



SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER

Executive Committee Reports

Greetings from the President: David Jarrard, M.D.



Dear friends.

This has been a landmark year for the Society for Basic Urologic Research. We had a wonderful Fall Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, which was a great success. The theme was "The Inflammation/Immunity Axis in Urologic Disease". Indeed, the meeting had the largest attendance of any SBUR meeting in the last 7 years which is a credit to the organizing committee lead by Dr. David Lubaroff. The Leland Chung Lectureship was brilliantly delivered by Drew Pardoll MD, PhD. At the meeting the SBUR Meritorious Award was presented to Dr. Robert Vessela of the University of Washington. The SBUR salutes him as a unique urology researcher, collaborator and a scholar for his contributions to the field and

the SBUR. Our young investigator award winners for the SBUR Young Investigator Award are Trinity J. Bivalacqua, MD, PhD and Qianben Wang, Ph.D. Congratulations to them!

Objectives for the year included placing the society back on firm financial footing. Thanks to our treasurer, Dr. Marianne Sadar, fundraising and of course the improving economy, this has occurred. Endowments currently consist of the Leland Chung Lectureship and the Coffey Lectureship. The Weiser Group has been working with the SBUR to help with fundraising and investments. We have some new initiatives seeking to partner with other AUA societies to promote urologic specialty research, as well as assist in financially supporting the SBUR. Another completed objective has been the development of a 'working manual' to assist incoming executive board members. This will be especially important for the incoming Treasurer and Secretary. Finally, we have sought to continue to expand the membership to attract both PhD researchers, as well as MD's, interested in interacting with leaders in molecular and clinical urologic research.

***SBUR Election Information Enclosed –
VOTE online at SBUR.ORG***

The SBUR will be holding its Annual Spring Meeting on the Saturday prior to the start of the annual American Urological Association meeting in Washington D.C. The morning meeting will be in conjunction with the Society of Urologic Oncology and the theme is therapy resistance in urologic cancer. The meeting is being chaired by Dr. Zhou Wang and it promises to be an interesting and exciting event. The Coffey Lectureship will be held during this joint morning session and delivered by Dr Charles Sawyers, a Howard Hughes investigator. Afternoon sessions include recent advances in BPH-LUTS research and nuclear receptor actions in urologic research. I encourage individuals to attend the SBUR Spring Meeting and stay for the AUA.

On behalf of the executive board and myself, we look forward to the upcoming year and the continued success in the research field. Society members interested in assisting the society with membership, fundraising or meeting organization please contact either myself or other executive board members. We always need help. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Vice President's Report: Zhou Wang, Ph.D.

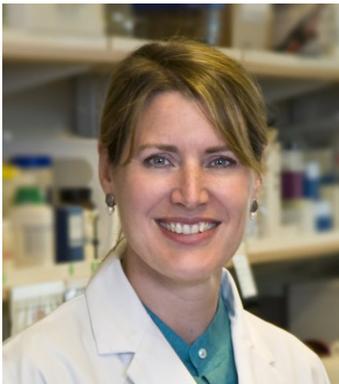
This year it is my pleasure to organize the first Annual Basic Science Symposium at the 2011 AUA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The topic of this symposium will be "Stem Cells in Urologic Diseases". George Christ, PhD will moderate an outstanding program featuring leaders in stem cell technology and research. Speakers include Benjamin Humphreys, MD/PhD, Candace Kerr, PhD, and Catherine Mendelson, PhD. Please see 'Upcoming SBUR Events' later in this Newsletter for more information.



BASIC SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM
'Stem Cells In Urologic Diseases'
May 13, 2011

Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Room 143 A/B/C, Washington D.C

Treasurer's Report: Marianne Sadar, Ph.D.



The SBUR financial condition is stable and has improved from the previous year. Membership dues, corporate sponsorship and meeting revenues are the major sources of income for the society. The SBUR continues to need the support of its members for payment of membership dues and their aid in recruiting new members since these dues are important source of income. Other current assets include the Chung and Coffey Lectureship Investment funds that are performing well and accruing interest and dividends that aid in offsetting expenses from travel awards to attend meetings. W.J. Weiser & Associates, Inc. and the SBUR Executive Committee continue to raise funds through creative new avenues to support SBUR events.

note bene: Dr. Sadar is the recipient of the 2010 SWIU/SBUR award. Kudos to Dr. Sadar!

