

President's Report - Robert Getzenberg

The past several months have been an exciting period for the SBUR. We had a wonderful fall meeting in the Phoenix area, an upcoming spring meeting based upon a novel model, and there are new initiatives underway at the AUA as well as the NIDDK. In regards to the fall meeting, **Dr. Simon Hayward** and the program committee put together an exciting program. Dr. Hayward has prepared a detailed report within this newsletter but in summary the meeting was well attended and everyone that participated enjoyed the high quality science, a beautiful location and a good time.

The spring meeting that is being chaired by **Dr. James Mohler** is based upon a different model than our typical spring meeting. The morning session will be held jointly with the Society for Urologic Oncology. This joint meeting will allow members of both societies to hear about the basic and translational issues related to urologic oncology. The Coffey Lectureship will also be held during this joint morning session. **Dr. Patrick C. Walsh** will receive the SBUR Service Award which recognizes his tremendous contributions to urology research. After the joint session with the SUO, we will have talks focused on non-oncologic diseases. This will be followed by lunch and then interesting breakout sessions. This year will be an experiment and I encourage everyone to attend and provide us with feedback.

I am most excited to report that new initiatives are being planned by the AUA and the NIDDK to foster the development of urologic research. The details of these initiatives will be provided in the very near future but I am certain that they will indeed further the goals of increasing the amount of research focused on urologic questions. I would like to applaud the leaders of the NIDDK and the AUA for making these important steps. For the first time that I can remember, all of the parties are talking with the common understanding that the future of urology rests upon our ability to make discoveries which will advance the field. With the currently tight federal budget, this is not a time to sit idly by. I encourage each of you to become involved in these new efforts and in the SBUR. We need new leaders to step forward now more than ever and we are counting on each of you to play a role.



Dr. Getzenberg, President of SBUR (2006-2007), gives the opening remark of SBUR Fall 06 (Phoenix, AZ)

Robert H. Getzenberg, Ph.D., is The Donald S. Coffey Professor, Director of Urology Research, Brady Urological Institute, Professor of Urology, Oncology and Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences, Johns Hopkins Hospital

Awards and Honors

At the Fall 06 meeting (Phoenix, AZ) the SBUR presented its 2006 Meritorious Achievement Award to **Dr. Jerry Cunha**.

- **Dr. Gail Prins**, was the **AUA Speaker**, at the Fall 06 meeting.
- The following junior investigators received the **SBUR Travel Award** for their excellent work submitted for presentation at the Fall 06 meeting:

Mingfang Ao, Ph.D. (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory), **Barbara Comuzzi**, Ph.D. (Genome Sciences Center), (continued on Page 3)



Dr. Natasha Kyprianou, Past President of the SBUR and Chair of the Awards Committee, presents the 2006 SBUR Meritorious Achievement Award to Dr. Jerry Cunha, at the Saturday evening banquet during the Fall 2006 SBUR Annual Symposium.

Inside this issue:	
<i>President's Report</i>	1
<i>Awards and Honors</i>	1
<i>SBUR Fall 06 (Phoenix, AZ) Review</i>	2
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	2
<i>SBUR-SUO at AUA 07</i>	3
<i>Candidates for SBUR Offices</i>	4-6
<i>History of the SBUR (Part 1)</i>	7
<i>A Different Opinion</i>	8
<i>Young Investigator Awards</i>	8
<i>7th WBURC</i>	9
<i>Member Highlights</i>	9

SBUR Fall 06 (Phoenix, AZ) Review - Simon Hayward

The Fall 2006 SBUR meeting was held at the Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort in Phoenix, AZ from the 16th-19th of November on the theme of "Stromal-Epithelial Interactions in Urology". The pleasant and relaxing venue provided first class facilities and amenities. We are indebted to the good offices of **W.J. Weiser & Associates, Inc.**, for finding the venue and setting up the meeting and also for their tremendous help in securing the financial support, without which meetings of this kind are impossible. Without their efforts and coordination with the resort staff the smooth flow of events which occurred would not have been possible. At a personal level I am also thankful for the help of the other members of the organizing committee, **Karl Chai**, for his humorous advice and wry comments, **Rajvir Dahiya**, and especially to **Barbara Foster** who did a tremendous job of organizing the review of the abstracts and tabulating the results in order to select the travel awardees. Also thanks to the members of the abstract review committee who carefully assessed each de-identified abstract and provided scores. Photo highlights of the meeting can be viewed at the SBUR website.

The meeting was opened by a stimulating (as always) talk by **Dr. Mina Bissell** of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, outlining contributions to the field of microenvironment over several decades, and providing life lessons and stimulating anecdotes along the way. As the sessions moved along we covered prostate cancer, benign prostatic hy-

Treasurer's Report - Zhou Wang

The overall financial situation of the SBUR remains stable.

