

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shawn Lupold, PhD



In the spirit of spring renewal, I extend my warmest greetings to our SBUR family. There has been much activity within our Society since the Winter Newsletter, and I am excited to provide you with this update. As we reflect on SBUR's accomplishments and offerings this year, I also hope to inspire

some of you to become more involved in our vibrant community. Our new Executive Committee has wasted no time in building on the momentum of last year, which culminated in the spectacular 2023 Annual (Fall) Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Past President Will Ricke, outgoing Executive Committee members Haojie Huang, Jim Brooks, and Benyi Li, Fall Meeting Chair Li Xin, and the Fall Committee members for their exemplary leadership and dedicated service to the Society.

It was wonderful to see so many fellow SBUR members at the Spring SBUR sessions at the 2024 AUA Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, this month. The morning and afternoon sessions were fantastic and covered a breadth of hot topics in both benign and malignant urology research. If you were unable to join us, the joint SBUR/SUO session, Advances in Novel Therapeutics for Urologic Cancers, was chaired by SBUR Vice President Christina Jamieson (UC San Diego) and SUO President Adam Kibel (Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana-Farber Brigham Cancer Center), and featured 5 plenary talks on prostate, bladder, and kidney cancer. The session finished with the SBUR sponsored Donald S. Coffey Lectureship, Combating Treatment Resistance in Prostate Cancer, by Dr. Himisha Beltran (Dana Farber Cancer Institute). Please join us in congratulating Himisha on the presentation of this prestigious lectureship. The two afternoon Breakout Sessions were chaired by Praveen Thumbikat (Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine) and Jelani Zarif (Johns Hopkins School of Medicine) and featured presentations on pain and inflammation in urologic disease and immune mechanisms in urologic cancers. The SBUR

in conjunction with the Society of Women in Urology (SWIU) posthumously bestowed the SWIU/SBUR Award for Excellence in Urologic Research to Dr. Nora Navone (MD Anderson Cancer Center) in memoriam for her outstanding work elucidating the biology of prostate cancer bone metastases. Dr. Estefania Labanca accepted the award on Dr. Navone's behalf at the SWIU session. We thank Travis Jerde (Indiana University) and the SBUR Awards Committee for their work on selecting this year's nominees. We are fortunate to have these great partnerships with the AUA, SUO, and SWIU and we look forward to collaborating on next year's spring programs.

I'm excited to provide some new updates on our partnership with the American Journal of Clinical and Experimental Urology (AJCEU - ISSN: 2330-1910), the Official Journal of the SBUR. We recently renewed and updated our contract with the AJCEU. This partnership offers a number of benefits to SBUR members, including a 25% discount on publication fees and opportunities to participate on the SBUR Publications Committee and AJCEU Editorial Board. Please take advantage of these discounts and submit your article for peer review this year. The AJCEU also publishes the SBUR Annual (Fall) Meeting Abstracts each year, making them available on-line for reference at the Fall Meeting. This saves the Society from costs associated with abstract book printing or on-line access through third-party vendors or apps. Notably, this new agreement will now provide the SBUR with a portion of the AJCEU annual revenue. This new funding resource will help us keep membership fees and meeting registration costs on the lower end, despite the rising costs of society management and Fall Meeting operations. For more, please see Dr. Zongbing You's, SBUR Treasurer update.

There is much to look forward to for the SBUR in the coming year. The 2024 Annual Meeting will take place on November 14th-17th in Scottsdale, Arizona, at the beautiful Scottsdale Plaza Hotel. You may remember we held the 2016 meeting at this same venue. It was so nice, we had to return. Dave DeGraff (Penn State Cancer Institute) and Douglas Strand (UT Southwestern)