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Secretary's Report: Jill A. Macoska, Ph.D.

As the second year of my service as Secretary begins, I can truly say that this has been a busy and productive year for the SBUR! I was very pleased to co-chair the organizing committee for the 2010 Fall Symposium and am happy that, under the leadership of Chair David Lubaroff (U. Iowa), and the hard work of all the organizing committee members, we were able to put together a highly informative and well-attended meeting. As part of the Fall 2010 Symposium Workshop and as part of upcoming endeavors such as the AUAF/SBUR Summer Research Conference and the Fall 2011 and 2012 Symposia, I have, and will continue to, honor my commitment to ensure that NIH Program and other funding officials attend and participate in these events so that SBUR members have the opportunity to interact with them and learn how to achieve funding for their research programs. Another commitment, to provide the means for membership communication, is realized in part by these meetings, this Newsletter, and the initiation of a membership listserv that will (hopefully) launch within a few months.



Lastly, I would like to draw your attention to the upcoming AUA Foundation/SBUR Summer Research Conference, 'Aging and Urologic Disease.' I am honored to Co-Chair this conference with Drs. Philip Dahm (U. Florida) and Tomas Griebing (U. Kansas). More information is provided in the 'Upcoming SBUR Events' section of this Newsletter. Please plan to attend!

AUA FOUNDATION / SBUR SUMMER RESEARCH CONFERENCE
'Aging and Urologic Disease'
July 16-17, 2011
AUA Headquarters, Linthicum, MD

Synopsis: Fall 2010 Symposium

'The Inflammation / Immunity Axis in Urologic Disease' **November 11-14**

Grand Hyatt, Atlanta, Georgia

The theme of this meeting focused on exploring the many role(s) of inflammation and/or the production of antigen-specific immune responses in the development and progression of urologic disease. Areas addressed during the meeting included the role of reactive oxygen species in inflammatory disease, the effect of aging, obesity and comorbidities on inflammation and immunity, targeting immune / inflammatory systems for therapies of urologic diseases, and the effects of host tissues on immunity and inflammation. Highlights of the Symposium included a Special Session and Discussion organized by Ralph Buttyan, Ph.D., entitled: 'The Role of XMRV in Prostate Cancer' given by John Petros, M.D., as well as an afternoon Workshop organized by Jill A. Macoska, Ph.D., entitled: "From Patent to Product: How to Commercialize Your Inventions." The Organizing Committee comprised David M. Lubaroff, Ph.D. (Chair), Jill A. Macoska, Ph.D. (Co-Chair), and Members Ralph Buttyan, Ph.D., Simon W. Hayward, Ph.D., David F. Jarrard, M.D., Susan Kasper, Ph.D., Shafiz Khan, Ph.D., Edmund C. Lattimer, Ph.D., and Vinata Lokeshwar, Ph.D. Attendance at the Symposium totaled an outstanding 163 individuals, demonstrating a growing commitment by basic scientists to pursue research in urologic disease.

This meeting was dedicated to the memory of the late Richard D. William, M.D.

Fall 2010 Symposium Awardees



Dr. Quianbeng Wang (right) receives a 2010 Young Investigator Award from past SBUR President Dr. Simon Hayward (left) and current SBUR President Dr. David Jarrard (center).

SBUR is pleased to announce the recipients of the following awards given at the Fall 2010 Annual Symposium. Congratulations to all recipients!

Meritorious Achievement Award:
Robert L. Vessella, PhD

Dr. Leland Chung Lecturer:
Drew N. Pardoll, MD, PhD

AUA Lecturer:
Zoran Culig, MD

Young Investigator Awards:
Qianbeng Wang, PhD
Trinity Bivalacqua, MD, PhD

Trainee/Travel Awards:

Awardee	Award	Awardee	Award
David Barron	Travel	A. Ramachandran	Travel
Sachin Bhusari	Travel	Hifzur Siddique	Travel
Liquan Cai	Travel	Brian Simons	Travel
Gina CY Chu	Travel	Zongwei Wang	Travel
Kalyan Gangavarapu	Travel	Kaijie Wu	Travel
David DeGraff	Travel	Chiuan-Ren Yeh	Travel
Jessica Havercamp	Travel	Siam Oottamasathien	Podium Presentation
Tanisha Hutchinson	Travel	Omar Franco	Travel (Minority)
Shareen Iqbal	Travel	Jelani Zariff	Travel (Minority)
Michelle Jones	Travel	Freddie Pruitt	Travel (Minority)
Congxing Lin	Travel	Conrad Valdez	Travel (Minority)

