

SBUR 2025

November 13 - 16, 2025 • Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando Florida

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Greetings from the President



Christina Jamieson, Ph.D.
President

Dear SBUR Members,

What can we do as individuals, as a team, and as a community to survive and thrive as scientists today and tomorrow? More than ever, it feels like we must do everything, everywhere, all at once. To me, the most important reason for being an SBUR member now is to be part of a supportive community and to know that you are not on your own. Together we form a gel, a lipid raft, a safe harbor for our science, our ideas, our futures and our relationships with our colleagues. Since 1986, the SBUR has been a home for all of us involved in basic urologic research in the common and uncommon urologic cancers and benign urologic diseases.

Our 2025 SBUR team is working hard and enthusiastically to continue our successful combination of sharing our science and our wisdom.

Each year we have two exciting conferences for us to present our work: our **Annual Spring Symposium at the AUA**, most recently, last April 26-27, 2025 in Las Vegas, organized and Chaired by SBUR Vice President **Travis Jerde, PhD**, who put together two excellent programs: the SBUR break out session on April 26th followed by the joint symposium with the Society for Urologic Oncology (SUO) on the morning of April 27th, 2025, Co-Chaired with SUO President, **Adam Kibel, MD**, Dana Farber Cancer Institute. The second conference is our premier SBUR event: the **33rd Annual Conference of the SBUR, November 13-16, 2025** at the Rosen Center Hotel in

Orlando, FL. The Program Committee Chair, **Qianben Wang, PhD**, Duke University, and the Program committee have done a tremendous job in organizing an exciting, cutting-edge program including the **Leland W.K. Chung Lecturer, Myles Brown, MD**, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the **AUA Lecturer, Jiaoti Huang, MD, PhD**, Duke University. Register and submit your abstracts! We will also have the Trainee Symposium organized this year by the Trainee Affairs committee Co-Chairs: **Ayesha Shafi, PhD**, Center for Prostate Disease Research, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, and **Simpa Salami, MD, MPH**, University of Michigan. You can see the agenda, and register at: <https://sbur.org/annual-meeting/> and submit your abstract at: <https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/auth?redirect=/stages/78675/submitter>.

Just as important as the speaker programs are the **SBUR Awards**. These awards are given at the SBUR conferences to recognize our SBUR members for their accomplishments and their contributions to science, to the scientific endeavor and to mentoring. Several of the awards are in honor of two of our founders and thought leaders **Dr. Leland W.K. Chung** and **Dr. Donald S. Coffey**. There are awards as well to encourage and support new investigators and trainee scientists. Please send in your nominations or applications to Marty Roth mroth@veritas.com for the awards which can be found on <https://sbur.org/past-award-recipients/>:

Spring SBUR Symposium:

- Donald S. Coffey Lecture
- SWIU/SBUR Awards

Annual Meeting of the SBUR:

- Leland W.K. Chung Lecture
- Meritorious Achievement Awards
- Dr. Leland W.K. Chung Mentorship Award
- Distinguished Service
- Eula and Donald S. Coffey Innovative Research Award
- SBUR Minority Scholar Award
- Young Investigator Awards
- Travel Awards (Selected from abstracts submitted by Sept 2, 2025)

SBUR Elections: You may have noticed that we moved the 2025 elections for new SBUR Executive Committee (EC) positions to earlier in the year in order to provide more time for the transition period between current and incoming EC members. Thank you to our Nomination Committee and all our outstanding candidates for their participation in the elections. Join me in congratulating our newly elected:

- Vice President/President Elect, **Dr. Jindan Yu, PhD**, Emory University
- Secretary, **Dr. Maria Hadjifrangiskou, PhD**, Vanderbilt University
- Director-at-Large, **Dr. Li Xin**, University of Washington.

We are very fortunate to have such a fantastic group joining the SBUR leadership team. They have all made major contributions to the SBUR already and we are honored to have them now in the SBUR EC.

