both the morning SBUR/SBUO session and the afternoon SBUR breakout session is molecular diagnostics. Molecular diagnostics are becoming increasingly important since they cover the entire scope of cancer care from risk assessment and diagnosis through to surveillance during, and following, treatment. In order to provide best patient care, it is crucial to identify and determine tumor markers that are most relevant for a given cancer and then develop sensitive and accurate molecular diagnostic tools for clinical use.

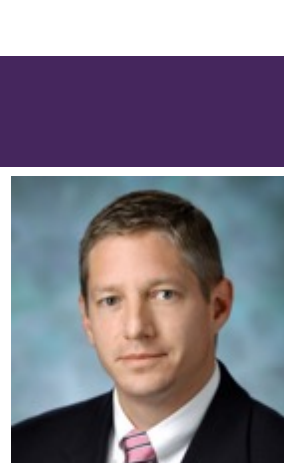
The topic for the SBUR/SBUO session is "Molecular Diagnostics in Managing Urologic Cancers", and various aspects of this topic will be presented by outstanding speakers, including Drs. Peter E. Clark (Atrium Health, Levine Cancer Institute), Dolores Di Vizio (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center), Christina Jamieson (UC San Diego), David J. McConkey (Johns Hopkins Greenberg Bladder Cancer Institute), Petros Grivas (Seattle Cancer Care Alliance), and Colin P.N. Dinney (MD Anderson Cancer Center). The Donald S. Coffey lecture is one of the highlights of this session, and it will present the development of an innovative technology for understanding, diagnosing, and/or treating human cancers. The speaker will be announced as soon as they become available. The session will conclude with a discussion on current and future direction for the development of innovative molecular diagnostics tests for predictive, preventive, and personalized medicine.

The SBUR breakout session continues on this topic, but with the primary focus being on the "Cellular Targets in Urologic Malignancies". In order for molecular diagnostics to be effective, many basic biological questions remain to be answered, beginning with a clearer understanding of the molecular signatures of cancer cell types as compared to their normal counterparts, and what their prognostic value would be. Another group of outstanding speakers, including Drs. Wen-Yang Hu (University of Illinois at Chicago), Nathaniel Brennen (Johns Hopkins School of Medicine), David DeGraff (Penn State Cancer Institute), Jung Wook Park (Duke Cancer Institute), and Aaron LeBeau (University of Minneapolis), will provide insight into this important topic. The session will conclude with a discussion on whether cancer cells exhibit common and/or cancer type-specific signatures and how these signatures could be used to inform precision therapy.

For more information on AUA2020 and any updates on the SBUR/SBUO 2020 program, please visit <https://www.aua2020.org/>

Secretary's Report — Travis J. Jerde, PhD

Thank you for attending this year's SBUR Annual Meeting in New Orleans and for helping to make this year's meeting such a big success. I would like to thank our outstanding faculty members for an innovative scientific program as well as recognize the hard work of Dr. You and the SBUR Program Committee for an exceptional meeting. I was also especially impressed by the quality of the posters presented, particularly that of our trainee members. The presentations from our podium-selected travel award winners were outstanding, and the podium presentations for the Coffey Innovative Research Award would have made Dr. Coffey proud! Congrats to Dr. John Lee as the second winner of this prestigious award.



There are a few exciting initiatives and opportunities for SBUR members in 2020. First, SBUR has created a NEW member category aimed to help Trainee Members. Beginning in 2020, Trainees will have the option to select a 3-Year Membership at a discounted price of \$110. In effect, this gives trainees a free year of membership. As the future leaders of the Society, this new 3-Year category will help get trainees involved, it will encourage trainees to stay involved in the activities of the Society, and it will allow SBUR to follow the success of our trainee members into their next professional position. Please consider this option when you renew your dues in early 2020, and share with your colleagues to encourage them to join SBUR at this discounted member dues rate. Please note that Active Member dues will see a slight increase in 2020 to \$110 rate in order to help support SBUR activities.

SBUR is now fully engaged in the critical task of research advocacy! SBUR has now formed an official Advocacy Committee, and we are looking for members. The SBUR Advocacy Committee will provide representation for urologic researchers at the annual AUA Urology Advocacy Summit as well as any related legislative and/or regulatory meetings of interest to SBUR members. It will serve as official liaison to the AUA Office of Advocacy to assist with the planning process for the SBUR panel participation at the annual AUA Urology Advocacy Summit. I am proud to announce that Dr. Magda Grabowska will be the inaugural Chair of this committee, and she is looking to recruit SBUR members who are interested in urologic research advocacy. Please email sbur@affinity-strategies.com if you are interested in learning more. I encourage all SBUR members to register for this summit as a critical role for us as researchers. Having attended this last year, I can tell you that it is a highly rewarding experience. Please work this into your schedule for this coming March.