*(continued)*

are working together on this year's Fall program: Urologic Disease & Research: Advances in Molecular Biology, Health Disparities And Treatment Approaches. Dan Theodorescu (Cedars-Sinai) will give the prestigious Leland W.K. Chung Lecture, and James Mohler (Roswell Park Cancer Center) will give the esteemed AUA Lecture. Antonina Mitrofanova (Rutgers) and Aisha Shafi (Uniformed Services University) will lead the popular Trainee Affairs Symposium. Please look for abstract and registration announcements and deadlines soon. Other important updates: Please consider nominating members for several upcoming SBUR Awards, including the SBUR Minority Scholar Award and the SBUR Young Investigator Awards. Look for e-mail announcements and get your nominations together and submitted, if you haven't already, by contacting the SBUR ([info@sbur.org](mailto:info@sbur.org)) or Awards Committee Chair Travis Jerde. Finally, I would like to end with some thoughts on my strategic objectives for the society. The first, and most important, is a call for volunteers and nominations at the committee and executive levels. The SBUR is truly run by volunteers who have naturally assembled through the years in collaboration, friendship, and common interests to selflessly give their time, efforts, and ideas to our membership. If you have not yet served on a committee, or run for executive office, please reach out to me, our executive committee members, and our committee chairs. Especially if you are from a field of urologic research that has not been as well represented at our meeting and programs. We need your input, involvement, and contacts to grow and diversify our programs, membership, and scientific knowledge. A call for executive nominations will come this summer

(contact Natasha Kyprianou (Mount Sinai, Nominations Committee Chair) for the positions of President Elect, Treasurer Elect, and two Directors at large. This Fall, Vice President Christina Jamieson (UCLA) will begin to form next year's committees. Reach out and nominate a colleague or yourself. I promise that you will not regret getting more involved. It will pay tremendous returns in new contacts, collaborations, friendships, and professional achievements that are often important in academic promotion. My second strategic objective has been to develop a simple and transparent budget that will allow our society to operate efficiently and plan for the future. We are still working towards this goal, and are getting close. You can help strengthen our budget each year by helping our fundraising committee identify sponsors for our Fall Meeting. My third and final strategic objective involves open communication and an efficient transfer of documents and knowledge from our past and present leaders to our future leaders. One part of this initiative was started by past president Gail Prins (University of Illinois, Chicago) in the form of Standard Operating Procedures, or SOPs, for each executive position and standing committee. Like a good protocol for a complicated laboratory experiment, these SOPs are invaluable guides for our new leaders and committee members, and they can be changed and optimized over the years. The more we communicate, mentor, and teach, the greater our society will be. As past president Donald S. Coffey used to say, if you think you have communicated twice as much as you need to, you have only communicated half as much. Thank you all for this opportunity to lead and work for our society.



## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Christina Jamieson, PhD



It is my great honor and pleasure to serve as your SBUR Vice President now after two years as SBUR Secretary. These positions in the SBUR Executive Committee have given me the unique opportunity to work closely with other urology researchers dedicated to the common goal of building our urologic research

community and supporting our research efforts especially through the annual SBUR conference and the Joint SBUR/SUO Spring symposium. Much to the joy and enrichment of all who attended, the Annual 2024 SBUR meeting was back in person in San Antonio, TX from Nov 9th to 12th 2024 and...we were back again in San Antonio for the Spring SBUR/SUO Joint Symposium on May 4th, 2024, during the AUA 2024 Annual Conference!

It was a great experience to organize and Co-Chair the Spring SBUR/SUO Joint symposium with Dr. Adam Kibel, MD, President of the SUO. The theme of this year's Joint Symposium was "Advances in Novel Therapeutics for Urologic Cancers" for which we paired a talk on the basic and pre-clinical, translational research with a talk on its clinical development and use for three of the most common urologic cancers. This format effectively brought to life the intention of the partnership of the SUO and SBUR for this joint symposium. The presenters for kidney cancer were Dr. Abhishek Chakraborty and Dr. Bradley McGregor, on new drugs targeting HIF2alpha; the speakers for bladder cancer were Dr. Arlene Odelia Siefker-Radtke, and Dr. David Solit who presented their work on the new FGFR targeting drugs and the genome, and the speakers for prostate cancer were Dr. Isla Garraway and Dr. Himisha Beltran, this year's 2024 recipient of the 2024 Donald S. Coffey Award, who each presented their research on genomics and the impact of diversity in metastatic and neuroendocrine prostate cancer.