New initiatives: We have created new initiatives to synergize with these tried-and-true SBUR activities to increase engagement and ways to support the community of SBUR members:

SBUR Summer Trainee Webinars series – To spotlight and support our trainees research and career development we started the **SBUR Summer Trainee Webinar series**, held once a month on Friday afternoons. The webinars were very well attended and exhibited once again the amazing work of our trainees which inspired illuminating and insightful discussions. **June** was Prostate Diseases month with a presentation on Friday June 27, 2025: Prostate Cancer: Trainee: **Shaghayegh Nouruzi, PhD**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Mentor: Dr. Amina Zoubeydi, PhD, Benign Prostate Diseases: Trainee: **Boqing Gu, PhD**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Mentors: Drs. Aria Olumi and Zongwei Wang. **July** was Bladder Diseases month held on Friday July 25th 4pm EST / 1pm PST. : Bladder Cancer **Shamara Lawrence, PhD**, Postdoctoral Associate, Weill Cornell Medicine. Mentor: Dr. Bishoy Faltas; Benign Bladder Diseases Trainee: **Hassan Bukhari, PhD**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Mentor: Dr. Margot Damaser, Biomedical Engineering Department, Cleveland Clinic. **August** was Kidney, Testicular, Urothelial, and

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Penile Diseases month. On Friday August 29th our presenters were: Penile Cancer, Trainee: **Yaoyin Li, PhD**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Mentor: Dr Xin Lu, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame. ; Benign urethral/urothelial disease: Trainee: **Dhruv Puri, PhD**, Urology Fellow, UC San Diego Health, Mentor: Dr. Jill Buckley, Dept. of Urology, UCSD.

New Committee: The **Past-Presidents Ad-hoc Committee** was formed to bring our experienced, committed and enthusiastic SBUR leaders together to advise on and support SBUR's continuing stability and growth. Our Past-Presidents are bringing their experience and ideas to keep the SBUR strong!

SBUR Business:

- We have renewed our contract with Veritas Association Management, under the proven, strong leadership of Susan O'Sullivan, President and CEO, who continues to be our wonderful partner in organizing and carrying out the SBUR activities. I am especially grateful to the effective, creative and innovative work on behalf of SBUR of Marty Roth, our SBUR *Executive Director*, Veritas Association Management.
- We have also renewed our agreement with the official journal of the SBUR, the American Journal of Clinical and Experimental Urology (AJCEU). They provide a unique, open access journal for us to share our work with the world. I encourage everyone to submit your newest findings to the AJCEU for timely communication of your work.
- ORCID ID for the SBUR: **Shawn Lupold, PhD**, Immediate Past-President, established an ORCID ID for the SBUR. These unique IDs enhance our visibility and provide a validated identifier for anyone referencing the SBUR in their biosketches, CVs, or grant applications. With an ORCID ID, we can include it on any SBUR publications, like the Annual Meeting Summary. You can import things from your ORCID into ScieNcv, which is also helpful. A few members are already listing us on their ORCID profiles, but much more for the larger societies (e.g., AACR). Having a common ID would help to link us to our members and committee leaders on a public forum. Check it out at [ORCID](https://orcid.org/).
- AUA Research Council: We have worked closely with the new American Urological Association (AUA) Research Council Director of Research, **Johanny Kugelman-Tonos, PhD**, on the new coordination of the with our SBUR Spring Break Out symposium at the AUA annual conference with the Basic Sciences Symposium of the AUA Research Education, Conferences, and Communications Committee (RECCC) at the AUA. We have also worked with **Shelby Englert, CHCP**, Vice President, AUA Education, and **Patricia Hope, MSc**, AUA EVP and Chief Marketing and Development Officer, to organize the upcoming presentation by **Dr. Kaplan, MD**, on the **AUA Nexus program** (<https://www.auanexus.org/>) at the SBUR 2025 Annual Conference.
- A very SPECIAL Thank You to our philanthropic donors for their continued support of the SBUR and SBUR Awards which allows us to honor our legacy and keep our society stable and independent. Our Endowment Committee is working to ensure stable management of our SBUR endowment and to build on the generous support of our donors.