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Upcoming SBUR Events

BASIC SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

'Stem Cells In Urologic Diseases'

May 13, 2011, 1-6pm

Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Room 143 A/B/C, Washington D.C

This event is a joint effort by the AUA Foundation, the SBUR, and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), will be presenting. Prominent investigators in stem cell research will present cutting edge research findings and the tools in stem cell research and the potential applications of stem cell in urological diseases. Speakers will include Drs. Candace Kerr (Hopkins), Benjamin Humphreys (Harvard), Catherine Mendelsohn (Columbia), and Michael Shen (Columbia). Dr. George Christ (Wake Forest) will lead panel discussion.

SBUR AT THE AUA 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

May 14, 2011

Grand Hyatt Washington, Washington, DC

The SBUR meeting will focus on two important urological research areas: BPH and prostate cancer. The meeting will provide urologists and basic researchers with an update on the current research and challenges for the diseases. Specifically, these meetings will enhance understanding of the basic biology, epidemiology, and histopathology of BPH. Experts in the field will review and discuss important factors associated with BPH development and progression. The meeting will also provide updated knowledge on nuclear receptor functions and their cross-talk with growth factor signals, co-regulators, and chromatin modifications in prostate cancer as well as stimulate discussion on clinical relevance of basic research findings and should allow the development of new translational approaches.

AUA FOUNDATION / SBUR SUMMER RESEARCH CONFERENCE

'Aging and Urologic Disease'

July 16-17, 2011

AUA Headquarters, Linthicum, MD

The program includes presentations from leading experts in the urological community with sessions on "Common Urologic Conditions in Aging," "Common Geriatric Syndromes," "Basic Sciences in Aging Research," "Health Services & Health Policy," and "Translational Research and the Future." The conference will also feature a poster session and talks from National Institutes of Health training officers on career development and funding opportunities.

WORLD CONGRESS UROLOGICAL RESEARCH

'Molecular Pathology and Experimental Models of Urological Diseases'

European Section for Urological Research / Society for Basic Urological Research

September 15-18, 2011

Innsbruck, Austria

The meeting will comprise stimulating sessions on the following topics:

- Molecular Epidemiology and Biomarkers
- Animal Models in Prostate Cancer
- miRNA and Urological Disease
- Targeted Therapy in Renal Cancer
- Therapies which Differentiate Between Benign and Malignant cells
- Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition

SBUR FALL 2012 SYMPOSIUM

'Exploring the Developmental Paradigms that Underlie Urological Diseases'

November 10-13, 2011

Las Vegas, Nevada

The program will feature a diverse panel of speakers presenting their current research that emphasizes the involvement of genes, signaling processes and biochemical or epigenetic effectors that guide normal tissue development in the acquisition and progression of the common benign and malignant diseases of the human urogenital tract. Through the presentations, the audience will be invited to view the common human diseases of the kidney, bladder, prostate, reproductive and sexual accessory tissues as manifestations of dysfunctional developmental states. Sessions and topics include:



- The role of tissue morphogens (Wnt, Hedgehog, Notch, other cytokines and growth factors) in diseases and cancers;
- An updated look at the steroidal influence on development and disease; determinants of tissue-specific differentiation and how these determinants are change in disease;
- Epigenetic effectors of the stem cell phenotype, tissue development and diseases;
- **'Controversies in Urology'**, a special moderated session, that will focus on whether the androgen receptor can influence the expression of cancer growth-promoting genes through unexpected interactions with non-traditional sites on the cancer cell genome;
- **'Androgen: Can't Live Without It; Can't Live With It!'**, a Workshop where experts will discuss the nature of the androgen biosynthetic pathways in the human body, detail conditions in which androgen supplementation or androgen deprivation are required and discuss the current and future means for clinical manipulation of systemic androgen levels or ablation of androgen receptor activity in various patient groups.
- Poster Sessions and the opportunity for trainees to apply for travel awards.

