

**Mission Urosciences Committee:**

The Society for Basic Urologic Research (SBUR) is a US-based basic research society formed in 1986 to enhance interactions among scientists and clinicians working in the area of urology research.

Specifically, SBUR was organized to:

- Provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of basic scientific topics related to urology
- Develop educational forums concerning scientific advancements related to the field of urology
- Promote collaborative investigations among member scientists with an emphasis on the interchange of expertise among clinical and basic scientists
- Promote the communication and interests of urologic disease investigators with national funding agencies, industry representatives and academic institutions with regards to urology related research
- Serve as a resource for research information and expertise to clinical urologists through the American Urological Association

SBUR holds two meetings each year: a one-day symposium at the American Urology Association Annual Meeting with a morning session held in partnership with the Society of Urologic Oncology and a Fall SBUR Annual Meeting in November of each year. There is a loose affiliation with the European Society of Urologic Research in which there is limited joint participation in fall meetings every other year. Currently, there are 470 active SBUR members located in the US, Europe and Asia including 234 PhDs, 145 MDs, 39 MD-PhDs and 52 other researchers.

Initially, SBUR filled a void for scientists whose work focused on urological problems, which facilitated rapid growth. However, in recent years a number of factors including enhanced urology focus of other scientific societies, a dominance of cancer investigators in SBUR and changes in industry funding of not-for-profit societies slowed SBUR growth and diminished its prominence in the urology research arena. The Mission Urosciences Committee was established by SBUR President, Hari Koul, to assess the current status of the society and to submit recommendations to the Executive Committee for strengthening and expanding SBUR. The charge to the Mission Urosciences Committee was to assess the following:

- 1) The impact of SBUR on various aspects of Urologic Research
- 2) Identify Key areas of strength
- 3) Identify actionable deficiencies
- 4) Deliberate on the need for outreach and establish SOP for SBUR outreach:
  - a. Federal funding agencies to steer/set priorities (NIDDK/NCI/DOD)
  - b. AUA and other AUA affiliate societies
  - c. International European Urologic Research/Asian Urologic Research (co-partition in annual meetings/ have satellite symposia, etc.)
- 5) Priorities for SBUR:
  - a. Short-term (1-5 year) Goals
  - b. Long-term Goals

The Missions Urosciences Committee has deliberated and discussed opportunities and submits the following for consideration by the Executive Committee:

#### Strengths of SBUR

- SBUR meetings are provide outstanding opportunities for scientific discussions and the generation of collaborative interactions within and across disciplines
- SBUR meetings provide an exceptional environment for trainees to interact with senior investigators.
- SBUR is a collegial group of scientists, the nature of which encourages interactions
- SBUR meetings provide strong support for trainees and provides a forum for them to present their work
- SBUR meetings provide strong intellectual platforms for engaging basic scientists, physician scientists, surgeons, and other disciplines in lively educational discussions.
- SBUR has had and continues to have strong and committed leadership

#### Weakness of SBUR

- SBUR membership has plateaued
- SBUR membership is dominated by cancer investigators, specifically prostate cancer
- SBUR meetings are not inclusive of all urology research disciplines
- SBUR is not in a financial position to enable growth
- SBUR meetings are small and compete with other societies for membership
- SBUR does not attract membership and participation of dominant scientists across urology research

#### Recommendations

- Develop a stronger financial base
- Reach out to other urology societies for joint membership and meetings
- Develop broader scientific base that incorporates benign urologic diseases and more comprehensive cancer representation
- Incorporate bioinformatics experts into the society.
- Actively build the new SBUR-affiliated journal, AJCEU, with increased submissions, publication of meeting abstracts, and improve the Impact Factor.
- Expand opportunities for discussion and interaction and meetings
- Work to make SBUR meetings more attractive to leading urology scientists
- Enhance SBUR marketing
- Maintain and expand trainee opportunities
- Consider better defining at large Executive Committee criteria to enable broader specialty representation in leadership positions