
GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Susan Kasper, PhD



I extend warm greetings to all fellow SBUR members on this frosty Cincinnati morning. This has been an unusual and somber year, given that the pandemic has impacted nearly every aspect of our lives. Despite this, we have much to be thankful for, including the amazing dedication of health care workers at all levels and the successful discovery of not one, but several, vaccines that give us hope that this year might return back to “normal” by autumn.

The SBUR has weathered several challenges, including holding our first virtual SBUR/SUO 2020 Joint Meeting on May 16, 2020. Given the pandemic and travel restrictions, we were able to turn the “in person” meeting being held in Washington DC into a virtual format within 6 weeks, with the outstanding assistance of Affinity Strategies, including Elizabeth Schumacher, Regina Legoo, Shelley Warnock and Nick Bacon who helped make this transition seamless. The morning session entitled, “Molecular Diagnostics in Managing Urologic Cancers”, and the afternoon breakout session entitled, “Cellular Targets in Urologic Malignancies”, were considered a great success, based on the exciting presentations by leaders in their field and the feedback of SBUR, SUO and non-SBUR/SUO members who attended the meeting. The Donald S. Coffey lecture on “Synthetic Biomarkers for Noninvasive Monitoring of Disease” was presented by Gabe A. Kwong, PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory School of Medicine. His ground-breaking work includes the development of nanosensors that can be used for cancer detection and noninvasively monitoring benign diseases and cancer regression/progression without the need for invasive core biopsies.

We also held the first virtual 2020 SBUR Annual Meeting, entitled “Cellular Interactions and Identities in Urologic Biology”, under the leadership of Scott Dehm, PhD and his outstanding committee. This meeting was an even greater success and we thank all the speakers and attendees for making this possible. Please note that the SBUR/SUO 2021 Joint Meeting will be held on September 11,

2021. Haojie Huang, PhD and his committee have organized an outstanding program, focusing on “Novel Strategies for Urologic Disease Diagnosis and Treatment” for the morning session and “Technology Advances toward Personalized Medicine” for the afternoon SBUR breakout Session. In other upcoming news, please mark your calendars for the SBUR 2021 Annual Meeting which will be held on November 3-7th, 2021 in Orlando, FL.

The SBUR awards presentations are usually highlights at our SBUR meetings. This year, we truly missed the excitement and collegial enthusiasm of these events where members can congratulate the recipients in person. We applaud all the recipients of SBUR awards and honors, including Massimo Loda, M.D. (New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center) who received the 2020 SBUR Meritorious Achievement Award, and Aria F. Olumi, M.D. (Beth Israel Deaconess), the recipient of the 2020 SBUR Distinguished Service Award. Thank you for your outstanding contributions to urologic research! Of particulate note is that Carolyn J.M. Best, PhD received the prestigious SWIU/SBUR Award for Excellence in Urologic Research. We thank Carolyn for her strong advocacy for urologic research, for her outstanding leadership of the AUA Office of Research and in particular, for her tireless efforts in supporting the SBUR and presenting new funding opportunities in urologic research. We also take this opportunity to thank the multiple SBUR members who actively serve as SBUR representatives on the AUA Research Council and other AUA committees.

As I promised at the beginning of my presidency, we would like to increase SBUR coverage in all urologic disciplines, including normal development and benign and malignant disease. Therefore, as we move forwards in completing the repopulation of SBUR committees, I personally wish to thank everyone who has already volunteered to serve on SBUR committees. A few volunteers are still needed and therefore, I extend an invitation to all SBUR members, including those from the under-represented urologic disciplines, to consider serving on an SBUR committee. Furthermore, we also encourage all SBUR members to invite fellow collaborators and colleagues in urologic research, including those who study diseases of the male and female urinary-tract system (kidneys, adrenal glands, bladder, urethra, etc.) and male

reproductive organs (prostate, testes, epididymis, vas deferens, etc.) to join SBUR and broaden our research in these areas. In addition, we hope to update the SBUR website, and the Executive Committee and Affinity Strategies will be working towards this goal in the coming months. SBUR has also partnered with the American Journal and Clinical and experimental Research (AJCEU) which is now our official journal. Therefore SBUR encourages all members to submit their work to AJCEU and thus broaden the visibility of their work amongst their peers.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the current members of the Executive Committee who work together to run the affairs of the SBUR: Vice-President Haojie Huang, PhD (Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science), Past-President Rosalyn Adam, PhD (Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School), Secretary Travis Jerde, PhD (Indiana