The major financial sources for SBUR are membership dues, revenues from the SBUR meetings, and corporate sponsorships. I would like to thank SBUR members for paying their dues and attending the annual meetings, which is essential for our society. The SBUR 2006 Fall meeting in Phoenix was very successful, both scientifically and financially. I would like to take this opportunity to also thank **Dr. Simon Hayward** and the organizing committee for such a successful meeting and **Ms. Sue O'Sullivan** and the **W.J. Weiser & Associates, Inc.**, for very successful fundraising for the meeting. We are extremely grateful for the generous support from industrial sponsors and the peer-reviewed grant from NIDDK.

perplasia and a series of talks on changes occurring in various parts of the urogenital tract from early development to old age including a very interesting dissertation on the nature of senescent stroma by **Dr. Judi Campisi**. Some talks were deliberately aimed at our large audience of trainees from diverse backgrounds who continue to express their appreciation for this opportunity to gain knowledge on the clinical and pathologic aspects of urologic diseases.

We were privileged to have contributions from a number of distinguished speakers including several past presidents of the society. This year's AUA speaker was **Dr. Gail Prins** of the University of Illinois, Chicago who presented some of the beautiful work that she has been pursuing on prostatic development. The scientific sessions were wrapped up by **Dr. Jerry Cunha**, recipient of the 2006 SBUR Meritorious Achievement Award, who talked about epithelial-stromal biology, life in life sciences, and more. Dr. Cunha's talk can be heard again on the SBUR website.

Thanks are due to all of the speakers for keeping generally on time and on subject and to the various past and present members of the SBUR Executive Committee who agreed to serve as chairs and co-chairs of sessions.

The social aspects of the meeting were, as always, an important time to mix, mingle, talk more science, and recruit fellows. Two poster sessions and a Western-themed banquet, with appropriate music allowed the sorts of informal contacts which are traditional at these

The SBUR investment portfolio has performed well. Hopefully, the gains from investments will allow SBUR to sponsor additional travel awards for graduate students and trainees to attend SBUR annual meetings in the future.

Dr. Zhou Wang is now Director of Urological Research and Professor of Urology at the Department of Urology, and Co-Program Leader of the Prostate and Urologic Cancer Program at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.

"The only constant is change."

- Confucius (551-479 BC)



Dr. Simon Hayward, Chair of SBUR Fall 2006, introduces the Keynote Speaker on Thursday night. Dr. Hayward is an Associate Professor of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center

meetings. Junior investigators were able to present data at the poster sessions and individuals selected from the abstracts presented also gave podium presentations.

We deeply appreciate the financial support of a number of sponsors without whom this meeting would not have been possible; **The American Urological Association, Astellas Pharma US, Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals/Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Eli Lilly and Company, GTx, OUR Lab - Oppenheimer Urologic Reference Lab and Sanofi-Aventis.**

With the generous support of an R13 award from the **NIDDK** we were able to assist the attendance of 20 junior investigators in 2006.

Finally, the Organizing Committee and the SBUR wish to thank **Dr. Alexander Kirschenbaum** and **Dr. Alice Levine**, of the **Prostate Action, Inc.** for their generous gift in the form of a Travel Award for junior investigators of the SBUR.



Dr. Mina Bissell, Keynote Speaker, SBUR Fall 06 (Phoenix, AZ). Dr. Bissell is Distinguished Scientist in the Life Sciences Division of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

SUO and SBUR to Host a Joint Session on Translational Science in Urologic Oncology at AUA Annual Meeting

By James Mohler, M.D., F.A.C.S., and Christopher P. Evans, M.D., F.A.C.S.

The Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO) and Society for Basic Urologic Research (SBUR) will host a joint half-day session for their members on Saturday, May 19, 2007 from 8 to 11 AM. The joint session will be followed by separate afternoon sessions. The joint meeting will focus on translational science in urologic oncology, a topic central to both societies. The concept of a joint meeting has been discussed for several years, and put into action by SUO president **Dr. Marston Linehan** and SBUR president **Dr. Robert Getzenberg**. "This first joint meeting of the SUO and SBUR will present the best and most exciting science in the field of urologic oncology, a critical interest for both societies" said

Dr. Linehan. Dr. Getzenberg added that "The SBUR hopes that the synergy between societies demonstrated by this first joint meeting will lead to ever-increasing interaction."

The SBUR is a society of basic and clinical scientists whose expertise includes the study of urologic cancers (prostate, bladder, kidney, testis, and penis), the biology of prostate growth, kidney and bladder function, autoimmune urologic diseases, infectious diseases, neuro-urologic diseases, male reproductive biology, infertility and erectile dysfunction. The SBUR's 571 members include molecular biologists, immunologists, epidemiologists, oncologists, biochemists and urologists. The SUO is a society of 500 physicians and physician scientists trained in and dedicated to basic, translational and clinical science and treatment of urologic malignancies.

Dr. James Mohler, program chair of the SBUR and **Dr. Christopher Evans**, program chair of the SUO, organized the joint meeting. The SBUR/SUO joint session consists of three segments. The first segment will examine new ideas for the mechanism of prostate cancer

recurrence during medical or surgical castration. Topics include: androgen metabolic pathways (**Peter Nelson**, Washington), generating testicular androgens from reservoirs of adrenal androgens (**Steven Balk**, Harvard) and new oncogenetic pathways for androgen receptor transactivation (**Hsing-Jien Kung**, UC-Davis). The second session will consider targets for new treatments for renal cell carcinoma and bladder cancer. These targets will include angiogenesis, hypoxia (**Othon Iliopoulos**, Harvard), immunologic-related pathways (**Michael O'Donnell**, Iowa) and cell signaling pathways (**Dan Theodorescu**, Virginia).