It was a wonderful experience working with Dr. Kibel to make the SUO/SBUR Joint Symposium at the AUA 2024 such a significant event. I greatly appreciated his moderating a spontaneous panel discussion with the speakers on stage. Most special was Dr. Kibel's heartfelt, informative and inspiring tribute to Dr. Don Coffey. It was then my great honor to introduce the recipient of the 2024 Donald S. Coffey Award, Dr. Himisha Beltran, MD, Dana Farber Cancer Institute whose talk entitled

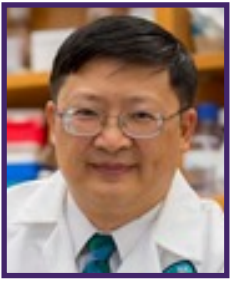
"Combating Treatment Resistance in Prostate Cancer" completed the morning on a truly inspiring, high note. It was one of the best SUO/SBUR Joint symposia in my experience.

The afternoon SBUR Break-out Sessions on Urologic Disease, Pain and Inflammation Chaired by Dr. Praveen Thumbikat and Dr. Jelani Zarif were absolutely outstanding. Dr. Thumbikat chaired the SBUR Break Out Session 1: "Pain and Inflammation in Urologic Disease" featured fascinating talks on benign urologic diseases first from Dr. Jennifer DeBerry on chronic pain in LUTS, then Dr. Nadia Lanman, on scRNASeq to investigate aging and inflammation in BPH, then Dr. David Klumpp on chronic pain in UTI, then Dr. Jennifer Walker on the pathologic microbiome in long-term urinary catheterization. These speakers inspired lively and insightful discussions of the different mechanisms and models for pain and inflammation for these often-debilitating urologic diseases. Dr. Zarif then chaired the SBUR Break out Session 2: "Immune Mechanisms in Urologic Cancers". All three speakers presented their novel work on different immune therapy strategies for urologic cancers. Dr. Nirmish Singla presented his research on "Leveraging the Immune Microenvironment for Precision Oncology in Advanced RCC"; Dr. Jessica Hawley, presented her work and current state of T cell and CAR-T cell therapies for prostate cancer in her talk "Redirecting T cells to Treat Advanced GU Malignancies". The session culminated with Dr. Jelani Zarif's presentation on "Targeting Glutamine in Immune-Suppressive Tumor-Associated Macrophages (TAMs) to overcome Tumor Immunity in mCRPC". These presentations addressed the challenges and the great promise of employing the immune system to battle urologic cancers.

I am deeply grateful to the SUO and the AUA for all their support to make this Joint symposium possible. I also thank the excellent organization and work of Veritas' Marty Roth and Ms. Susan O'Sullivan. My official role as Co-Chair of the Spring Joint SBUR/SUO Symposium is now complete but I will be involved in the planning for the next two years and look forward to working together again with the SBUR and SUO teams. We have a lot to look forward to with the SBUR for our upcoming Annual SBUR 2024 meeting and the work we are doing to support our SBUR members and to identify and work towards implementing key things that could make things better for everyone.

## TREASURER'S UPDATE

Zongbing You, M.D., PhD



Dear SBUR members:

We had our 2023 Annual/Fall meeting in San Antonio, Texas, with 221 registered attendees. We are going to have our 2024 Spring meeting again in San Antonio on May 4th in conjunction with the AUA annual meeting and our 2024 Annual/Fall meeting on November 14th -17th in

Scottsdale, Arizona. You are all welcome and encouraged to attend the two meetings.

Owing to all of you for your loyal membership dues and meeting registration fees, our society has maintained a strong financial stability. As of February 2024, our society had a bank checking account with about \$150K cash as running fund. We had a set of investment assets with a total of about \$555K including the Leland Chung Endowment, Coffey Lectureship, Chung Lectureship, Young Investigator Award fund, and future Coffey Award, which yielded about \$21K interests/dividends in 2023.

We thank Dr. Li Xin, Chair of the 2023 Annual/Fall meeting program, who successfully obtained an NIN R13 grant of \$10K. We especially thank Dr. Peng Lee and

Dr. Peter Nelson (Editors-in-Chief of the American Journal of Clinical and Experimental Urology (AJCEU)), Dr. Leland W. K. Chung for his pivotal advocacy in making AJCEU an official journal of SBUR, Dr. Hari Koul (past President of SBUR) who signed the first contract with AJCEU, Dr. Shawn Lupold (current President of SBUR) who renewed the contract with AJCEU, Dr. Natasha Kyprianou (Chair of SBUR Publication Committee and Chair of AJCEU Scientific Advisory Committee), and all of you who have contributed your manuscripts to AJCEU. Since AJCEU received an Impact Factor of 1.2 from ESCI Journal Citation Reports in 2023, SBUR started to get a share of the publication revenues. We encourage all SBUR members to continue to support AJCEU, as you will pay discounted publication fees and indirectly contribute to the finance of SBUR.