University School of Medicine), Treasurer Benyi Li, M.D., PhD (University of Kansas Medical Center), At-Large Directors Amina Zoubeidi, Ph.D (University of British Columbia), Leigh Ellis, PhD (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center), Douglas Strand, PhD (UT Southwestern Medical Center), Emeritus member Timothy Ratliff (Purdue University). You are an awesome committee to work with! Finally, a heart-felt thanks to all members of the Affinity Strategy management team who run our day-to-day activities and keep us functioning, including Elizabeth Schumacher, CEO and Shelley Warnock, Senior Association Manager, Sarah White, VP of Financial Operations, Amy Thomasson, VP of Membership and Marketing, Charlotte Grill, VP of Strategy and Policy, and Daniel Hawley, Director, Digital and Creative.

As we plan the upcoming SBUR 2021 meetings, we hope and look forward to seeing you in person there!

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Haojie Huang, PhD



The SBUR has successfully hosted two meetings virtually for 2020. I bet our society is so ready for in-person meetings in 2021! As the Vice President and Program Chair, I would like to welcome you to join the “Spring” meeting on September 11, 2021, which will be held in conjunction with AUA 2021- American Urological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, Fri, Sep 10, 2021 – Mon, Sep 13, 2021.

Thanks to the guidance of the AUA Office of Research led by Dr. Carolyn Best and tremendous amount of effort of the Program Committee – Drs. Rosalyn Adam, Daniel Frigo, Hansen He and Josep Domingo-Domenech, an exciting scientific program has been putting together. A special thank also goes to our valued colleagues from the Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO), particularly SUO Program Chair and President-Elect Dr. Jeffrey Holzbeierlein, for their invaluable contributions to the SBUR/SUO Joint Morning Program.

The theme of this year's conference is “From Hype to Reality: Where Technology Meets Biology to Advance Personalized Medicine”. We will have the Don Coffey Keynote Lecture and SBUR/SUO Joint Session in the morning and the SBUR Breakout Session in the afternoon. We are honored to welcome the Don Coffey Lecturer Dr. Regina Barzilay from MIT to deliver a speech on Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI) – the application of machine learning in the contexts of human diseases such as cancer.

The SBUR/SUO Joint Session will be co-Chaired by me and Dr. Holzbeierlein from SUO. The topic of the joint session is “Novel

Strategies for Urologic Disease Diagnosis and Treatment”. We are very pleased that Dr. Joseph Liao from Stanford, Dr. Eliezer Van Allen from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and a to-be-named speaker will lecture on robotics with AI and deep learning related research on bladder, kidney and prostate cancer. Dr. Wenyi Wei from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center at Harvard Medical School and to-be-named speakers will focus on the technology and application of proteolysis targeting chimeric (PROTAC) including light-inducible and AR-targeting PROTACs.

The main topic of the SBUR Breakout Sessions is “Technology Advances toward Personalized Medicine” with three focused areas. Drs. Christopher Barbieri (Weill Cornell Medicine), Jindan Yu (Northwestern University) and a to-be-named speaker will present works on “Single Cell Genomics and Transcriptomics”. Drs. David Quigley (UCSF) and Changmeng Cai (UMASS at Boston) will speak on “Methylomics and Epigenetics”. Drs. Paul Boutros (UCLA) and Laura Lamb (Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine) will share their exciting findings in the area of “Proteomic Determination of Disease State”. Drs. Haydn Kissick (Emory University) and Travis Jerde (Indiana University School of Medicine) will lecture on research related to “Inflammation and Immunological Microenvironment”.

On behalf of the Program Committee, I would like to express our sincerest gratitude to this year's outstanding faculty members for their support and participation at the 2021 “Spring” meeting. We hope you, the SBUR members and trainees in your laboratories will find the topics of this meeting interesting and we are looking forward to seeing you in person in the conference or streaming online!