Attendance at the Conference offers you the opportunity to immerse yourself in a contemporary research environment addressing a variety of human Urological diseases and cancers, an opportunity to network with your colleagues as well as the warm fellowship of the Society. The location features family-friendly activities and opportunities to enjoy the unique and colorful Las Vegas Strip environment with its wealth of entertainment venues and unique Resort Hotels. The proximity of Las Vegas to Red Rock Canyon, Hoover Dam and Death Valley also offers opportunities to explore the great outdoors. The members of the Organizing Committee (Ralph Buttyan, Chair; Members Jill Macoska, Neil Bhowmick, Gail Prins and Dolores Lamb), in conjunction with the Officers of the SBUR, join me in inviting you to set aside the dates now for this highly educational, interactive and entertaining event.

What happens here WILL go back with you!

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SBUR 2011 Executive Committee Ballot

VOTE online at sbur.org

CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Jer-Tsong Hseih, Ph.D.



BIOSKETCH: 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; Associate Professor, Department of Urology, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX. Current Affiliation: John D. McConnell Distinguished Chair Professor; Director, Jean H. and John T. Walter, Jr., Center for Research in Urologic Oncology, Department of Urology, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX. Awards: SBUR/Merck Young Investigator Award (1997); Gillson Longenbaugh Research Award (2003)

RESEARCH FOCUS: Molecular mechanisms and signatures leading to metastasis of prostate or bladder cancer; signal defects in prostate cancer stem cell; development of novel treatment strategies of advanced prostate cancer and bladder cancer; non-invasive molecular imaging.

SBUR SERVICE: Board member (members-at-large) (2005-08), Leland W.K. Chung Lectureship selection committee (2010-present).

VISION STATEMENT: The SBUR has emerged as a major organization representing urologic research community from North America and serves as a strong advocate for promoting both basic and translational research. Research funding has always been the priority and the challenge for our members. To better serve our member and provide comprehensive information of funding resources for our members, the SBUR should establish an effective communication network between members and various federal and private funding agencies, including pharmaceutical industry. Given the broad expertise of its membership, the SBUR should establish database for panel of expert who can provide consultation for funding agencies. In addition, the SBUR should provide up-to-date information of urologic diseases or any breakthrough news from our society for the general public through the website for educating support groups and informing local media. With respect to the fact that urologic research is a clinical-related subject, teaming up with clinicians becomes a major step to translate meaningful research outcome into potential clinical application. The SBUR needs to have a platform for the interaction between basic scientists and clinicians. Also, 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 to provide a clinical informatics for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and new principle investigators who are new in urologic research. As urologic diseases rising globally, SBUR could outreach to other urologic researchers or communities over the world to establish close intellectual collaborations. To achieve these goals, SBUR must make continuous fundraising effort to establish endowment for its future expansion and organize international meeting to foster collaboration with other urologic researchers.

Vinata Lokeshwar, Ph.D.

BIOSKETCH: I received my Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology from Saint Louis University. I completed the NIH and American Heart Association postdoctoral fellowships in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy at University of Miami. Currently I am a tenured Professor and Co-Director of Urology Research, in the Department of Urology at University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. I also have a joint appointment in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy. I am a graduate faculty in two different programs and I am involved in mentoring Ph.D. students, urology residents and clinical fellows in urology-related research.



RESEARCH FOCUS: Major research focus of the laboratory is to examine how hyaluronic acid (HA), a glycosaminoglycan, and tumor-derived hyaluronidase (HAase), HYAL-1, promote tumor growth, metastasis and angiogenesis. Furthermore, we are targeting the HA-HAase system for developing novel therapeutics and biomarkers. For example, an HA-synthesis inhibitor, 4-methylumbelliferone was found to inhibit prostate cancer growth, invasion and angiogenesis. A novel HYAL-1 inhibitor synthesized in our laboratory is showing similar results. We are testing these novel drugs in bladder and kidney cancer models either as single agents or in combination with conventional therapy. Our previous work on the HA-HAase urine test and recent Q-PCR assays show that HYAL-1 and HA-synthase HAS2 are accurate markers for diagnosing bladder cancer. Furthermore, HYAL-1 transcript and protein levels predict metastasis in bladder and prostate carcinomas. The research of my group is funded by grants from the NIH, Florida Department of Health and private local foundations.

SBUR-SERVICE: I am a life member of the SBUR. I have served on the Executive Committee twice: Member At-Large, 2002 – 2004; Secretary, 2008-2010. I also served on the Patient Advocacy Committee, 1998- 2000 and currently I am on the Fund Raising Committee for the SBUR. I also served on Program Committees for the following SBUR meetings: Spring 2005; Fall 2005; Fall 2008 and Fall 2010. I was the Program Committee Chair for the 8th World Basic Urological Congress/18th Fall SBUR Meeting.