SBUR Committees: I am deeply grateful for the commitment of all our SBUR members who step up and volunteer to commit their time, talent and hard work on behalf of the SBUR community. It is a deeply rewarding experience to work with all the SBUR committee members. Thank you to our Executive Committee members from whom I have learned so much and with whom I have enjoyed working together on behalf of our SBUR. I especially thank our Immediate Past-President, **Shawn Lupold, PhD** and our Vice-President, **Travis Jerde, PhD**. Special thank you as well to our prolific SBUR Secretary, **Petra Popovics, PhD**, for her outstanding work on many fronts including the SBUR Newsletter, to our razor-sharp Finance Committee Chair, **Zongbing You, MD, PhD**, and to our stalwart Directors-at-large, **Xin Lu, PhD**, **Nate Brennen, PhD**, **Tanya Stoyanova, PhD**, and deepest gratitude to **Timothy Ratliff, PhD**, our founder. All of our EC members continue to work tirelessly to bring all these efforts to life and keep the SBUR ship on course.

I urge you to get involved and spread the word to encourage colleagues to join our SBUR community. You can find a home at the SBUR for your science, to hang out with your colleagues to expand on individual ideas and

concepts to turn them into experiments and projects that lead to advances in urologic disease treatment and as a bulwark against the stormy seas of current and future challenges. We would love to hear from you. More to come!!!

With gratitude,

Christina Jamieson, PhD
"Find a home at the SBUR!"

Vice President's Report



Travis J. Jerde, Ph.D.
Vice President

Dear SBUR Members,

It has been my honor to return to the SBUR EC this year, and serve this community of urological researchers. You all have played such a large role in my career, and it is always so rewarding to pay forward the great benefits that have helped my generation, now, onto the next generation of urological researchers.

SBUR has been holding our own during these turbulent few years, despite coming out of a pandemic, then having an annual meeting cancelled due to a hurricane, and now very uncertain times for our research institutions nationally. We know that we are not alone as a research organization, fighting constant battles. Still, SBUR does have unique challenges to face heading into 2026.

I look forward to helping SBUR ensure an outstanding and diverse group of researchers in Urological basic and translational research. This includes diversity of backgrounds, locations, and universities, but also and importantly diversity of research interests. I look forward to working with all research areas represented within SBUR, and to strengthen all of them, focusing on bringing together urological researchers under the common theme of studying research mechanisms. We have to ensure both benign and cancer research is included and strengthened in our organization, as well as across each organ of interest in our urological research community. I look forward to working with Dr. Jindan Yu to support this mission at our spring Meeting in Washington next May, and with Dr. Doug Strand as he leads our annual meeting in November 2026 to enhance our mission. Speaking of Dr. Strand and 2026: I am excited that as the SBUR annual meeting comes back to the central region of the country, that we have chosen Memphis, TN as our next location. This is a fantastic city for a meeting of our size. Memphis offers so much culture, history, and energy, and it has the ability attract researchers from all demographics and age groups with its music, food, and urban location that draws people from across all spectra. I imagine our members walking the city after a great discussion of urological sciences, with their "feet 10 feet off of Beale", looking for catfish and rice, or a great BBQ joint, or perhaps just watching a band at B.B.'s as our classic SBUR comradery continues.

I am grateful for our current president Christina Jamieson's vision, and her beginning of the SBUR Summer Seminar series. In this series, SBUR brings together trainees and early-stage investigators of similar research interests for joint seminar series. This spurs collaboration among new and established investigators within specific areas of research, and I look forward to more of these great discussions.

Finally, I want to highlight the importance of reaching out across the globe to foster research collaborations. While recent cutbacks and our political dynamic may have reduced the ability for in person visits to urological researchers in other continents, our digital age and expertise have countered this, and given us the ability to reach out to form collaborations in a way not seen by previous generations of researchers. I look forward to

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continuing my outreach to ESUR in Europe, and expanding upon the great strides made by Dr. Allen Gao and others in Asia, to foster research collaborations in other areas of the world, and form digital research symposia if in person meetings are limited. I have seen firsthand the importance of cross-global research collaboration, and would like to bring as many opportunities to SBUR researchers. I look forward to seeing you all in Orlando in November. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your EC, or myself personally, for any interest in taking part in our 2025-2026 agenda in Urological Research!

Best,
Travis

Treasurer`s Update



Zongbing You, M.D., PhD.
Treasurer

Dear SBUR members:

We had our 2024 Annual/Fall meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, with nearly 200 registered attendees. We are going to have our 2025 annual meeting again in Orlando, Florida on November 13th -16th. You are all welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting.

