Department of Urology

Residency Training Program

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A message from the chair

The residency program in urology at the University of California, Irvine seeks to transform physicians into the most knowledgeable, insightful and well-trained urologists in this age of technology. To this end, great effort is expended regarding outstanding and diverse clinical exposure, superb didactic and hands-on educational opportunities with animate and cadaveric laboratory experience. A predominantly fellowship trained faculty and dedicated researchers are committed to this goal.

Mission

The Department of Urology at the University of California, Irvine is focused on the four major aspects of CARE: Clinical, Administrative, Research, and Education. Clinically, it is the goal of the department to provide optimal urological care for all patients, with a specific interest in tertiary care and less invasive surgery. Administratively, the department seeks to create a unique structure within a surgical discipline to foster research and educational activities while providing a nexus between these two disciplines and patient care. Research on both a clinical and basic level is sought in order to provide new knowledge on the developmental aspects and therapies for urological diseases. Educational aims encompass patients, medical students, residents, and postgraduate urologists. In summary, the Department of Urology seeks to provide its patients with the absolute best in modern urological care, its residents with a superb educational and training experience, and its faculty with every opportunity to excel clinically while teaching and pursuing research of both a basic and clinical nature.
History
The urology program at UC Irvine began as a Division of Surgery at the former County of Orange Hospital in the 1960s under the direction of Dr. Carl Pearlman. Dr. Pearlman wore two hats: he had a very busy private practice in Santa Ana and assumed the role of program director at the County Hospital. He was the first director from the middle 1960s until 1968 when Dr. Donald C. Martin became the first chief of the Division of Urology. Affiliation with the VA Long Beach Healthcare System (LBVA) began in the late 1960s with previous independent heads of the program there.

Dr. Arthur Bishoff and Dr. Alan Howard served as the first two chiefs of urology at the VA Long Beach Healthcare System (LBVA). In 1968, Dr. Martin merged the County and LBVA programs into a combined division, and he served as division chief at both hospitals. Under Dr. Martin’s tenure, a residency program was developed at these two facilities as well as the establishment of outside resident rotations at other hospitals. In 1976, the University of California purchased the County of Orange Hospital, and the urology program became part of the University of California, Irvine College of Medicine. Dr. Martin served as chief of the Division of Urology at UC Irvine until June of 1991.

Dr. Thomas E. Ahlering, subsequently, took over as division chief and urology program director in 1991. After completing his urology residency and fellowship at USC, Dr. Ahlering was on staff at the City of Hope before coming to UC Irvine. Dr. Ahlering added resident rotations at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center and Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. He also began to develop an active research program and expanded the division by adding faculty members trained in urologic oncology, female urology, neurourology, pediatric urology, and lower urinary tract reconstruction. In June 2000, Dr. Regina Hovey was appointed as the urology residency program director and held this position until June 2010.

Dr. Elspeth McDougall was appointed urology residency program director in May 2011. She completed medical school at University of Calgary, residency at Ottawa Civic Hospital and a fellowship at Washington University.

In January 2002, the UC Irvine Division of Urology was awarded departmental status. Dr. Ralph V. Clayman was appointed the first chair of the Department of Urology and immediately began work on enhancing the resident teaching program and recruiting additional faculty members.

A two-year fellowship program in endourology was approved by the Endourological Society and began in July 2002.
In 2003, the residency program was expanded from six to eight residents. Resident education opportunities were enhanced with the establishment of a formal four-year urology resident curriculum. In July 2003, the newly renovated UC Irvine Surgical Education Center opened, and the urologic surgery mini-fellowship program for postgraduate urologists was initiated (the first of its kind in the United States).

In 2006, the Department of Urology was ranked #27 in the country by U.S. News & World Report, marking the first time it was ranked in the top 50 programs in the United States (out of over 5,000 hospitals). In 2008 and 2009 urology was ranked #18 in the United States, for two consecutive years.

In 2009, Dr. Tony Khoury was appointed interim chair for the Department of Urology, and Dr. Clayman became dean of the School of Medicine in January 2010.

In January 2011, we welcomed Dr. Jaime Landman as the new chairman of the Department of Urology

Dr. Jaime Landman is the new chair of the Department of Urology. He brings to UC Irvine Medical Center highly valued expertise from his former position as the director of minimally invasive urology in the Department of Urology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Landman has extensive clinical expertise in laparoscopic renal and prostate surgery and endoscopic management of urinary tract pathology. He has pioneered technology and techniques for minimally invasive management of renal malignancies and has developed novel techniques that are used globally for laparoscopic partial nephrectomy.

Dr. Landman developed and tested novel ablation devices, which are currently used for minimally invasive ablation of renal tumors and malignancies. His research focuses on stone disease, and he pioneered the combined ante grade and retrograde approach for treatment of complex kidney stones.
University of California, Irvine

UC Irvine is the fastest growing campus in the University of California system in which UC Irvine Medical Center plays an integral role. The medical center is located in the city of Orange, 15 miles north of the UC Irvine main campus. At the medical center, there are over 100 clinical trials. UC Irvine Medical Center is highly regarded for its regional burn center, neuropsychiatric facility, level 1 trauma center, UC Irvine Surgical Education Center, and neonatal intensive care center. The newly founded Christopher Reeves-Joan Irvine Research Center focuses on spinal cord injury research.