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Benyi Li, M.D., PhD



Dear SBUR Members,

It is my great pleasure and privilege to serve as the **TREASURER** of our Society for the next two years (2021-2022). I am very grateful for our former **TREASURER** Dr Shawn Lupold for his wonderful leadership and hard work in managing our finance. As the end of 2020, despite the worst uncertainty due to the pandemic, we have a net asset/equity of \$633K in our bank accounts, including checking \$83K, saving \$15K and endowment \$535K.

Also, a great congratulation to our new President Dr. Susan Kasper who will lead us to a new height both in scientific achievement and in financial security. I would love to express my sincere thanks and congratulation to Dr. Scott Dehm, the organizer of our 2020 Fall Symposium. Dr. Dehm successfully secured the \$10K-grant money from NIDDK so that we had a well-balanced financial situation in 2020. As always, I strongly encourage all members, especially the committee members for the Spring and Fall meeting organizing to reach out for industrial fund raising, big or small, to support our scientific activities. Only with a strong financial situation, we can

expand our activities, such as more special conferences during the year and more sessions during fall symposium.

I am also very happy to work with our new Vice-President Dr. Haojie Huang and new Director-in-large members (Dr. Amina Zoubeydi and Dr. Doug Strand) to manage our financial issues. Any suggestions will be lovely welcome from our members in terms of fund raising and expenses.

In 2021, we will have a so-called Spring Symposium (actual date in September this year due to AUA annual meeting schedule change) in Las Vegas, Nevada. I welcome our members who have a strong tight with Urologists to attend this yearly event, the biggest Urology Conference in the world. Most excitingly, we will have our Fall Symposium in person in Orlando, Florida this year! I believe that we are going to have a crazily wonderful meeting since our organizing committee chair Dr. Jindan Yu is putting an outstanding program for us.

Finally, the pandemic is not over yet until late summer this year, I think. Getting your vaccine done is encouraged and keeping social distance is the basic. Stay safe till our Fall Symposium!

SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Travis Jerde, PhD



Hello, fellow SBUR members! I hope your new year is coming along well, and you and your labs are discovering great new insights to our fundamental questions in urological research. 2020 certainly was a challenge, and we're not out of the woods yet, but we all look forward to opening back up more fully later this year. I look forward to seeing all your faces in person in Orlando this November. ZOOM, TEAMS, etc, have been very helpful

as we all attempt to establish and enhance our collaborations, but nothing will ever beat face-to-face meetings.

As I enter my last year as Secretary of SBUR, I wanted to highlight a few initiatives that we'll be working on this year, and I ask for your help and involvement. SBUR is dependent upon volunteer involvement from our members in all our initiatives. If any of the committees' work catches your eye as something you'd like to be a part of, I encourage you to shoot us an email and let us know.

I look forward to continued work with Dr. Magda Grabowska (Chair - SBUR Advocacy Committee) in working to promote our research in the public and governmental spheres. This committee

provides 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. Our primary missions include research funding of course, but also advocacy for science education, health care, and public awareness for urologically-based health issues. Advocacy involves the important tasks of talking to legislators, but it also involves reaching out to local media, working across scientific disciplines like the American Physiological Association and the Prostate Cancer Foundation, and working with patient advocacy groups. If working to secure the future of urological research and working on behalf of the utility of our important findings suits your interest, I encourage you to reach out to Dr. Grabowska or myself and be a part of it. This work is still just beginning at SBUR, so your involvement is critical.

Membership at SBUR continues to expand and diversify, and I thank all of you for signing up your lab members and colleagues to be a part of us. We all owe a tremendous heartfelt thank you to outgoing chairperson Dr. Anna Malykhina for chairing our Membership Committee for the past 3 years. Our numbers are up, but equally-importantly, our diversity in terms of ethnicity and gender is the highest it has been, and we have a more distributed membership across research disciplines within urological research.