In the last joint session, **Angela Brodie**, Professor of Pharmacology, Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, University of Maryland, will deliver the **Donald S. Coffey** lectureship. Dr. Brodie received the 2005 Kettering Prize from the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation and the 2006 Dorothy P. Landon-AACR Prize for Translational Research for her groundbreaking work in developing aromatase inhibitors. Formestane was the first selective aromatase inhibitor to be used clinically and was the only new drug specifically designed for the treatment of breast cancer in 10 years. Newer research includes the development of androgen synthesis inhibitors as new treatments for prostate cancer. The lecture recognizes Dr. Coffey's contributions to the field of urologic research and his mentorship of many scientists and clinicians who conduct basic and clinical research in the field of urology. Past Coffey Lecturers have included **Judah Folkman**, **Gerald Cunha**, **John Reed**, **Peter Jones**, and **Mary Hendrix**.

This first joint meeting promises to showcase some of the best and hottest translational research in urologic oncology. For more on the SBUR activities during **AUA 07**, visit: www.sbur.org, and Go to Page 9

Awards and Honors (continued from Page 1)

Abdo Najy, B.S. (University of Michigan), **Beverly Barton**, Ph.D. (University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey), **David DeGraff**, B.S. (University of Delaware), **Douglas Strand**, B.S. (Baylor College of Medicine), **Hongyun Li**, M.D., Ph.D. (Center for Prostate Disease Research), **Marilyn Lamm**, Ph.D. (Children's Memorial Research Center), **J. Erin Tillman**, B.S. (Vanderbilt University), **Bekir Cinar**, Ph.D. (Children's Hospital - Boston), **Srinivas Nandana**, M.S. (Vanderbilt University), **Jonathan Levitt**, Ph.D. (Baylor College of Medicine), **Vivian Fu**, M.S. (University of Wisconsin-Madison), **Veronica Placencio**, B.S. (Vanderbilt University), **Adebusola Alagbala**, B.S. (Roswell Park Cancer Institute), **Geun Taek Lee**, Ph.D.

(Division of Urologic Oncology, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey), **Kenichiro Ishii**, Ph.D. (Mie University Graduate School of Medicine, Mie, Japan), **Freddie L. Pruitt, III** (University of Delaware), **Lara Collier**, M.D. (University of Minnesota), **Arundhati Ghosh**, Ph.D. (Cleveland Clinic Foundation).

Abdo Najy, David DeGraff, Hongyun Li, Marilyn Lamm, J. Erin Tillman, and Jonathan Levitt gave podium presentations.

- **Dr. Omar Franco**, of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, was the winner of the **Prostate Action, Inc. Travel Award**, and presented his work at the podium.



Dr. Robert Getzenberg, SBUR President (2006-2007), presents the AUA Speaker Certificate to Dr. Gail Prins, (SBUR Fall 06, Phoenix, AZ).



Travel Award winners with Dr. Getzenberg (far left), Dr. Hayward (far right), and the band! (SBUR Fall 06, Phoenix AZ)



Winner of the Prostate Action, Inc. Travel Award, Dr. Omar Franco, with Dr. Alexander Kirschenbaum (l), Dr. Simon Hayward (2-1), and Dr. Alice Levine (r), at the Friday night poster session.

Candidates for Vice President



Biography: Dr. Carrie W. Rinker-Schaeffer earned her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Kentucky in 1992. She then joined the laboratory of Dr. John Isaacs at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine as a S.P.O.R.E. Postdoctoral Fellow (1992-1994). She was recruited to the University of Chicago in 1994 as an Assistant Professor of Surgery/Urology and in 2001 she was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with Tenure in the Department of Surgery. She holds joint appointments with the Departments of Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the Committees on Cancer Biology and Genetics. Known for her energy and enthusiasm, Dr. Rinker-Schaeffer has established a reputation as a strong supporter and proponent of students and junior faculty. Her door is always open and over the past 12 years her laboratory has been home to more than 60 trainees including college, medical, and graduate students; postdoctoral fellows; residents; and visiting scholars.

As an active member of the University Community, Dr. Rinker-Schaeffer serves on a number of its Committees including Faculty Awards, IACUC, Faculty Advisory Committee of the Optical Imaging Core Facility (Chair) and the Interdisciplinary Program on Metastasis Research of the Department of Surgery (Chair) and the Research Advisory Panel Dept of Surgery. She has served on organizing committees for local, national, and international meetings focusing on prostate cancer and/or metastasis. She has been both a permanent and *ad hoc* member of NIH and other study sections including the DOD Breast

and Prostate Cancer Initiatives, and is a member of Editorial Boards including The Prostate and Clinical and Experimental Metastasis, and an Associate Editor for Cancer Research. Finally, she has received several awards and honors including the SBUR/Merck Young Investigator Award, The Fletcher Scholar Award and the Huggins Award of the University of Chicago and is the incoming President of the Women in Cancer Research Council of the AACR.

Research Interests: Dr. Rinker-Schaeffer and her colleagues identified a novel function for the JNKK1/MKK4 stress-activated kinase as a metastasis suppressor in both prostate and ovarian cancers. They also identified a novel role for metastasis suppressor proteins in the regulation of metastatic colonization. Her laboratory's work now focuses on the identification of molecular and biological mechanisms that regulate growth control of disseminated cancer cells at secondary sites.