Owing to all of you for your loyal membership dues and meeting registration fees, our society has maintained a strong financial stability. As of May 2025, our society had a bank checking account with about \$75K cash as running funds. We had a set of investment assets with a total of about \$690K including the Leland Chung Endowment, Coffey Lectureship, Chung Lectureship, Young Investigator Award fund, and future Coffey Award, which yielded about \$20K interests/dividends in 2024.

We especially thank Dr. Peng Lee and Dr. Peter Nelson (Editors-in-Chief of the American Journal of Clinical and Experimental Urology (AJCEU)) 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 in 2024. 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, Ph.D.
Secretary

My second year in this role has been both busy and rewarding, filled with opportunities to contribute to our community in meaningful ways. My broader vision for the Secretary role has been to foster greater unity and synergy within SBUR. This includes strengthening collaborations across disciplines, broadening our membership base, and ensuring that diverse research areas and voices are represented. Most importantly, I want every member to feel valued, supported, and inspired to contribute their best work.

A key part of this vision is my strong commitment to trainee engagement—an essential investment in nurturing the next generation of urologic researchers and retaining them in our field.

One of the highlights of my term was compiling information on the 2024 trainee awardees, which we featured in our previous newsletter. In my capacity as Chair of the Media and Website Committee, I also revitalized our social media presence, sharing awardee highlights across X, Bluesky, and LinkedIn to showcase the outstanding work of our trainees.

To further recognize and amplify member accomplishments, we launched a new submission portal for trainee achievements. This platform will serve as a central hub for collecting and celebrating your successes, which we plan to feature on the Society's website, in newsletters, and on social media. More details can be found below in this newsletter.

I also have been serving as Editor of the SBUR Newsletter, which remains a vital channel for timely updates on conferences, research advances, and Society initiatives. As I prepare to conclude my term, I am pleased to share that I will be transitioning this role to Dr. Maria Hadjifrangiskou, who brings deep commitment and energy to the position. I will work closely with her to ensure a smooth and seamless handoff. Finally, I am looking forward to our Fall Meeting in Orlando, which promises to be a pivotal opportunity to showcase progress, explore new avenues for growth, and strengthen our collaborative spirit as a Society.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to continuing to support SBUR's mission in other roles in the years ahead.

Best,
Petra

Executive Management Team

Marty Roth, Veritas Association Management



We're gearing up for a busy and exciting fall!

We have had a successful election for the next SBUR President-Elect, Secretary, and Director-at-Large. We extend our sincere thanks to all the candidates for their interest and dedication, and to everyone who participated in the voting process. Election results will be announced at the SBUR Annual Meeting this November.

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, registration is now open for the **SBUR Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, taking place November 13–16**. We hope to see many of you there! The agenda is outstanding—it's a great opportunity to engage with cutting-edge science, connect with colleagues, and catch up with old friends. Please visit the SBUR website regularly for the latest updates on the program.

Finally, the **Summer Trainee Webinar Series** is a wrap. This successful new initiative was launched by our President, Dr. Christina Jamieson, and we are thrilled with the strong attendance and excellent presentations. The speakers—our next generation of scientific leaders—were informative, professional, and inspiring. We can't wait to see what they accomplish next!

2025 SBUR Election Results

We are delighted to announce the winners of this year's election and welcome our new Vice President, Dr. Jindan Yu from Emory University, Secretary Dr. Maria Hadjifrangiskou from Vanderbilt University, and Director at Large Dr. Li Xin, from the University of Washington. Congratulations to our new leaders and thank you for your service to this great society. We would like to thank everyone who participated in this election and especially the candidates who put their names forward to serve in these positions. We hope that you will consider running for

SBUR E-NEWSLETTER

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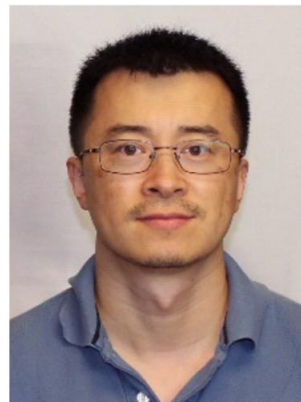
office again in the future. We also thank our Nominating Committee chair Dr. Shawn Lupold and members, Drs. Natasha Kyprianou, Leah Cook, Janielle P. Maynard and Rosalyn Adam.