As I look across the membership rolls, I can see strong expertise representation in both benign and malignant urology, and in all organs within our system. I know this was a concerted effort by Dr. Malykhina and her committee, and that effort has paid off. The balance and cross-fertilizations of ideas from across all these disciplines is the foundation of new ideas in urological research, and the diversity of our organization is a great strength in this regard.

Finally, I will be coordinating efforts globally this year. A missed opportunity in recent years has been the lack of coordination of urological researchers across the continents. Dr. Allen Gao opened the doors to Asia in 2018 with his great coordination with the Chinese Urological Doctor Association (CUDA), and I know this effort has already generated new collaborations and cross-Pacific

partnerships. Dr. Zoran Culig and I are now working on doing the same across the Atlantic with more formal coordination with the European Association of Urology- Society of Urological Research (ESUR), and we are looking for collaborations in South America as well. Again, I encourage anyone interested in working on this effort to contact me. tjjerde@iu.edu

Thank you all for your great contributions to Urological Research over the years, and your continued support for our society. You are making a great difference in expanding and enhancing our research experiences. See you all in Orlando—it's going to be a GREAT meeting!

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Affinity Strategies

Ever wonder who manages SBUR's daily needs? Affinity Strategies is our professional management partner, supporting administration, events, financial management and other strategic needs. Our team includes our Senior Association Manager, Shelley Warnock, who oversees all of SBUR's needs. In addition to Shelley, we are supported by Elizabeth Schumacher, CEO of Affinity Strategies, Sarah White, VP of Financial Operations, Amy Thomasson, VP of Membership and Marketing, Charlotte Grill, VP of Strategy and Policy and Daniel Hawley, Director, Digital and Creative.

Each team member plays an essential role in SBUR's overall management. We work with SBUR's Executive Committee, to ensure all services meet their visions and desires for SBUR. Together, we put the SBUR vision into reality. Our collective goal is to support and accomplish SBUR's mission: To advance and promote the knowledge of basic scientific research in the field of urology by fostering interdisciplinary communication across a broad array of researchers and urologic topics.

At Affinity, our mission is to listen to our clients' needs and wishes and serve as their partner in offering exciting solutions and opportunities. To collaborate and offer fresh, smart and functional contributions. To build a shared affinity with each client's values, mission, vision and roadmap. To implement a partnership that touches every facet of the organization. For more information on the Affinity Strategies team - please check out our website and our blog which features articles from our team!

[Affinity Strategies website](#)

[Affinity Strategies blog](#)

If you have any questions or suggestions for the society, please contact Shelley Warnock, SBUR Senior Association Manager at shelley@affinity-strategies.com. We look forward to a successful 2021!



Shelley Warnock
Senior Association
Manager



Elizabeth
Schumacher
CEO



Sarah White
VP of Financial
Operations



Amy Thomasson
VP of Membership
and Marketing



Charlotte Grill
VP of Strategy
and Policy



Daniel Hawley
Director, Digital and
Creative

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL UROLOGY (AJCEU)

Hari K. Koul, PhD, Chair of the AJCEU Scientific Advisory Committee



American Journal and Clinical and experimental Research (AJCEU) is the official journal of the SBUR. The Editorial Board including Associate Editors and the Chief Editors [[American Journal of Clinical and Experimental Urology-Open access urological journal \(ajceu.us\)](#)] of the journal are among the distinguished members of the

SBUR. Our partnership with the AJCEU is beneficial to SBUR and the SBUR membership in four main ways: 1) SBUR members get to publish their exceptional work in our own journal peer-reviewed by distinguished members of the Society; 2) AJCEU offers 25% discount on the publishing charges to the

SBUR members: 3) AJCEU publishes abstracts from our annual SBUR meetings as well as meeting reports free of charge, and; 4) AJCEU returns 50% of all the proceeds to SBUR that helps our society. During the year 2020 AJCEU published 22 papers. We need minimum 40 articles published for three consecutive years to make into SCIE from the current ESCI.

As chair of SBUR publications committee, I invite you to submit your work to the journal and help nurture this journal and get more visibility to your work among your peers. This is our journal let us do our part to make it the best cited journal for Urologic Research !!