VISON: In the last fifteen years since I joined the SBUR, I have seen the tremendous growth of our society under the leadership of both the past and present SBUR Presidents. Largely because of the SBUR, there is increased visibility of basic urology researchers in national and international Urology meetings, which traditionally have focused on clinical research. SBUR's efforts have led to increased funding for Urology research and the establishment of a separate urology study section at the NIH. However, a bulging federal deficit has resulted in considerable shrinking of the NIH budget and an unbelievable lowering of the pay line. Therefore, I believe our society must remain a strong force that staunchly advocates urology research and the researchers.

Having served on the Executive Committee as the SBUR-Secretary, I know it is of utmost importance that our society is financially in a good health. In the current environment of slow economic growth, SBUR must find new ways to not only stay afloat but to rise above the waters and grow. Therefore, an elected vice-President must work together with the treasurer on matters related to fiscal management of the SBUR. One way to improve the society's financial health is for the vice-President to

work with the membership committee to increase new membership and appeal to past members who for some reason either left or simply forgot what it means to be a part of the SBUR-family. Another way would be for the vice-President to be committed to improving industry relations and their contribution to our meetings.

Lastly, we mustn't forget patient advocacy groups, who urge the congress to increase funding for the NIH and the Department of Defense. Who but the SBUR-President would be in a position to reach out to different patient advocacy groups?

Therefore, if I am elected, I will commit myself to: 1. Increasing SBUR membership and to retain current members; 2. Raising funds from private and industry sources for SBUR meetings. 3. Coordinating efforts with other societies and patient advocacy groups to increase federal dollars for research.

A financially strong society with large membership is my vision for the SBUR. I am **honored** to accept the nomination for the position of the vice-President.

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CANDIDATES FOR TREASURER

George J. Christ, Ph.D.



BIOSKETCH: Dr. Christ is Professor of Regenerative Medicine, Urology and Physiology and Pharmacology and Head of the Program in Cell, Tissue and Organ Physiology at the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine. He is an Affiliate Faculty in the Molecular Medicine and Molecular Genetics Programs, as well as the Virginia Tech/Wake Forest School for Biomedical Engineering and Sciences. He also holds an appointment in the Sticht Center for Aging. He is the Past Chairman of the Division of Systems and Integrative Pharmacology of the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET), and Past President of the North Carolina Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine (NCTERM) group. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Division for Integrative Systems, Translational and Clinical Pharmacology of ASPET. He is an Assistant Editor

for the Investigative Urology Section of the Journal of Urology and Associate Editor for Basic International Journal of Impotence Research. He is also a Specialty Chief Editor of the Journal of Integrative & Regenerative Pharmacology and on the Editorial Board for the American Journal of Pathology. Dr. Christ has served on both national and international committees related to his expertise in muscle physiology, and has also served on NIH study sections in the NIDDK, NICHD, NCCR and NHLBI. He has chaired working groups for both the NIH and the World Health Organization. Dr. Christ is a Co-Founder and Directing Member of Ion Channel Innovations, LLC., a development stage biotechnology company pioneering the use of gene therapy for the treatment of erectile dysfunction and bladder overactivity. Dr. Christ is a co-inventor on more than 23 patents (national and international) that are either issued or pending, related to gene therapy for the treatment of human smooth muscle disorders and tissue engineering technologies. Dr. Christ has been a member of the SBUR since 1994, and was a recipient of an SBUR Young Investigator Award in 1997. He chaired the 2002 SBUR Fall Symposium-Functional Genomics of Urogenital System, in Tucson Arizona. He will be the Program Moderator for the upcoming AUA Foundation Basic Science Symposium entitled: "Stem Cells in Urologic Diseases".

RESEARCH INTERESTS. Dr. Christ's urological research has focused on smooth muscle physiology and pharmacology, in particular the role of junctional and nonjunctional ion channels in the physiology and pathophysiology of smooth muscle-related diseases/disorders of the lower urinary tract. His translational research efforts have provided preclinical "proof of concept" for the use of gene therapy for the treatment of erectile and bladder dysfunction. This preclinical work has supported two IND applications to the FDA and resulted in a Phase I clinical trial for each indication. More recently, Dr. Christ has become involved in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine applications to the lower urinary tract. He has established a multidisciplinary research team at the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine to pursue the application of regenerative medicine technologies to bladder diseases/disorders. Current studies focus on mechanisms responsible for normal regeneration in the rodent bladder following subtotal cystectomy, as well as the age-related impairments in regenerative capacity observed in older animals.