We will appreciate it very much for your strong support of SBUR in many ways: paying your dues in-time, inviting your colleagues to join SBUR, attending SBUR meetings, submitting your manuscripts to AJCEU, and soliciting your vendors to sponsor SBUR meetings. Thank you very much for keeping SBUR financially stable!



## SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Petra Popovics, PhD



I am profoundly grateful to all the members who supported my candidacy, enabling me to step into this position. It is a true honor to succeed Dr. Christina Jamieson, who has set a high bar during her tenure. Her guidance has been invaluable as I transition into this role, and I am deeply thankful for her support.

Since assuming office, I have been diligently working to understand the intricacies of this role and to define clear and impactful objectives. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Executive Committee for their warm welcome. Their support has been instrumental in my integration and effectiveness in these early stages.

I am particularly excited to collaborate with our president, Dr. Shawn Lupold. His vision for our Society is inspiring, and I am fully committed to supporting his initiatives, especially those aimed at improving the efficiency of passing down roles and documents and increasing the security of our document management.

My vision for the Secretary role is to foster greater unity and synergy among our members. This includes enhancing collaboration, and ensuring that our Society

remains a leader in the field of urological research. To achieve this, I am focused on broadening our membership base, particularly by increasing the diversity of individuals and research areas represented. My goal is to cultivate an environment where every member feels valued, supported, and inspired to contribute their best work. This commitment is also reflected in my strong support for the SBUR's initiatives aimed at increasing trainee engagement. These initiatives are vital for nurturing the next generation of scientists and retaining them within our field.

In addition to these responsibilities, I have joined the Media and Website Committee. Here, I am focused on enhancing our Society's presence on social media and enriching the content on our website. These platforms are crucial for engaging our current members and attracting new ones. Furthermore, I am spearheading the SBUR Newsletter, which will continue to provide timely updates on conferences, new research, and other key activities within our community.

I eagerly anticipate the upcoming Fall Meeting of our Society. It will be a pivotal moment for us to share our progress, explore new opportunities for growth, and further strengthen our collaboration. See you all in Scottsdale!

## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Marty Roth, Veritas Association Management



Greetings to the members of SBUR from Veritas Association Management!

Veritas Association Management is the management company for SBUR, and we are thrilled to partner with SBUR for continued growth and success.

Veritas focuses solely on serving not for profit subspecialty societies, which gives us a unique understanding of

the challenges facing today's urologic societies. Our operational management, combined with the institutional knowledge of SBUR leadership and volunteers, will create enhanced value for SBUR members, leaving leadership the time and space to do what it does best—providing a forum for the presentation and discussion of scientific urology!

The Spring Program was a great success! We thank Dr. Christina Jamieson and her committee for all the work that went into this program to make it such an enjoyable and thought-provoking program.

With the Spring Course behind us, we are currently busy working on the content and securing faculty for the Fall Program which will be taking place November 14 – 17 in beautiful Scottsdale AZ. I look forward to meeting many of you there.

**Pro Tip:** If you haven't done so, be sure to renew your membership in order get the member pricing for this event.

If you have any questions or suggestions for the Society, please contact Marty Roth, Executive Director, at [mroth@veritasamc.com](mailto:mroth@veritasamc.com). I look forward to working with you to ensure the success and growth of the SBUR.