Respectfully submitted by [Dr. Hari K Koul, M.Sc., PhD, FACN, FASN - LSUHSC School of Medicine](#)

2020 MEETING REPORTS

Scott Dehm, PhD

SBUR Annual Meeting Highlights: “Cellular Interactions and Identities in Urologic Biology”

I enjoyed “seeing” all the SBUR friends and colleagues in attendance at the 2020 SBUR Annual Meeting, which was held in a completely digital/online format November 11-14. Programming on November 11 consisted of the Trainee Affairs Symposium organized by Drs. Arun Sreekumar and Daniel Frigo, as well as short oral presentations by winners of Virtual Travel Awards. Programming on November 12 kicked off with the Leland W.K. Chung Lectureship, which was delivered by Dr. Hans Clevers from the Utrecht Institute, Netherlands. Dr. Clevers described the latest advances in organoid technologies for understanding basic biology and pathology of organ systems throughout the body, including genitourinary organs such as kidney, bladder, and prostate. Programming on November 12-14 consisted of 6 Plenary Sessions that covered the latest scientific advances in basic and translational urologic research, as well as a memorable AUA Lecture delivered by Dr. Linda Baker from UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. We also selected 7 trainees who received Virtual Travel Awards to give oral presentations during these Plenary Sessions. Digital posters were presented for all submitted abstracts, and were available for viewing throughout the meeting. A special thank you goes to Dr. Carolyn Best, Director of Research at the AUA, for

providing an update on the funding, education, and advocacy activities of the AUA.

When I agreed to serve as Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, I would have never predicted that we would need to make provisions for a global pandemic and pivot from an in-person gathering in San Antonio to a completely online meeting! Foremost, I need to thank the members of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee for their focused efforts pre-pandemic to develop an outstanding scientific program, and their flexibility and creativity mid-pandemic to help reconfigure the program to accommodate a digital meeting format. Members of the committee were Drs. Larisa Nonn, Shawn Lupold, Jindan Yu, Zongbing You, Allen Gao, Rosalyn Adam, Thomas Griffith, Beatrice Knudsen, LaMonica Stewart, Chad Vezina, Arun Sreekumar, and Daniel Frigo. Throughout, this group was committed to ensuring that the meeting presented the latest and best research in benign and malignant urologic biology and pathology, and that the digital format provided opportunities for the highly interactive discussions that have always distinguished the SBUR Annual Meeting. On behalf of the committee, I also want to thank Shelley Warnock and Regina Legoo from Affinity Strategies, the SBUR management company, for their calm and clear leadership in helping our committee navigate the logistics of planning and delivering a digital/online meeting.

Finally, I thank all the invited presenters and discussion leaders who agreed in early 2020 to share their work during the Annual Meeting,

and who re-affirmed their commitment to the Annual Meeting when we pivoted from an in-person format to a digital/online format. It required a lot of extra work for the speakers to pre-record their presentations and upload the content weeks before the meeting. It also required a lot of focus by the discussion leaders to navigate multiple chat and Q&A threads to identify the questions that would be discussed after each presentation. Because of your efforts, the 2020 SBUR Annual Meeting was a tremendous success!

Trainee Affairs Symposium Highlights

Arun Sreekumar, PhD.

The SBUR 2020 Trainee Symposium was held online on November 11, 2020 between 2-4 pm EST. The symposium was chaired by Drs. Arun Sreekumar (Baylor College of Medicine) and Daniel Frigo (MD Anderson Cancer Center). Seven panelists spanning a range of academic and non-academic occupations participated in the symposia sharing their expertise and wisdom with the trainees. A total of 51 trainees from 24 academic centers in the US took part in the event. The panelists included Drs. Gopi Shankar (Interim Head of Neuroscience Disease Division at Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research), Steven Kregel (Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Michigan—recently obtained tenure-track Assistant Professor position at the University of Illinois-Chicago), Ciara Metcalfe (Senior Scientist, Department of Discovery Oncology at Genentech), Leigh Ellis (Associate Professor and Co-Leader Genitourinary Research Group, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center), Vinata Lokeshwar (Chair, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Medical College of Georgia,

Augusta University), Andrea Shrek (Patent Agent, Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP), and Nikki Delk (Associate Professor in Biological Sciences, University of Texas at Dallas).