UC Irvine Medical Center was awarded a prestigious Magnate Hospital Designation for nursing excellence conferred by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Less than 2% of hospitals nationwide have met the rigorous magnet criteria.

Named one of U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Hospitals, UC Irvine Medical Center has opened a new state-of-the-art hospital in 2010. The new UC Irvine Douglas Hospital enhances UC Irvine Healthcare’s ability to deliver comprehensive and compassionate healthcare to residents of Orange County and surrounding communities. Designed to optimize healing, the hospital features spacious, mostly private patient rooms. In addition, it is equipped with the latest technological capabilities to address cancer, cardiac care, digestive diseases, neurological disorders, trauma and critical care, urological conditions and geriatric care. It also offers a collaborative environment for translational medicine – bringing promising treatments to patients and providing a superior teaching facility to educate and train the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Medical Center Facts
• UC Irvine Douglas Hospital, 7 stories (plus basement) total 482,428 square feet
• 236 beds, bringing the total number of beds to 392, including 107 beds in University Hospital Tower (Tower 1A) and 81 beds in the Neuropsychiatric Center (67 neuropsychiatry and 14 acute rehabilitation unit)
• 45-bed neonatal intensive care unit
• State-of-the-art Burn Unit expanded to 8 beds
• 19 high-tech operating rooms
• Two dedicated cardiac catheterization lab suites
• Conference rooms and collaborative work spaces for residents on each patient-care floor
American College of Surgeons Level I Comprehensive Accredited Education Institute (AEI) for UC Irvine Surgical Education Center

The University of California, Irvine is one of 53 institutions in the United States to be awarded a Level I comprehensive Accredited Educational Institute (AEI) designation by the American College of Surgeons, and the first center in California to receive accreditation. The surgery education center at UC Irvine Medical Center received this recognition in 2006 for its multidisciplinary, comprehensive training programs, providing the highest quality surgical education to our community surgeons, medical students, residents, allied health professionals and other members of the surgical team. The center has been reaccredited through June 2015. The center offers training in minimally invasive surgical techniques, robotic surgery training and certification, and training on many simulator models and pelvic trainers.

In January 2010, a fresh tissue laboratory opened, allowing us to offer the only training center of its kind in California and one of only a few in the United States.

Elspeth McDougall, M.D., FRCSC, MHPE
Professor of Urology
Associate Dean of Simulation and Continuing Medical Education
Director, Department of Urology Residency Program
Director, UC Irvine Surgical Education Center
Chair, AUA Office of Education
Department of Urology

At the University of California, Irvine, the Department of Urology faculty is dynamic and dedicated to the advancement of diagnostic and therapeutic options for the entire spectrum of urologic diseases and disorders. The department is committed to the development of new technologies and the education of urologists in an effort to promote wellness of urologic patients worldwide. The residency program provides training in all aspects of urological disease. The residents receive extensive training in open and endoscopic procedures, laparoscopy, robotic surgery and certification, and other minimally invasive techniques, urologic pathology, uroradiology, and management of non-operative urologic conditions.

The Department of Urology encourages and supports both clinical and basic science research. Resident educational endeavors incorporate traditional (i.e., didactic and in hospital) and modern modalities of training (i.e., trainers, models, animate and cadaveric laboratory sessions, and virtual reality simulators).

Urology provides residents with iPad

In 2011, UC Irvine’s nine urology residents received an iPad loaded with these important educational tools:

- AUA Urology CORE Curriculum
- Journal of Endourology
- Campbell’s Urology textbook access
- Online ACGME case logs
- Online work hour logs
- Online surgical evaluations
- Presentation tools
- Weekly quizzes

Center for Urological Care

The Department of Urology Center for Urological Care team provides urology patients with the best possible service. The medical specialists include registered nurses, medical assistants, surgical technicians, appointment agents, surgery schedulers and business staff.

The mission is to support patients in all of their urological needs in a timely and efficient manner. The Patient Services Unit (PSU) is the first contact where patients make appointments. The PSU utilizes a state-of-the-art messaging system to meet the patient’s needs through the clinical staff. The team is dedicated to the urology patients and physicians.
Residency Program

Residents are selected for our program through the American Urological Association matching program. The actual match takes place one year before commencement of the training program, thereby providing the individual with the one-year period in which to complete a required one-year general surgery training program at the University of California, Irvine.