## 2024 SPRING MEETING REPORT

The Spring Joint SBUR SUO (Society of Urologic Oncology) Symposium was held during the American Urology Association (AUA) 2024 conference on May 4th, 2024, in San Antonio, Texas. The day long symposium is held yearly to bring together basic urology researchers with clinical urologic oncology researchers and practitioners during the broad forum of the AUA annual conference. The agenda can be found on the SBUR web site. The morning is a joint session of the SBUR and the SUO, then the afternoon is divided into two separate SBUR and SUO Break-out sessions. Co-Chairs, Drs. Christina Jamieson, SBUR Vice President, and Adam Kibel, SUO President, organized and chaired the joint morning session. The theme of this year's Joint Symposium was "Advances in Novel Therapeutics for Urologic Cancers" which paired a talk on the basic and pre-clinical, translational research with a talk on its clinical development and use for three of the most common urologic cancers: Kidney, Bladder and Prostate. We thank all the speakers for their outstanding talks and for the illuminating panel discussion. The morning session culminated with the awarding of this year's 2024 Donald S. Coffey Award to Dr. Himisha Beltran, who presented her research on genomics and epigenomics in metastatic and neuroendocrine prostate cancer entitled "Combating Treatment Resistance in Prostate Cancer".

There were two afternoon SBUR Break-out sessions. Session 1, Chaired by Dr. Praveen Thumbikat, entitled "Pain and Inflammation in Urologic Disease" featured fascinating talks on benign urologic diseases. The speakers inspired lively and insightful discussions of the different mechanisms and models for pain and inflammation for these often-debilitating urologic diseases. Dr. Jelani Zarif Chaired Session 2 entitled: "Immune Mechanisms in Urologic Cancers". These presentations addressed the challenges and the great promise of employing the immune system to battle urologic cancers.

We are deeply grateful to the SUO for all their support to make this Joint symposium possible. We are grateful as well to the AUA and especially Ms. Elaine Garrison, the AUA Annual Meeting Coordinator, Programs, for their support of this symposium which works to bring together the pre-clinical and clinical researchers to further the translation of urologic research. Lastly, we are all deeply grateful for the excellent organization and work of Veritas' Marty Roth who seamlessly took over the reins from Caitlin Barry, and Ms. Susan O'Sullivan and the rest of the Veritas team who made sure everything went smoothly and took care of the speakers' needs as they arose. – Dr. Christina Jamieson

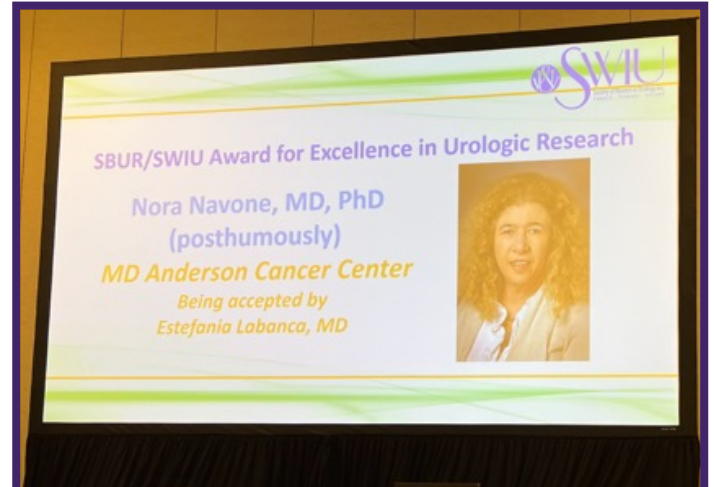


The 2024 Donald S. Coffey Award recipient, Dr. Himisha Beltran (center), with Dr. Adam Kibel, President, SUO (left), and Dr. Christina Jamieson, Vice President, SBUR (right).



## SBUR AND SWIU (Society for Women in Urology) AWARD AT THE AUA 2024

The Society for Women in Urology (SWIU) held its Annual Breakfast Meeting at the AUA 2024 on the morning of May 5th, 2024, in San Antonio, TX. Each year at the AUA conference, the SBUR and SWIU present a joint award for distinguished excellence in urology research. This year the award was presented posthumously to Dr. Nora Navone, MD, PhD, for her groundbreaking research in bone metastatic prostate cancer for which she developed new patient-derived xenograft and ex vivo models. We are deeply grateful to Dr. Estefania Labanca, PhD, Instructor, MD Anderson Cancer Center, for her gracious and eloquent acceptance speech for the SBUR/SWIU award on behalf of Dr. Navone at the AUA. Dr. Labanca trained with Dr. Navone as a PhD graduate student and postdoctoral fellow. Dr. Labanca's speech highlighted Dr. Navone's extensive and impactful accomplishments in research and as a mentor. A video of the speech can be found on the SBUR web site.