During the two hour session, a number of questions pertaining to careers in Academia and Industry were addressed. These included a comparison of careers in Academia vs Industry, required skill sets and expertise for each of these career paths, potential to switch between these two career tracks, pre-requisites for tenure track positions in academia, challenges associated with starting an independent research group, insights into funding opportunities and how to apply for the first major grant, challenges in obtaining tenure in academia, comparing scientist positions in established companies vs start-ups, insights into the field of patent law and associated challenges, importance of mentorship, and information on training required to start one's own company. Overall, the symposium was well received by the trainees who sent very positive comments. At the end of the two hour session, on behalf of the SBUR 2020 organizing committee, both Drs. Sreekumar and Frigo thanked the panelists for their insights and the trainees for their participation.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Meritorious Achievement Award

Massimo Loda, M.D.



Dr. Loda is a physician-scientist who has made seminal contributions in metabolomics of GU cancers and his groundbreaking work has increased our understanding of the role of lipids in prostate cancer progression and therapeutic resistance. Dr Loda and his team at Harvard and now at Weil Cornell have been at the forefront in the invention and application of novel molecular pathology techniques to study human cancer. His research focused on metabolic alterations in prostate tumorigenesis, with a specific interest in lipid metabolism and its regulation, utilizes a multidisciplinary collaborations using genetically engineered murine models and human clinical tumor specimens.

Distinguished Service Award

Aria F. Olumi, M.D.



As a leading urologic surgeon-scientist and Chair of the AUA Research Council, Dr. Olumi has made seminal contributions to the organization of the SBUR, consistent with the vision of the Society. He has been supporting the recognition of the new generation of physician scientists in Urology, participating in the SBUR's meetings consistently and representing urologic research to the board of Directors of the AUA with determination and focus on advancing science in our field.

SWIU/SBUR Award

Carolyn J.M. Best, PhD



The SWIU/SBUR Award is awarded by the Society of Women in Urology and the SBUR to women scientists who have a distinguished track record of urological research.

The 2020 recipient was Dr. Carolyn Best who has strongly supported urologic research for over 25 years.

Dr. Best was a researcher at NCI focused on prostate cancer pathogenesis and Program Manager of the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP) of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). In 2014, Dr. Best joined the American Urological Association (AUA) as Director of the AUA Office of Research where she continues to support urologic research through the management of all programs, events and resources of the Office of Research. She is also an untiring advocate in fostering collaborative working relationships with AUA sections and subspecialty societies such as the SBUR, patient advocacy groups, and federal and non-federal funding agencies.

Ula and Donald S. Coffey Innovative Research Award

Patrick Brooks, M.D.

Missouri State University



In honor of Dr. Coffey and to celebrate his passion for science, the Eula and Donald S. Coffey Innovative Research Award is presented to the top rated innovative abstract at the SBUR annual meeting for the purpose of encouraging researchers to share their "out of the box" ideas at the meeting.

The 2020 recipient of this award was Patrick Brooks, M.D. for using smartphone thermal imaging to detect testicular ischemia. A potential outcome of this innovative technology would be a rapid, non-invasive point-of-care diagnostic test for testicular ischemia.

Young Investigator Awards

The SBUR Young Investigator Awards are given to SBUR members who are early-career investigators and have made significant contributions to urologic research.

John K. Lee, M.D, PhD,

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.



Dr. Lee is a physician scientist whose primary research interests include prostate and bladder cancer. He is currently investigating the role of carcinoembryonic antigen related cell adhesion molecule 5 (CEACAM5) in neuroendocrine prostate cancer (NEPC). Dr. Lee has established an innovative experimental approach of using primary mouse urothelial organoid cultures generate multiple bladder cancers with frequently mixed histologies that represent a number of urothelial carcinoma and non-urothelial variants. Therefore, they are being used to investigate the functional contributions of genetic alterations to bladder cancer initiation and progression and for identifying potential therapeutic vulnerabilities.