Vision: Dr. Rinker-Schaeffer is a long-term member of the SBUR and has had the honor of working for the organization in the past and is eager to do so again. Committed to the goals and ideals of the SBUR, she will work diligently with the other officers to continue to develop venues for scientific exchange as well as programs and events that meet the professional development advancement needs of its members at each stage of their careers. She is convinced that bringing young basic scientists, clinicians, and translational researchers into the organization and supporting their early career development will strengthen and diversify the society and make the SBUR a first home to enthusiastic young scientists. In sum, Dr. Rinker-Schaeffer brings a track record of energy and enthusiasm in research, and the perspective of successfully integrating work and family, which she believes will be valuable in her work for SBUR.

Biography: Dr. Zhou Wang received his BS degree in Biology from the University of Science and Technology of China in 1983 and his Ph.D. degree in Molecular Biology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1990. After his post-doctoral training at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Dr. Wang joined the Department of Urology at Northwestern University as an Assistant Professor in 1995. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2002 and honored with the O'Connor Family Research Professorship in 2003. In 2006, he relocated to the University of Pittsburgh School Medicine. He now holds the position of Director of Urological Research and Professor of Urology at the Department of Urology as well as of Co-Program Leader of the Prostate and Urologic



Cancer Program at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. He was a recipient of the SBUR/Merck Young Investigator Award in 1998. He also received a Junior Faculty Research Award from the American Cancer Society, an Edwin Beer Award from the New York Academy of Medicine, a CaPCURE Award, and recently, a MERIT Award from NIH/NIDDK.

Research Interests: Dr. Wang is interested in prostate cancer and androgen action. His current research focuses on the functions of androgen-responsive genes, differential gene regulation by testosterone and dihydrotestosterone, and intracellular trafficking of the androgen receptor.

Vision Statement: I joined SBUR as a lifetime member in 1996. Since then, I have witnessed the growth of SBUR and the importance of this society in the career development of many basic urologic researchers, including myself. Thus, I was honored to serve as the Treasurer of SBUR from 2003 to 2007. Working together with the other members of the executive committee as well as with current and past SBUR presidents, I maintained the financial health of SBUR, which is essential for accomplishing our mission to enhance basic urologic research. As a candidate for Vice President of SBUR, I would like to see SBUR continue to play a key role in the career development of young basic urologic researchers. SBUR should provide more opportunities for young members to present at its annual meetings. In addition, SBUR should facilitate interactions between clinicians and basic researchers to maximize the ability of basic researchers to understand the needs of patients and translate their findings to the clinic. To effectively accomplish these activities, SBUR should persist in working hard in fundraising, building its investment portfolio, and maintaining a great working relationship with the W.J. Weiser & Associates, Inc., which manages the business aspects of SBUR. It is my honor to be nominated as a candidate for the Vice President of SBUR.

Get Your Votes In On Time!

Candidates for Treasurer



Biography, Aria Olumi, Ph.D.: As a long-time member of SBUR since 1997, and a recent recipient of SBUR's Young Investigator Award (2005), I have been committed to this society. As a physician-scientist, my goal is to bridge the gap between basic research and clinical medicine. My interest in research began during medical school at University of Southern California when I worked in the laboratory of Dr. Peter Jones for 1 ½ years (1989-1990). After graduating from medical school (1992), I began my urology residency training at the Harvard Program in Urology (Longwood Area). Wishing to obtain more basic research training, I was accepted to the three-year molecular medicine training program at UCSF (1995-1998) under the direction of Dr. Thea Tlsty and Dr. Jerry Cunha. I returned to Harvard to complete my urology residency in year 2000.

Ever since becoming a faculty member at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School (2000-2006) I have maintained an active laboratory, as well as a urologic oncology surgical practice. Recently (February 2007), I have moved to Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School as the director of urologic research program. As evidenced by my faculty positions, my commitment to basic urologic research as a physician-scientist is strong, and I look forward to serving SBUR in the future.

Research Interest: 1. One focus of our laboratory is to investigate the mechanisms of TRAIL-induced apoptosis. TRAIL (Tumor Necrosis Factor Related Apoptosis Inducing

Ligand) is a pro-apoptotic agent that induces death in cancer cells, but not normal cells. Therefore, when used systemically, TRAIL has minimal cytotoxicity, making it an ideal cancer therapy agent. Although many cancer cells are sensitive to TRAIL-induced apoptosis, some develop resistance and TRAIL becomes ineffective. We have demonstrated that expression of c-FLIP(L), an anti-apoptotic molecule, is necessary and sufficient to make prostate cancers resistant to TRAIL-induced apoptosis. In order to overcome resistance to TRAIL-induced apoptosis, we are investigating transcriptional regulation of c-FLIP(L). We have found that c-Fos/c-Jun heterodimers repress transcription of c-FLIP(L) in order for cancer cells to undergo TRAIL-induced apoptosis. 2. Another project in our laboratory focuses on stromal-epithelial interactions in benign and malignant prostate diseases. Recently, we have found that expression of the c-Jun transcription factor is localized to the prostatic stroma. We have shown that stromally expressed c-Jun potentiates expression of IGF-1 from the stroma. Subsequently, IGF-1 potentiates IGF-R1, Akt and cyclin D and represses p27 in prostate epithelial cells. Therefore, targeting stromally expressed c-Jun and/or IGF-1 may lead to novel therapies in prostatic diseases like BPH.