Estefania Labanca, PhD, accepted the SBUR/SWIU award on excellence in urology research on behalf of Dr. Nora Navone, MD, PhD.



Attending the SWIU Annual breakfast meeting at the AUA were Stephen Y. Nakada, MD, FACS, FRCS (Glasgow), AUA President, 5/7/2024 – 4/29/2025, Christina Jamieson, PhD, SBUR Vice President, 11/11/23-11/10/24, Estefania Labanca, PhD, Akanksha Mehta, MD, MS, President, SWIU, Travis Jerde, PhD, SBUR Awards Committee Chair.

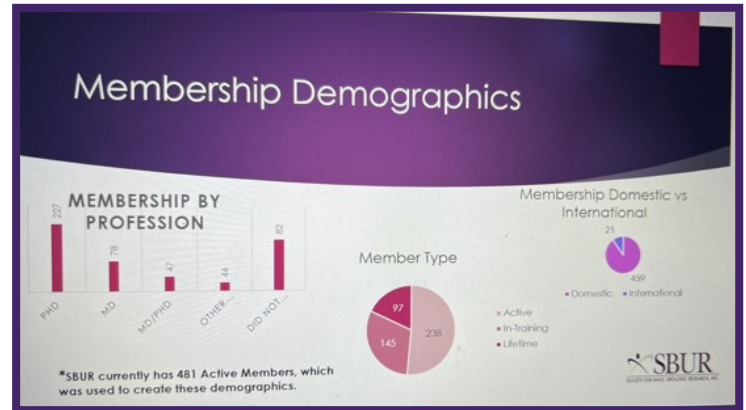
Contributed by Dr. Christina Jamieson

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

SBUR has its own official journal. Did you know that our society has its own official journal? The American Journal of Clinical and Experimental Urology (AJCEU). Go to the link to see special discounts and benefits for SBUR members: <https://e-century.us/web/journal.php?journal=ajceu>

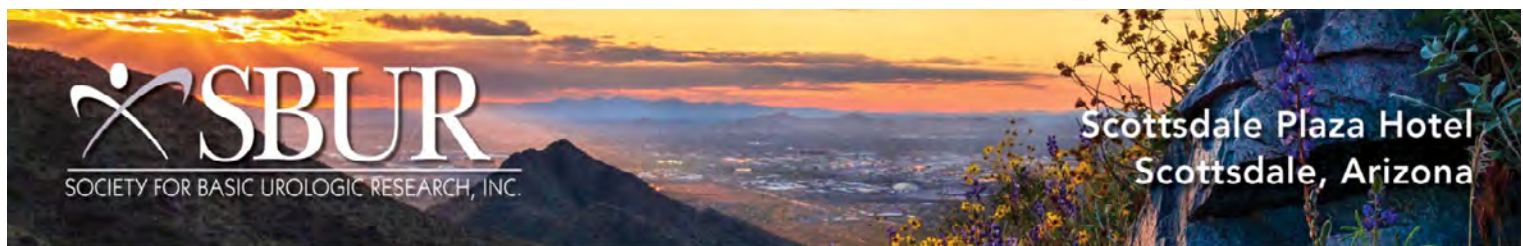
### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

Join or renew your membership! The Society for Basic Urologic Research was created 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. Please go to the link below for more information: <https://sbur.memberclicks.net/Membership>



**IMPORTANT!** SBUR Requests your input on sponsors for SBUR 2024 Annual Meeting: We are identifying and contacting sponsors for the SBUR 2024 Annual Meeting. Please let us know if you have any contact information for companies or organizations who might be interested in having a presence at the SBUR 2024 Annual Meeting via Email to [info@SBUR.org](mailto:info@SBUR.org). We have an active society of scientists, physicians, and physician scientists eager to engage with industry and organizations to advance therapies for patients. These sponsorships facilitate speaker travel and cover registration costs, enhancing the program by enabling more invited speakers and providing additional funds for travel awards, as well as for coffee breaks, meals, and receptions.

## SAVE THE DATE



**ANNUAL MEETING | NOVEMBER 14 - 17, 2024**

[CLICK HERE](#)  
for more information.

[CLICK HERE](#)  
to view the agenda.