Omar Y. Mian, M.D, PhD,

Cleveland Clinic



Dr. Mian is a physician scientist who studies the genetic, epigenetic, and metabolic biology of neuroendocrine prostate and bladder cancer. His research interests include mechanisms that drive lethal neuroendocrine differentiation in small cell carcinoma of the bladder. In addition, he and his lab investigate the influence of intra-tumoral steroid hormone biosynthesis on the DNA damage response and sensitivity to radiotherapy in advanced prostate cancer.

Tanya Stoyanova, PhD,

Stanford Medicine



Dr. Stoyanova is a researcher whose work focuses on understanding fundamental molecular mechanisms that promote prostate cancer development and their utility as biomarkers and therapeutic targets. She and her lab identified Trop2 as a new driver of NEPC, and demonstrated that Trop2 overexpression increased tumor growth, metastasis to bone and liver, and PARP1 expression levels. Furthermore, inhibition of PARP1 reversed these processes, suggesting that PARP1 inhibitors may represent a promising therapeutic strategy for metastatic prostate cancer expressing high levels of Trop2.

Virtual Travel Awards

Diya Binoy Joseph
UT Southwestern Medical Center

Tianfang Ma
Tulane University

Shu Ning
University of California Davis

Alan Lombard
University of California, Davis

Steve Kregel
University of Michigan

Jason Garcia
University of Illinois Chicago

Ralph White III
University of Minnesota

Jaimie Gray
The Ohio State University

En-Chi Hsu
Stanford University

Sajad A Wani
The Ohio State University

Katherine Morel
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Harvard University

Sridhar Narla
University of Pittsburgh

Shekha Tahsin
Phd Student

Anne E Turco
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Merve Aslan
Stanford Medical School

Qiou Wei
University of Kentucky

Morgan Zenner
University of Illinois at Chicago

Wei Chen
University of Pittsburgh

Renee E. Vickman
NorthShore University HealthSystem

Sanghee Lee
University of California San Diego

Asmaa El-Kenawi
Research Scientist I /Assistant Professor

FROM THE AUA OFFICE OF RESEARCH

Carolyn Best, PhD, Director



It's my great pleasure to share news from the AUA Office of Research and our latest efforts to increase support for urology researchers. Our mission focuses on research funding, education, and advocacy programs to support and advance your research, with the goal of engaging every member of the urologic research community,

especially those early in their research careers.

All of our programs are guided by the AUA Research Council and the three AUA Research Committees (Research Grants & Investigator Support; Research Education, Conferences, and Communications; and Research Advocacy). We are grateful for the SBUR members that give their time and expertise in serving on these advisory groups. In addition to providing guidance for our programs, our advisors are also helping to develop our latest AUA Research Strategic Plan, which, among several goals, will emphasize increasing diversity in our research programs and translation of research discoveries to patient care.

I'd like to share a few highlights across our research support programs that may be of particular interest to SBUR members:

- **Research Grants and Investigator Support:** The AUA offers, through our Urology Care Foundation, five different programs that provide research funding. While only the Research Scholar Award is available to PhD-trained scientists, this award program, which celebrated its 45th anniversary in 2020, provides about \$1.5 million in funding each year to clinical and postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty. In addition, our Urology Scientific Mentoring and Research Training (USMART) Academy, which facilitates external mentoring for investigators transitioning to independence, will be expanding in the near future to accommodate more mentees.
- **Research Symposia, Workshops, and Courses:** In addition to our AUA Annual Meeting scientific symposia that were discussed in a separate article, we host symposia throughout the year on topics such as bladder cancer and kidney stones, and engagement with the full spectrum of researchers - from basic through clinical - is so important. Please join us! We also offer two excellent research

education workshops. We held our 8th annual Early Career Investigators Workshop in October, which brought 42 early-career investigators together (virtually!) with well-funded faculty for one-on-one mentoring and guidance for successful grant applications and career development. Past participants of this workshop have garnered over \$9 million in funding! I hope you can join us for the next event in October 2021. Our newest workshop is Methods in Clinical Urology Research (MCURe), occurring in July 2021, and both MD and PhD scientists interested in clinical research in addition to their basic science interests are welcome!