Vision Statement: As a result of outstanding scientific meetings and increased interest in basic urologic research, SBUR's membership has grown exponentially over the past 10 years. The major financial resources for SBUR are membership dues and registration fees from scientific meetings. However, another growing resource for our society is the financial investments that have performed well over the last few years. I will work in concert with the President and the rest of the board to grow the number of SBUR members, while keeping the annual meeting registration fee increases to a minimum. I will work with the board to continue to make sound financial decisions to grow SBUR's financial portfolio.

Biography: Dr. Marianne Sadar received her B.S. degree in Biochemistry from Simon Fraser University in Burnaby BC, Canada and her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from the University of Bradford, in the United Kingdom in 1995. Post-doctoral fellowships were done at Astra-Hassle (now AstraZeneca) in Sweden followed by the BC Cancer Agency in Vancouver, Canada. Dr. Sadar is currently an Associate Professor of Surgery, Program Leader for Prostate Cancer Research and Senior Scientist in the Genome Sciences Centre at the BC Cancer Agency. She serves on committees to review and approve the protocols for the clinical management of GU tumors and ethical



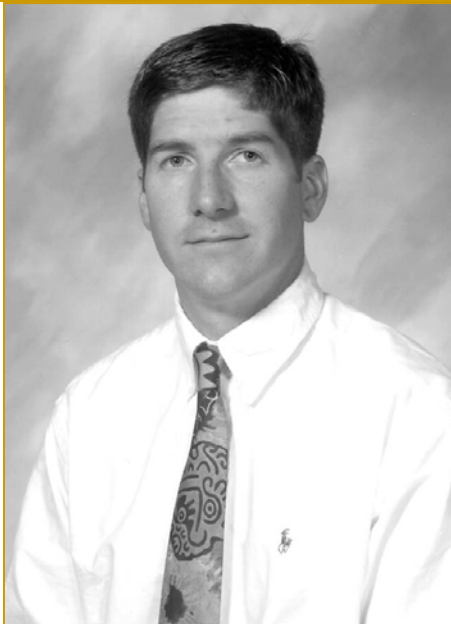
review of clinical trials in British Columbia. Dr. Sadar is an active member and participant of the SBUR and its functions.

Research Interests: Dr. Sadar's research interests include the molecular mechanisms of hormonal progression of prostate cancer and development of therapeutic strategies for improved clinical management of advanced disease.

Vision Statement: The SBUR plays a leadership role for Basic Urologic Research in North America. In this role, the SBUR is important for the exchange of research, networking, career development and training, and provides a venue for recruitment of young scientists and post-doctoral fellows. Efforts to expand the SBUR's affiliations with other urological associations around the world will continue to strengthen and fulfill its mandate. It is important to continue to enhance the SBUR's role in bringing together clinicians and basic scientists to facilitate collaborations in expediting translational research and realizing novel approaches for clinical trials. Thus relationships between the SBUR and the American Urological Association and other Urological Associations around the world should be a priority as well as targeting membership to residents, young investigators and junior faculty members. By increasing membership of the next generation of urologic researchers, the SBUR will continue to be dynamic and maintain and strengthen its predominant stature worldwide in urological research.



Candidates for Member-at-Large



Biography: David Frazier Jarrard, M.D., is an Associate Professor of Surgery and Molecular and Environmental Toxicology at the University of Wisconsin. He holds the John Livesey Chair in Urologic Oncology. Dr. Jarrard is a member of the University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging, the American Association of Cancer Research, the American Urological Association, the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, the Society for Basic Urologic Research (since 1994), and the Society for Urologic Oncology. He has active basic science and translational research interests supported through the National Institutes of Health (R01, P01) and the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program. He has chaired the CBY-2 panel for the DOD ('05, '06) and sat on other study sections.

Dr. Jarrard obtained his BS in Art History/Chemistry and subsequently an MD from the University of Virginia. He was a junior resident in Surgery, and resident and chief resident in Urology at the University of Chicago Hospitals. He was research AFUD scholar at the Brady Urologic Institute of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. He maintains an active research laboratory with 7 students, post-docs and other personnel.

Research interests: The Jarrard laboratory research is focused on two areas: i) the role of epigenetics in aging and prostate cancer susceptibility, and ii) the molecular pathways involved in the bypass and reinduction of senescence.

Vision statement: As a physician-scientist, I have always been encouraged by the enthusi-

asm and support the SBUR has given to me and all of its members. The membership welcomes research from all avenues, and this diversity is something I especially support as it gives the society depth and a broad range of views. Largely because of the SBUR, there is visibility for Urology research at the national level. This is increasingly important given the fight for limited research resources. I will continue to support the overall goals of promoting research to better human health, and envision a continued leadership role for the society in this endeavor.



Biography: Alice C. Levine, M.D., received her B.A in French Literature from State University of New York at Albany and her M.D. from Columbia University College of P & S. She completed her internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the New York University/VA Hospital in New York, NY. She then did a Fellowship in Endocrinology and Metabolism at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, NY where she became a clinical instructor and rose through the ranks to become Associate Professor of Medicine and Oncology and Acting Chief of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism.