Jindan Yu, Ph.D.
Vice President



Maria Hadjifrangiskou, Ph.D.
Secretary



Li Xin, Ph.D.
Director at Large

2025 Spring Meeting Report

Dear SBUR Members,

I would like to take a moment to thank all those who made the trip to Las Vegas to attend the AUA and the Spring Meeting of the SBUR. We had great formal and informal discussions of many research topics, spanning the breadth of research topics among our members of SBUR. I would especially like to send a great thank you to all those who accepted our invitations to speak at our Spring meeting within the two sessions that we host: the SBUR afternoon break-out session in benign urology, and the SBUR-SUO Joint morning research session on urological oncology. Both sessions were outstanding, attendance was high for both, and discussion was engaging and lively!

From left to right: Drs. Anne Verstegen (speaker), Praveen Thumbikat (speaker), Hanyu Xia (speaker), Travis Jerde (moderator), Margot Damaser (speaker), Kristina Penniston (moderator) and Johanna Hannan (speaker). Missing from photo: Dr. Todd Purves (speaker).

The SBUR breakout session this spring was focused on the neurological basis of benign urological diseases. The peripheral and central nervous systems both play a critical role in so many of the diseases we study at SBUR, and we wanted to put researchers together who study neuroscience across urological diseases. In addition, we were happy to have contributions from a number of first-time presenters at SBUR venues—established investigators and new investigators, SBUR long-time contributors and new members, all doing great work. Our Novel Mechanisms session began with Hanneke Verstegen who summarized her work mapping neuronal subsets that control bladder function and dysfunction.



Todd Purves discussed his newest findings linking urinary symptoms with mood disorders in patients, and Praveen Thumbikat showed how neuronally-expressed PD-1 regulates immune recruitment in the prostate and bladder, leading to inflammation related diseases. In our Technology Advancements session, Johanna Hannon highlighted her novel methods for assessing nerve activity in erectile dysfunction, Margot Damaser showed her breakthroughs on stimulating nerve regeneration with electric currents as a potential treatment for incontinence when nerve dysfunction is causal, and Hanyu Xia demonstrated his state-of-the-art mapping of sensory nerve subtypes in the prostate using tissue-clearing-light sheet imaging. I am very grateful to Dr. Kristina Penniston for co-chairing this afternoon breakout session with me on behalf of SBUR and the benign urological research community.

The SBUR-SUO Urological Oncology Session highlighted a series of key findings in urological cancer research, from across the cancer spectrum in the urinary system. Identifying cellular subtypes of cancers was a key theme running through this year's session, as Seth Lerner kicked us off with his innovative work linking genetic differences in molecular subtypes in bladder cancer with clinical outcomes. Li Jia showed work demonstrating differential clinical activity of PARP inhibition in different subsets of CRPC depending upon DNA repair mutations, and Ithaar Derweesh showed improved outcomes with novel combination immunotherapy and surgical treatments of different renal cancer subtypes. Tamara Lotan defined key differences in the immunological



From left to right: Dr. Adam Kibel SUO President, Dr. David McConkey, the 2025 Distinguished Donald S. Coffey Lecturer and Dr. Travis J. Jerde, SBUR Vice President.

landscape of highly aggressive prostate cancers in subsets of African American men, linking to outcome predictions for treatments. Our sessions concluded with our 2025 Donald S. Coffey Lectureship, presented by this year's honoree, Dr. David McConkey. Dr. McConkey embodied the spirit of Dr. Coffey well with his innovative work, identifying key biomarkers in bladder cancer that represent aggressive traits, clinical prediction, and tying it all to cellular subtyping. Perhaps most

importantly for this honor, Dr. McConkey showed us well: "If this is true, what does it imply?", answering that key question of all research that Dr. Coffey presents to us all. I greatly thank Dr. Adam Kibel of the SUO for his tremendous work with us, organizing and running the spring SBUR-SUO joint meeting with me. It really was an outstanding session.