VISION. I have been a member of the SBUR since 1994. By virtue of our traditionally close association with clinical departments, our translational research emphasis has always been quite strong. However, the funding of the CTSA's and the likely creation of a new National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) make it clear that it is more important than ever for our society to remain on the cutting edge of "bench to bedside" research. We can do this by making sure that the SBUR is a very visible contributor to this national effort, and moreover, by continuing to recruit to the SBUR the clinicians and scientists that are making this happen, on a national and international level, in diverse areas of urologic research. To achieve these goals will require prudent utilization of our financial resources. My goal is to ensure not only that our organization stays in the "black", but moreover, to initiate an evaluation process whereby we can develop a strategic plan to further increase our financial base over the long-term. To do so I will work hard with the SBUR leadership and membership to determine the most efficient way to leverage our existing resources, as well as to identify creative ways to expand our membership and develop the public/private/industry partnerships that will further our reach and resources. I would be honored to have the opportunity to achieve these lofty goals, as I continue to serve the society in the capacity of Treasurer.

Robert Sikes, Ph.D.

BIOSKETCH: Robert Sikes is a Graduate of the Department of Molecular Cellular and Developmental Biology at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He received his Doctorate at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center while attending the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. After performing post-doctoral fellowships in bone and prostate, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Urology at the University of Virginia. Dr. Sikes is currently Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, adjunct Associate Professor at the Delaware Biotechnology Institute and the Director of The Center for Translational Cancer Research. In this capacity he coordinates research programs between the NCI designated Helen F. Graham Cancer Center at Christiana Care Health System, A. I. DuPont Hospital for Children (Nemours Biomedical Institute), and the Delaware Biotechnology Institute as well as interfacing with the community at large and local cancer support groups.



RESEARCH INTERESTS: His research encompasses the development of the prostate and mechanisms governing the progression of prostate cancer to androgen insensitivity and metastasis to bone. The extracellular matrix contacts and growth factor presentation that cancer cells encounter on their metastatic treks out of the prostate and when encountering the bone marrow stroma are current areas of research emphasis.

VISION STATEMENT: I have been a member of the SBUR since 1999 and was a on the membership committee in 2003 followed by one term as Secretary from 2004-2006. I am proud to be a member of the SBUR, a society that has continued to thrive due to its dedicated, hard working members and leadership. The efforts of the board of directors along with input from SBUR members has resulted in an ongoing creativity that has produced high quality meetings that are dynamic and engaging. The ongoing recognition and rewards for junior scientists is unique to the SBUR and creates a welcoming environment that my students have always commented about and occasionally enjoyed. Finally, SBUR members are highly collaborative and supportive. We are receptive to new ideas and sharing reagents, resources, and expertise. As SBUR secretary I felt like I made significant contributions to the SBUR and helped it move forward. I feel privileged to be nominated to serve the SBUR as treasurer and will direct my efforts to earnestly represent the best interests of the SBUR while diligently managing its resources.

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CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Cindy Miranti, Ph.D.



BIOSKETCH: Dr. Miranti is an Associate Professor in Cancer and Cell Biology at the Van Andel Research Institute and Van Andel Institute Graduate School. Dr. Miranti holds an Adjunct position at Michigan State University in the Department of Physiology. She received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Harvard Medical School in 1995 and trained under Dr. Joan Brugge as a postdoctoral fellow from 1995-2000, first at ARIAD Pharmaceuticals and then in the Cell Biology Department at Harvard Medical School. In 2000, Dr. Miranti joined the newly opened Van Andel Research Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan as an Assistant Professor. She headed the Laboratory of Integrin Signaling and began developing a research program centered on the role of integrins in prostate cancer development and progression. To date, these studies have been funded by the American Cancer Society, Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program, Elsa U. Pardee Foundation, and Association for International Cancer Research. Dr. Miranti is an organizing member of

the Michigan Prostate Cancer Research Colloquium, which promotes prostate cancer research at institutions in Michigan through an annual symposium. In 2010, she received the Outstanding Graduate Advisor Award from Michigan State University and is chairman of the Postdoctoral Association at the Van Andel Research Institute. Dr. Miranti serves as a grant reviewer for the American Cancer Society and the DOD Prostate Cancer Research Program, and has served on the abstract review committees for the DOD IMPaCT meetings. Dr. Miranti joined the SBUR after being encouraged by a member and collaborator to attend the 2004 meeting.