Research Interests: Together with her longstanding collaborators (Xin-Hua Liu Ph.D., Assistant Prof. of Medicine and Alexander Kirschenbaum, M.D., Associate Prof. of Urologic Oncology), Dr. Levine's laboratory focuses on the interactive effects of sex steroids, cytokines, growth and angiogenic factors in normal and abnormal prostate growth. Her laboratory group has a strong interest in stromal-epithelial-endothelial interactions, particularly with respect to prostate cancer bone metastases. Their most recent work has uncovered paracrine mechanisms that control prostate cancer both in bone *via* Wnt signaling.

Vision Statement: The SBUR provides a unique opportunity for collaborative research between basic scientists and clinicians in the field of urology. As a longstanding member, I have benefited greatly from the semi-annual meetings that provide focused and cutting-edge talks. Perhaps even more importantly, through the SBUR, I have forged collaborations and friendships that have been invaluable to my career. My background is somewhat different from the majority of SBUR members, in that I have an M.D. degree and part of my time is spent as a Clinical Endocrinologist. My basic science career grew out of my collaborations with basic scientists and urologists. I would like to help shape the future of the SBUR by recruiting young clinicians interested in basic research and helping to "cross-fertilize" the society to foster collaborations between basic scientists and clinicians. Given the growing financial constraints and demands of the healthcare industry, most clinicians, especially urologists, have less time (even during residency training) to pursue scientific investigation. Clinicians are, therefore, more and more dependent upon basic scientists to test and investigate their clinical observations and ideas. Basic scientists also need the clinician's perspective, in order to determine the clinically relevant research questions and to have access to patient tissues and data. This is imperative in this time of shrinking funding sources. Most agencies clearly stress this emphasis on translational and collaborative research. I also envision strengthening the cross-talk between the SBUR and clinical societies such as The Endocrine Society. I firmly believe that bringing more clinicians into the SBUR will also increase funding sources, as private donors and foundations are likely to direct resources to clinicians. These interactions will benefit the clinicians, the basic scientists and the overall quality of the science.

Support Your Candidates

Support Your Colleagues

Support Your Society



The History of the SBUR

10

Questions for the founding President of the

Society for Basic Urologic Research (SBUR), Tim Ratliff



SBUR Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Karl Chai

At the 16th Annual Fall Symposium of the SBUR in Phoenix, Arizona, November of 2006, I had an opportunity to sit down with the founding president of the Society **Tim Ratliff** of the University of Iowa, for a first journalistic reporting by the SBUR Newsletter (inspired by TIME's 10-question format).

1. What is your definition of "basic urologic research"? Basic urology research is a broad term that includes fundamental investigations targeting basic mechanisms in *in vitro* or animal studies, correlative studies for clinical trials, studies on pathological specimens present in tissue repositories, epidemiological studies, marker identification and development, technological advances in imaging, and behavioral studies. From my perspective virtually anything other than retrospective, clinical correlative studies fits the profile because investigators are endeavoring to develop new ideas or approaches to biological systems and diseases.

2. Who were the major players in scientific society activities in "basic urologic research" before the founding of the SBUR? Before SBUR was founded investigators in urology were fragmented. They were organized around specific research groups within urology programs. While there was some interaction among groups, it was limited in scope and was especially difficult for young scientists or scientists interested in urology research but who were not part of urology research programs to integrate.

3. It will be of great inspirational value if you could talk about the early steps that you had taken to get the Society going. What were the major events and who were the major participants between an idea one day, and a society another day? SBUR was borne out of need and has prospered because it fills an important niche in Urology Research. The need is expressed in part in question 2 above. To summarize, there was a need for a forum where investigators addressing urologi-

cal problems could meet, discuss their observations, get to know each other and develop collaborations. As a young scientist in urology research, I was well aware of the need and began formulating the idea of SBUR during the early part of 1985. I discussed the idea with Skip Heston, who encouraged me to proceed. Once I had a solid concept of what and how we could proceed, I spoke to Bill Catalona, my Chief at Washington University, about the concept. He enthusiastically supported the idea and was willing to support the clerical needs for organizing SBUR. I then sent letters to scientists in urology research to determine whether there was general interest in forming a society. The majority of those who responded were supportive; however, a number expressed concern about the need to form "one more society". I believed the response was strong enough to proceed and went about organizing a meeting to discuss the formation of SBUR. Everyone who received a letter inquiring about the need for SBUR also was invited to the organizing meeting. The meeting date was set up during the 1986 AUA in New York. Skip Heston reserved a small conference room at a Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center facility. A group of about 15 or so met and discussed the desirability of organizing the society. Pros and cons were discussed, and the group wavered back and forth but after about an hour and a half of discussion, the group voted to support organizing SBUR. The name "Society for Basic Urological Research" was accepted at this meeting. If the consensus of this group had been negative, I would not have proceeded. I am not mentioning names of scientists who attend the 1986 meeting because at the time of the meeting I did not record the names of all attendees and am not sure I remember all who attended. After the meeting I assumed the responsibility of organizing the first scientific meeting in 1987. I put together the first bylaws, which were required for establishment of our non-profit status. Chung Lee worked diligently with me and was instrumental in modifying the bylaws to conform to the legal requirements for establishing SBUR as a non-profit society in Illinois. Once legally established, I could raise funds for the meeting. Paul Peters, then Chair of the Department of Urology at Southwestern and Secretary of the AUA, provided space for the first SBUR meeting free of charge at the 1987 Annual Meeting of the AUA. I spoke with leaders of urology programs throughout the country, who were uniformly supportive of organizing SBUR and many supported travel expenses for scientists to attend the first meeting. I raised funds to support the organizing expenses, lunch and receptions, and recruited session chairs, who organized presentations for the respective sessions, and we were off and running. The