- Research Advocacy: The AUA is constantly working to increase funding for urologic research through NIH institutes, the DoD, the VA, and other funding organizations. For example, we regularly meet with officials from the NCI, NIDDK, NICHD, NIA, and NINDS to increase awareness of areas of research

critically in need of increased support. We also partner with SBUR in our Annual Urology Advocacy Summit, which is scheduled for July 2021. If you are interested in engaging in research advocacy, please let the SBUR and AUA know of your interest!

For more information on opportunities for research funding, education, and advocacy through both the AUA and other organizations, you can subscribe to our e-newsletters EUREKA! and AUA Investigator, both of which are focused exclusively on supporting urology researchers.

You can subscribe for free at <https://www.auanet.org/research/research-publications/aua-research-publications> ! Wherever you are in your urology research career, our goal is to help you, and we do this in close partnership with SBUR. Please consider joining the AUA in the Research Scientist, fellow, or student category to best engage with our research programs, and I hope to see you in vibrant Las Vegas at the 2021 AUA Annual Meeting!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUA2021 EVENTS, AUA OFFICE OF RESEARCH

The AUA Office of Research is excited to deliver another round of cutting-edge research programming for the 2021 AUA Annual Meeting. This year's meeting features an extended program with virtual educational content offered from May through August, followed by the live meeting at the Sands Expo Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada on September 10-13, 2021. Before diving into this year's symposia, it's worth noting that content from the 2020 AUA Research Weekend is still available online. With the cancellation of the 2020 AUA Annual Meeting, the AUA Office of Research moved much of its annual scientific content to AUA *University* as part of the AUA's Virtual Experience this past summer. Recorded presentations are available from the Urologic Oncology Symposium: "Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors: Impact of Macro and Microenvironment on Efficacy;" the Basic Sciences Symposium: "Novel Technologies for Benign Urology Research;" the Challenges for Urologic Research Symposium: "Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning;" and the Early-Career Investigators Showcase, the only program dedicated entirely to the work of young researchers and physician scientists. Congratulations to Ping Mu, PhD from UT Southwestern for being nominated for the Showcase by the SBUR!

For the 2021 AUA Annual Meeting, the Office of Research is launching a new session titled "Early-Career Scientists Exchange: Paving Your Path to NIH Funding" as part of the May Kick-off Weekend on May 21-23, 2021. This virtual event will provide in-depth engagement with program officers across the spectrum of urology-relevant NIH Institutes. The remaining scientific symposia will be held at the live meeting in September and include the Basic Sciences Symposium: "Microbes and Inflammation in Urology;" the Urologic Oncology Research Symposium: "Personalizing Cancer Management: Are we improving with Genomics;" Challenges for Urologic Research Symposium: "Tracking Outcomes for Gender-affirming Surgery in Transgender/Non-binary Patients;" and the Early-Career Investigators Showcase.

Thanks to SBUR President, Dr. Susan Kasper, and other SBUR members serving on the AUA Research Council and the Research Education, Communications, and Conferences Committee for their assistance in developing the 2021 programs. We would also like to thank the SBUR members who served as program planning chairs for the most recent Basic Science Symposia—Drs. Margot



UPCOMING EVENTS

SBUR at the AUA2021

SBUR is excited to be a part of the AUA2021 on September 11th, 2021 in Las Vegas, Nevada! The morning session will be held jointly with the Society of Urologic Oncology, Inc. (SUO) and the SBUR session will be held after lunch.

AUA Early-Career Investigators Showcase at the AUA

The Early-Career Investigators Showcase will take place at the 2021 AUA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV on Sunday, September 12, 2021 from 1-3 pm at the Sands Expo and Convention Center. This event is solely dedicated to the work of early-career investigators and showcases their innovative and potentially impactful basic, translational, and clinical research. Therefore, please consider attending this exciting event.

SBUR 2021 Annual Meeting

November 3-7th, 2021 in Orlando, FL

The SBUR 2021 Annual Meeting will be held on November 3rd-7th at the J.W. Marriott Grande Lakes Hotel in Orlando, FL. Dr. Jindan Yu is assembling an extraordinary scientific program for this year's meeting! Please stay tuned for more information!