VISION STATEMENT: SBUR plays a vital role in promoting collegial and collaborative interactions between urological researchers and advancing urological research in the wider community. I strongly support these objects as the main mission of SBUR. By providing travel awards and speaking slots at the annual meetings, SBUR has established itself as a strong supporter of trainees. In addition, I am very impressed with how actively SBUR supports the training and advancement of minorities. This thoughtful and planned support of our young trainees helps to maintain SBUR's standing as a vital force in urological research. Our trainees will be our new leadership. As a Member-at-Large I will advocate for and support the addition of a trainee-run mini-symposium or dedicated session at the annual meetings. This will help promote the development of our trainees' leadership skills. Providing a fostering

environment for new investigators should also be an important part of the SBUR mission. I personally have benefited immensely from the tutelage of a senior SBUR member. Having a defined program that supports the junior/senior partnering would help to increase our stature as a society and set an example for others to follow. As a member of the executive team I would help to craft such a program. One of the roles of the SBUR executive committee is to seek ideas and suggestions from our membership on ways to improve their experience as an SBUR member. I embrace the opportunity to serve as a representative of our members as an SBUR Member-at-Large and contribute to its continued success.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Our laboratory is interested in understanding the molecular mechanisms by which integrin receptors, interacting with the extracellular matrix, regulate cell processes involved in the development and progression of prostate cancer. In particular, we have been focusing on integrin $\alpha 6 \beta 1$ which is singularly and uniquely expressed in prostate cancer and lymph node metastases. Unlike the normal gland where integrins and AR are not expressed in the same epithelial cell type, prostate cancers express AR and $\alpha 6 \beta 1$ in the same cell. Furthermore, the preferred ligand of $\alpha 6 \beta 1$, laminin-10, is abundant in both the primary tumor and the bone. We have demonstrated that AR is responsible for directly increasing integrin $\alpha 6$ transcription, and $\alpha 6 \beta 1$ binding to laminin confers resistance to death induced by PI3K inhibitors. We are currently investigating whether combined therapeutic targeting of PI3K and integrin $\alpha 6 \beta 1$ will be more effective at inducing prostate cancer cell death. In addition, our lab is the first to develop a cell culture model in which basal cells can be differentiated into secretory epithelial cells naturally expressing endogenous AR. Using this model we are determining how AR expression is turned on and integrin expression turned off in differentiating cells, and how oncogenic conversion leads to the co-expression of integrin $\alpha 6 \beta 1$ and AR. We are also investigating how loss of the metastasis suppressor, CD82/KAI1 (an $\alpha 6 \beta 1$ -interacting protein), facilitates the development of metastatic prostate cancer. Through these approaches, which are carefully designed to mimic what we know about prostate cancers in patients, we will gain a better understanding of how the extracellular environment influences prostate cancer development and progression.

Aria F. Olumi, M.D.

BIOSKETCH: As a urologic surgeon and physician scientist, I have been committed to basic urologic research since my training and education as a medical student. I have strived to combine my training as a urologic surgeon and scientist to bridge the gap between clinical medicine and basic research. My earliest research experience with Dr. Peter Jones at USC School of Medicine focused on mechanisms of loss of heterozygosity in bladder cancer and methylation of the tumor suppressor, p53 (1989-90). Later, as a resident in training at Harvard Program in Urology (Longwood Area), I was accepted to the Molecular Medicine Training Program at UCSF (1995-1998). During this three-year intensive program, I enrolled in graduate program courses, rotated through different research labs in order to broaden my basic science exposure. At UCSF, under the tutelage of Drs. Thea Tlisy and Gerald Cunha, I investigated mechanisms of genomic instability and stromal-epithelial interactions in prostate cancer progression. Currently, I serve as the Director of Urology Research at Massachusetts General Hospital at the rank of Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School.



RESEARCH INTERESTS: Since graduating from the Harvard Program in Urology (2000), my research efforts have focused on mechanisms of drug resistance to pro-apoptotic therapies for benign and malignant diseases. More recently, my lab is investigating the role of inflammatory / apoptotic mediators in diabetic bladder dysfunction.

VISION STATEMENT: As always, I continue to be an active SBUR member, and look forward to contributing to the society's advancement.