meeting was small, I think around 50-60 attendees, but everyone considered the meeting a success. Afterwards, enthusiasm for SBUR increased, making the organization of the subsequent meetings much easier. As I look back now, I wish I had recorded the names and contributions of all who were so important to starting SBUR and organizing its first scientific meeting. However, at the time I was not thinking about history. I simply was trying to get the society started. To all those who contributed so much to getting SBUR started, I give my heart felt thanks. Without your efforts, the society would not exist.

4. The Society's membership is approaching 600 now, and it includes members from all over the world. Did you expect to see this development over a rather young history of the Society of only 15 years? No, I did not think SBUR would grow as much as it has grown. The impact of the society far exceeds my greatest expectations at the time we began. While SBUR has grown far beyond my expectations, I believe the society still embodies the original objectives, objectives that are important to urology research. These include providing a forum for urology-focused scientific interchange, supporting young scientists, encouraging scientific collaborations, and supporting scientific interchange between basic and clinical scientists. I am very pleased that society members have held true to the vision of the early organizers.

5. What are your expectations for the Society in the next 15 years? The research focus on urologic diseases is growing and I believe the SBUR continues to fill an important niche. I expect SBUR to continue to grow and have greater impact in the next 15 years.

6. Do you see the possibility of publishing a Society-owned and operated journal for the SBUR? The concept has been discussed many times. The process is expensive and requires a significant research base to support manuscript submissions. I personally do not see the formation of a journal in the near future, but if SBUR continues to serve the scientific community in a strong manner, there may come a time when publishing a journal is the right thing to do.

7. If there is one thing that you wish to advise the younger members of the Society about, what would that be? My advice is to first be a good scientist by asking important questions and performing rigorous research that will stand the test of peer review. Then share your work with others and develop strong collaborative efforts. We can accomplish much more by working together.

(Continued on the Next Page)

A Different Opinion - Submit? Submit? Submit?

I was reading my SBUR newsletter and noticed this advice at the end with reference to grants. I think this is absolutely the wrong thing to do for several reasons.

First, for a long time we scientists have treated the NIH as a sinecure that should be isolated from society. While we all would love to be supported in the style to which we would like to become accustomed, "tight" funding is a fact of life, and I fear it is up to us to adapt. The NIH budget recently was doubled, and we all certainly enjoyed those years, but is it reasonable to expect that the taxpayers will continue such largesse without more tangible evidence they are receiving value for their investment? The main result of doubling the budget was that the number of scientists simply increased. Universities added more "research track" positions. Training programs churned out more scientists, regardless of what their long-term prospects were, and a considerable number of scientists from other nations came over here to participate in the sudden growth of the NIH budget. Increase the nutrients in a bacterial culture, and the bacteria multiply until nutrients again become limiting. That is what has happened. It is not clear that the increase in funding actually produced better research, although loosening fiscal constraints emboldened some study sections to fund more open-ended research that could leap



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forward, as opposed to the incremental mechanistic and hypothesis-driven approach so loved by NIH study sections.

Second, one does not get funded by writing large numbers of grants, throwing them against the wall and seeing what sticks. The answer is: nothing! They're all triaged. Instead, proposals need to be researched and prepared carefully to stand a chance. Moreover, if one spends a large amount of time writing grants, there will be no papers, and without papers, there will be no grants. Grant applications need to be directed at significant problems, first of all. It seems reviewers finally are learning to apply the 5 criteria in the way they are supposed to be applied, namely to identify innovative work on problems of high significance by investigators with a pro-

ductive history working in a supportive environment. Perhaps too many of the new investigators who entered science during the growth years are just not cut out to be independent investigators.

Third, the NIH has always used the number of applications received as justification for increases in budget. I think that is the wrong tactic. Instead, the benefits of what has been funded and the number of really worthy studies that were turned down seems a more rational basis for discussing funding. Resources are finite, and that is a fact, but there are means other than increasing appropriations to increase the money actually going to research. Savings there would mean more for research, as would cutting the bloated indirect costs charged against the budget. Also, limiting the fraction of investigator salaries paid by NIH would discourage the continual addition of "research track" faculty. Institutions have no investment in research track faculty, and if a grant is lost, their position vanishes. The NIH also needs to continue to reform the peer review system to de-emphasize the importance of the details of "approach" and impose restraints on institutions. The time commitment of reviewers and writers represents a serious drag on scientific productivity. Perhaps we need to re-think our system itself rather than to call for ever more submissions.

Bob Hurst

10 Questions (Continued from the Previous Page):

8. Do you see a role of the SBUR outside of the immediate area of "basic urologic research"? From my perspective, SBUR's focus is urology research. This is a broad and expansive field that now includes many scientists outside of urology programs. I believe strong interactions among all who are interested in urologic research problems is the next step for the Society. I would like to see SBUR expand its effort toward the participation of scientists outside urology programs and also expand its efforts toward incorporating greater numbers of clinical scientists.