I would like to thank our outgoing Executive Committee members for their outstanding service to the Society: Ganesh Raj (Immediate Past President) and Yan Dong, (Director At Large). We appreciate your dedication to the Society. Please join me in welcoming our new 2019 – 2020 Executive Committee members: Vice President Susan Kasper, Treasurer-Elect Beni Li, and Director-at-Large Leigh Ellis.

The 2020 – 2021 Executive Committee ballot will be sent out in early 2020 along with your 2020 dues renewal notices. Please visit www.sbur.org for more information. The future of the society depends upon great leaders, so we ask for your involvement in this process: please send in your ballots.

Treasurer's Update — Shawn E. Lupold, PhD

Congratulations to Dr. Zongbing You and the Program Committee on a hugely successful SBUR Annual Meeting in New Orleans this year. We broke attendance records at this year's meeting, which is very exciting news for the Society. As we build upon the momentum following the SBUR Annual Meeting, I would like to introduce and welcome my esteemed colleague, Dr. Beni Li, to the Executive Committee as 2019 – 2020 Treasurer-Elect. I look forward to working closely with Dr. Li to ensure the Society continues to prosper in the future.



As of September 30, 2019, the SBUR had \$141,800 in total Net Assets. The SBUR investments are thriving, with a September 30, 2019 quarterly balance of \$435,855. The SBUR investments are divided in the following categories: 1) SBUR General Fund Ending Balance @ 9/30/19 = \$71,503.39; 2) Donald S. Coffey Lectureship Fund Ending Balance @ 9/30/19 = \$146,135.45; 3) Leland Chung Lecture Fund Ending Balance @ 9/30/19 = \$142,188.84; 4) Future Coffey Fund Ending Balance @ 9/30/19 = \$76,028.26

We will continue working with Affinity Strategies to expand our industry support prospectus and create new fundraising opportunities for the Society. If any members have relationships with laboratory supply or biotechnology company representatives who regularly visit your labs and offices, and who want to get involved with fundraising efforts, you are encouraged to send your information to sbur@affinity-strategies.com. The Society needs these funds to keep meeting registration costs low, to help in the recruitment of special speakers, and to support our member and trainee awards.

On a personal note, it was wonderful seeing so many of you at this year's Fall meeting in New Orleans. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve as SBUR's Treasurer. I appreciate your active support of the Society.

SBUR 2019 Awards — Congratulations!

Distinguished Service Award

Presented annually at the Fall Meeting, this award recognizes a member who has helped SBUR with his/her services and/or influences.



Congratulations to the 2019 Winner – Gail S. Prins, PhD
Michael Reese Professor, Department of Pathology
University of Illinois at Chicago

I have over 30 years of experience in prostate biology and prostate cancer research with expertise in hormone actions in the prostate gland. My research focus is the molecular biology of prostate gland development, hormonal carcinogenesis, reprogramming by early-life estrogens and endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), and the developmental basis for prostate disease with aging. My work has established that early life exposures to natural estrogens or EDCs, e.g. bisphenol A, permanently reprogram the prostate and increase its susceptibility to cancer with aging. With colleagues, we have identified the molecular basis for altered prostate memory which includes epigenetic reprogramming of prostate stem cells.

Meritorious Achievement Award

Presented annually at the Fall Meeting, this award recognizes a researcher (can be a clinician researcher) who has made exceptional contributions in the field of urologic research.



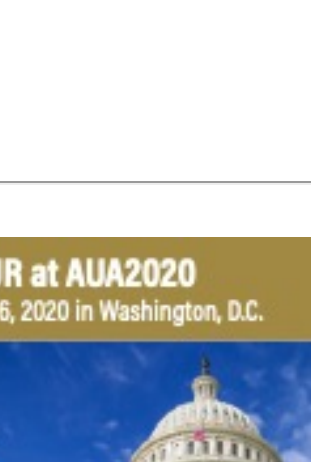
Congratulations to the 2019 Winner — Dan Theodorescu, MD, PhD
Director, Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Dan Theodorescu, MD, PhD is the Director of the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute and overall leader of the Cedars-Sinai Cancer enterprise in California. Cedars-Sinai is the #8 ranked hospital in the United States according to US News and World Report. From 2010 until 2018, he was Director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center and a Distinguished University Professor. Dr. Theodorescu is internationally known for his work on the molecular mechanisms driving bladder cancer and tools that determine drug response as well as discovery of new drugs for bladder and other cancer types. Examples include discovery of biomarkers that regulate tumor growth and metastasis and novel genes and concepts for precision therapeutic approaches such as the COVEN principle, that are currently being tested in national (SWOG 1314) clinical trials. He also conceptualized the approach and then led the discovery and development of a "first in class" RalGTPase inhibitor as a new therapeutic in cancer. This drug was awarded a US patent and is in commercial development. Most recently he identified approaches that define effective combination therapy with checkpoint inhibitors. Theodorescu is the founding co-editor in chief of Bladder Cancer, the first journal focused on this disease and an elected member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI), Association of American Physicians (AAP), the American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons (AAGUS), the American Surgical Association (ASA) and the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). He also serves on the Board of Scientific Counsellors of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the United States of America.