I would like to thank our President Christina Jamieson and Past President Shawn Lupold for all their help in putting these meetings together with me this spring. I would further like to thank the AUA research council, Johanny Kugelman-Tonos, Nailah Harvey, Naveen Kachroo, and their entire team for the great collaboration to put this meeting on at AUA. We look forward to seeing you at next year's Spring Meeting of the SBUR at the AUA, in Washington DC. If you would like to take part in our planning, let myself or incoming Vice President Jindan Yu know of your interests!

Travis J. Jerde, Ph.D., SBUR Vice President

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SWIU (Society for Women in Urology)/SBUR Award for Excellence in Urological Research at the AUA 2025



This year's selection for the SWIU/SBUR award is Dr. Jindan Yu, Fray F. Marshall, MD, PhD, Chair in Biomedical Urologic Research and Professor of Urology at Emory University. Dr. Yu's research centers on dissecting the molecular basis of prostate and genitourinary cancers by leveraging a combination of genomics and bioinformatics approaches. Among her many research contributions, work from Dr. Yu's group that stands out, includes defining roles for EZH2 and FOXA1 in prostate cancer and her contribution to understanding how lipid metabolism changes due to the loss of function of HOXB13 contribute to cancer metastasis. More specific understanding of the molecular underpinnings modulated by these factors in the tumor microenvironment will be key in the development of prognostic and therapeutic biomarkers. Dr. Yu has over 70 publications in peer-reviewed journals and an impressive citation record that is testament to her impact in the field of genitourinary cancers.

Dr. Yu's accomplishments over the years have not only enriched the field but also served as opportunities for training the next generation. She has been nationally recognized through numerous awards and honors, including - a prestigious NIH Pathway to Independence award early in Dr. Yu's career - which was followed by a New Investigator Award by the Department of Defense. Dr. Yu also received the Impact- and Translational Science Awards by the DOD, as well as Outstanding Teacher award from Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University, to name a few. More recently, Dr. Yu was elected to the prestigious American Society for Clinical Investigation.

Maria Hadjifrangiskou, Ph.D., Chair of the Awards Committee

Summer Trainee Seminar Series

This summer, SBUR launched the Summer Trainee Webinar Series as a new member benefit. We extend our gratitude to all the presenters and attendees for their contributions and active engagement in the discussions!

JUNE was **Prostate Diseases month** with presentations on Friday June 27, 2025:



Shaghayegh Nouruzi, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Mentor: Dr. Amina Zoubeydi, PhD, "Prostate Cancer." Title: "*ASCL1 regulates and cooperates with FOXA2 to drive the terminal neuroendocrine phenotype in prostate cancer.*" Introduction: Chris Jamieson;
Bio: Dr. Shaghayegh Nouruzi is a postdoctoral fellow at the Vancouver Prostate Centre and recipient of the PCF Young Investigator Award and DoD Early Investigator Award. Her research investigates the epigenetic and metabolic reprogramming that drives lineage plasticity and treatment resistance in prostate cancer.



Boqing Gu, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Mentors: Drs. Aria Olumi and Zongwei Wang, Benign Prostate Diseases Title: "*Stromal SRD5A2 promotes prostate growth through WNT5A-LEF1-IGF1 signaling in benign prostatic hyperplasia.*" Introduction: Travis Jerde

Bio: Boqing (pronounced as BO-CHIN) Gu received his Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from the University of California San Diego in 2015. He continued his research as a master student in the Chemistry department of UC San Diego where he worked on the structural characterization of NF-kappa B complex under the mentorship of Dr. Gourisankar Ghosh from 2015 to 2017. Boqing earned his PhD degree in pharmacology from Indiana University School of Medicine in 2024, where he investigated the translational regulation of fatty acid synthesis and drug resistance in non-small cell lung cancer under mentorship of Dr. Jian-Ting Zhang. In August 2024,

Boqing joined the laboratory of Drs. Aria Olumi and Zongwei Wang at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center as a postdoctoral research fellow. His current work focused on the molecular mechanisms of 5 α -reductase type 2 (SRD5A2)-regulated prostate growth in benign prostatic hyperplasia and has identified a WNT5A–LEF1–IGF1 signaling axis as a key downstream pathway mediating SRD5A2-driven prostate growth.