9. What are the special things that you do in your own life to help ensure good urologic health? I simply try to live a healthy life through incorporating a balanced diet and exercise into my life.

10. Finally, do you have a suggestion for a name of our SBUR Newsletter? My suggestion here is to run a contest for the newsletter name.

Editor's Note: If you were a participant of the first exploratory meeting for organizing the SBUR, please write to the Editor at kxchai@mail.ucf.edu. Thank you for your support of the SBUR Newsletter.

Announcement 2007 Young Investigator Award Application Deadline

From the office of the President

The SBUR is announcing the competition for the **2007 SBUR Young Investigator Awards**.

The awards are given to SBUR members under the age of **40** (at the time of the Spring meeting on **May 19, 2007**), and have made significant contributions to Urologic Research.

An SBUR committee will review the applications and determine the three awardees on the basis of their academic accomplishments. The award winners receive a check for \$2,500 along with recognition at the meeting. The deadline for receiving applications is **March 15th, 2007**, so send your cover letter and CV to info@sbur.org for consideration.

If you already submitted your CV, you do not need to resend it. All applicants will receive notification regarding their application *via* e-mail.

Awardees will be informed prior to the annual meeting and awards will be presented at the SBUR annual business lunch.

More on SBUR at the AUA 07

(continued from Page 3): After conclusion of the joint session of the Society for Basic Urologic Research (SBUR) and Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO), the SBUR meeting continues with hot topics in non-oncologic urology. The final morning session will be moderated by **Wade Bushman**, University of Wisconsin. Outstanding speakers will address new developments in genetic regulation of spermatogenesis (**Darius Paduch**, Cornell), lessons for somatic cell apoptosis derived from study of sperm nuclear structure (**Steven Ward**, University of Hawaii), and bioengineered new treatments for urinary incontinence (**Larissa Rodriguez**, UCLA). After the business luncheon, two parallel afternoon breakout sessions will address 1) the value of high throughput discovery using clinical specimens, and 2) models of angiogenesis for urologic research. The first breakout session will be moderated by **Shuk-mei Ho**, University of Cincinnati. Topics include research use of tissue microarrays (**Angelo DeMarzo**, Johns Hopkins), cDNA microarrays (**Bin Teh**, Van Andel Research Institute), qRT-

PCR (**Phillip Febbo**, Duke) and BAC array (**Norma Nowak**, Roswell Park Cancer Institute). The angiogenesis session will be moderated by **Natasha Kyprianou**, University of Kentucky. Topics include *in vitro* modeling of angiogenesis (**Luisa Iruela-Arispe**, UCLA), targeting blood vessels *in vivo* (**Jan Pilch**, Burnham Institute), human tissue xenograft models for angiogenesis assay (**Gary Smith**, Roswell Park Cancer Institute) and use of clinical specimens to assess vascular injury (**Ralph Buttyan**, Ordway Research Institute). Both breakout sessions will address the latest developments in, and the limitations of use of, each method or reagent.

The 2007 Spring Meeting should enhance the mission of the SBUR, which was organized to address the following:

- 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;

- Enhance communication among and promote interests of urologic disease investigators with national funding agencies, industry representatives and academic institutions for urology-related research; and
- Serve as a resource for clinical urologists and mentors/colleagues for academic urologists through the American Urological Association.

The 7th World Basic Urologic Research Congress



The deadline for submitting abstracts for the international meeting is May 28, 2007. Travel awards at \$800 each for young investigators and trainees will be selected from the submitted abstracts on scientific merit. The travel award winners are expected to be announced by early July of 2007.

For more on the meeting, visit:

www.wcur-dublin2007.com

Member Highlights

Zoran Culig, M.D., Innsbruck Medical University, currently serving as an *Ad hoc* member of the SBUR Executive Council, will receive the European Association of Urology Best Basic Science Paper Award 2006. Dr. Culig will receive this award at the meeting of European Association of Urology in Berlin on March 22, 2007, for the paper by **Bellezza et al.** on the role of suppressor of cytokine signaling-3 (SOCS-3) in prostate cancer. The paper was published in the December issue of *The American Journal of Pathology*. In this paper, Dr. Culig's group showed that the expression of SOCS-3 inversely correlates with that of STAT3. In contrast to several other tumors, expression of SOCS-3 increases in prostate cancer. They also found that SOCS-3 acts as a negative feedback regulator for cAMP in prostate cancer. It thus antagonizes inhibition of proliferation or suppression of apoptosis.

Here's the hot paper:

[Bellezza I, Neuwirt H, Nemes C, Cavarretta IT, Puhr M, Steiner H, Minelli A, Bartsch G, Offner F, Hobisch A, Doppler W, Culig Z.](#) Suppressor of cytokine signaling-3 antagonizes cAMP effects on proliferation and apoptosis and is expressed in human prostate cancer. *Am J Pathol.* 2006 Dec;169(6):2199-208. PMID: 17148681



Dr. Zoran Culig, speaking at the SBUR Fall 06 (Phoenix, AZ)



The SBUR Newsletter
February 2007

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