Young Investigator Award Recipients

The SBUR Young Investigator Awards are presented at the Fall Meeting to SBUR members under the age of 45, within 5 years of their first faculty position, who have made significant contributions to urologic research.

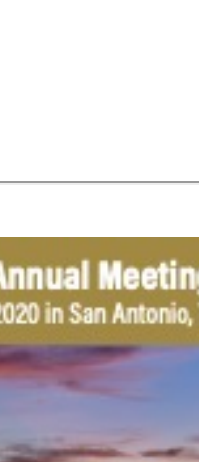
Congratulations 2019 Winners:



Ping Mu, PhD
UT Southwestern



Bethany Kerr, PhD
Wake Forest University



Andrew Goldstein, PhD
UCLA

Eula and Donald S. Coffey Innovative Research Award Finalists

For many in the SBUR, Dr. Donald Coffey's influence has been immense. Dr. Coffey was one of the founders and the second president of the SBUR. He inspired generations of translational scientists and physician-scientists to think, research and solve scientific problems across many disciplines in medicine.

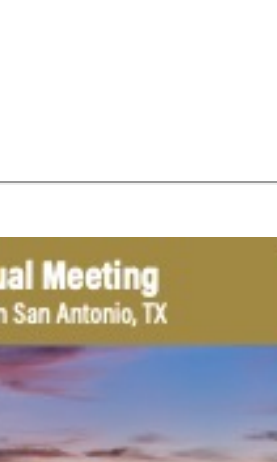
The Eula and Donald S. Coffey Innovative Research Award is presented to the most innovative abstract at the SBUR Fall Annual Meeting. After an overwhelming number of exceptional abstract submissions for Coffey Award consideration, the top 3 finalists were asked to give a brief oral presentation of their research findings to open the Awards Presentations.

Congratulations to the 2019 Coffey Award Finalists:

John K. Lee, MD, PhD*
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Xin Lu, PhD
University of Notre Dame

Salma Kaochar, PhD
Baylor College of Medicine



***Congratulations to the 2019 Eula and Donald S. Coffey Innovative Research Award Winner — John K. Lee, MD, PhD**
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

A next-generation functional genomics strategy to deconvolute compound genetic drivers and genotype-to-phenotype relationships in bladder cancer

Travel Award Winners

A primary goal of SBUR is to provide travel grants to researcher trainees. These grants support travel to/from the Fall Annual Meeting. Award recipients must be SBUR members and a recipient is not allowed to receive the award in two consecutive years.

Diya Binoy Joseph
UT Southwestern Medical Center

Ka-Wing Fong
Northwestern University

Wanting Han
University of Massachusetts Boston

Petra Popovics
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ahmed A. Moustafa
Tulane University

Teresa T Liu
University of Wisconsin- Madison

Nicholas Brady
Weill Cornell Medicine

Jenna M. Buckwalter
Penn State Hershey College of Medicine

Cameron Armstrong
UC Davis

Dongxia Ge
Tulane University

Liang Wang
University of California, Los Angeles

Sarah Kohrt
Case Western Reserve University

Mathilde Bonnemaïson
University of Massachusetts Boston

Yang Yi
Northwestern University

Anindita Ravindran
Baylor College of Medicine

Elena Beketova
Purdue University

Victor Pham
University of California, Irvine

Qin Gao
University of Texas at El Paso

Shih-Bo Huang
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Praveen Kumar Jaiswal
Louisiana State University Health Science Center-Shreveport

Upcoming Meetings — Mark Your Calendars!

2020 Annual Urology Advocacy Summit
Washington, DC | March 16-18, 2020

2020 AUA Summit
March 16-18, 2020 | Washington, DC

[View more information](#)

Save the Date for the 2020 SBUR Meetings!

Items of Interest — Resources

SBUR is a great source for urologic research resources! You can find all of the following and more at <https://www.sbur.org/resources>

- [UALCAN Presentation](#)
- [Trainee Affairs Grant Opportunities](#)
- [Mentor-Mentee Sample Contract](#)