JULY was **Bladder Diseases month** held on Friday July 25th 4pm EST / 1pm PST. :



Shamara Lawrence, PhD, Postdoctoral Associate, Weill Cornell Medicine. Mentor: Dr. Bishoy Faltas. Bladder Cancer: Title: *IFN γ /JAK1/STAT1 Signaling Drives a Basal Transcriptional State in Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer*

Bio: Dr. Shamara Lawrence is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Weill Cornell Medicine, where she leads translational research on bladder cancer in the Faltas Lab. She recently completed her Ph.D. at Penn State College of Medicine, where her work focused on JAK/STAT signaling and tumor plasticity in bladder cancer in Dr. Dave Degraff's lab. Dr.

Lawrence has authored peer-reviewed publications, presented at international conferences, and received multiple awards for her research.



Hassaan Bukhari, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Biomedical Engineering Department, Cleveland Clinic, Mentor: Dr. Margot Damasser. Benign Bladder Disease: Title: *Validation of Wireless Ambulatory Urodynamics in Neurogenic Bladder Patients with Multiple Sclerosis*

Bio: Dr. Hassaan Bukhari completed a dual PhD at the University of Zaragoza, Spain (Biomedical Engineering), and the University of Bordeaux, France (Applied Mathematics and Scientific Computing). His doctoral research focused on characterizing potassium and

calcium imbalance in chronic kidney disease patients using ECG signal processing and computational modeling techniques. He later served as a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, Davis, contributing to the development of computational models of heart failure in rabbits. Currently, Dr. Bukhari is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, where he is working on quantitative validation of wireless catheter-free ambulatory urodynamics using a device developed in Dr. Margot Damaser's lab, which has recently received FDA approval.

AUGUST was **Kidney, Testicular, Urothelial, and Penile Diseases month** on Friday August 29th,



Yaoyin Li, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Mentor: Dr Xin Lu, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame. Penile Cancer. Title: *Investigation of a new combinatorial immunotherapy strategy for penile cancer.* ;

Bio: Dr. Yaoyin Li is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Xin Lu's Lab at University of Notre Dame, working under the mentorship of Prof. Xin Lu since 2024. He received a Ph.D in oral histopathology from Peking University Health Science Center in 2015, where his dissertation focused on non-coding RNAs in the context of early diagnosis and invasion-metastasis mechanisms in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC). His current research investigates the preclinical efficacy of combined PARP inhibition and ICB

immunotherapy in penile cancer, targeting DNA damage repair defects and immune microenvironments. Dr. Li's work has contributed to therapeutic strategy for penile cancer progression and exosome-derived non-coding RNA-mediated ferroptosis in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, published in journals such as EBiomedicine, Cell Death & Diseases, and Oral Oncology.



Dhruv Puri, MD, Urology Fellow, UC San Diego Health, Mentor: Dr. Jill Buckley, Dept. of Urology, UCSD, Benign urethral/urothelial disease Title: *Current Research in Ureteral Reconstruction: Classifying Complexity and Understanding Disparities*

Bio: Dr. Dhruv Puri is a Urology resident at UC San Diego with a research background spanning urologic oncology, reconstructive surgery, and health disparities. He has authored over 50 peer-reviewed publications and led multi-institutional studies focused on biomarker discovery, surgical outcomes, and healthcare access. Today, he'll be presenting current research in ureteral reconstruction, with a focus on staging paradigms, procedural stratification, and equity-informed surgical decision-making.

Share Your Success with SBUR!

Have you recently published a paper, received a grant, or earned an award? We'd love to celebrate your achievements with the SBUR community!

Submit your accomplishments to be featured on our social media platforms:

🔗 Submit here <https://sbur.memberclicks.net/sbur-research>

Let's highlight the exciting research and outstanding contributions of our members!

Announcements

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.org/membership-benefits/>

IMPORTANT! The SBUR Requests your input on sponsors for the SBUR Spring and Annual Meetings in 2025. Please let us know if you have any contact information for companies or organizations who might be interested in having a presence at future SBUR meetings via Email to 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 for the 2025 SBUR Fall Meeting in Orlando, Florida!



Newsletter edited by Petra Popovics, Ph.D., SBUR Secretary