The urology residency program accepts two residents every year. There are currently eight residents in the program. The program is a total of six years in duration. This includes one year of general surgery internship, four years of urology residency, and an additional required year as clinical instructor in the UC Irvine Department of Urology. Currently there are eight resident rotations with residents spending six months on each rotation. The residents work daily with faculty members in the preoperative assessment, operative treatment and postoperative follow-up of patients. Residents are the primary surgeons on most operative cases, except where the technical level exceeds that of the residents’ skills. The residency training curriculum covers the entire spectrum of urology, including urologic oncology, stone disease, urinary incontinence, benign prostate disease, neurourology, pediatric urology, impotence, male infertility, urologic infections, trauma and reconstruction. The residents have ample opportunity to pursue academic endeavors and research.

What We Offer

The department consists of specialized services that collectively provide excellent and varied clinical material covering all aspects of urologic practice –

- Urologic Oncology (including open and laparoscopic surgery)
- Neurourology, Urodynamics and Urinary Incontinence
- Female Urology
- Erectile Dysfunction
- Infertility and Microsurgery
- Pediatric Urology
- Urologic Trauma and Urinary Tract Reconstruction
- Endourology and Urinary Stone Diseases (including percutaneous surgery, endoscopic surgery, needle ablative cryotherapy and shock wave lithotripsy)
- Certification on da Vinci® Surgical System
- General Urology (including transurethral surgery, ultrasonography and laser surgery)
- Research Opportunities

Department of Urology residents were trained, using standardized patients, during the AUA Ultrasound Course, October 28, 2011, held at the UC Irvine main campus Medical Education Center.

J. Chris Fox, M.D.
Director, Emergency Ultrasound
UC Irvine Department of Emergency Medicine
Portable ultrasound scanners can expedite diagnosis.
Resident Responsibility
Teaching and leadership are emphasized, and responsibility increases as residents advance in training.

Clinical Activities
All members of the resident staff are closely supervised by members of the teaching faculty and are given increasing responsibilities in inpatient services, the operating room, and outpatient services. All residents become chief residents in their final year of training, with experience divided among these hospitals – UC Irvine Medical Center, VA Long Beach Healthcare System (LBVA), Kaiser Permanente, and Children’s Hospital of Orange County (CHOC).

Research Activity
Our faculty is successful and experienced in laboratory research. The department’s laboratories are located at UC Irvine Medical Center. The supervised projects are conducted in the areas of oncology, pediatric urology, erectile dysfunction, neurourology, trauma and reconstructive surgery, infertility, stone disease and molecular biology. The department is committed to supporting resident research.

Publication and presentation of resident research activities are expected and supported by the department.

Resident Teaching Conferences
Teaching seminars are held as follows –
- X-ray Conference
- Pathophysiology
- Pathology
- Pediatric Urology
- Operative Urology
- Urologic Oncology
- Journal Club
- Grand Rounds
- 4-Year Urology Curriculum Conference
- Peds Urology/Nephrology Conference
- Pediatric Dry Rounds
- Patient Management Conference Research Seminar
- Prostate Cancer Seminar
- Visiting Professor Conferences

The department also organizes at least two major postgraduate visiting professorship seminars each year, where nationally and internationally recognized experts are invited to participate. Resident attendance and participation is mandatory.
Resident Rotations

UC Irvine – JR
A major focus on this rotation is the evaluation and treatment of genitourinary cancer. In addition, the resident gains experience in endourology. The resident participates in the minor procedure clinic, performing cystoscopies, transrectal ultrasound, prostate biopsies, and urodynamic evaluations. This resident is the primary surgeon on all junior level cases.

Long Beach VA – JR
This rotation encompasses all the urologic needs of the veteran. The VA junior resident gains additional experience in out-patient procedures including cystoscopies, transrectal ultrasound and prostate biopsies. This resident performs all of the endoscopic procedures, as well as junior-level open surgical procedures.

UC Irvine – Endourology
The primary focus of this rotation is endourology and minimally invasive surgical techniques, including robotic surgery certification.

Kaiser
The Kaiser resident is exposed to all aspects of urologic disease. The resident obtains experience in open and endoscopic procedures in both adult and pediatric patients. It is during this rotation that the residents gain experience with vasectomies and male infertility.

Long Beach VA – Spinal Cord Injury/Research
This rotation provides experience with spinal cord injury urology. The resident rotates at the LBVA Spinal Cord Injury Center, a state-of-the-art facility providing complete urologic care for the spinal cord injured veteran. The resident is involved in the evaluation and treatment of neurogenic voiding dysfunction, stone disease, erectile dysfunction, and bladder cancer. This is a flexible rotation, providing ample opportunity to pursue research interests.

Pediatric Urology
The pediatric urology rotation is based primarily at Children’s Hospital of Orange County. This rotation covers the preoperative evaluation, surgical management, and postoperative follow-up of pediatric urologic diseases. The resident performs a high volume of pediatric urologic surgery. The pediatric urology resident also gains experience in urodynamic evaluations and other office procedures.

UC Irvine – SR
The senior resident participates in complex surgical cases, including open and endoscopic/laparoscopic surgery. The senior resident works closely with the junior resident and urology intern, making daily inpatient rounds and assisting with urology consults. The resident oversees all of the residents at UC Irvine Medical Center.

Long Beach VA – SR
The senior resident on this service is responsible for overseeing the junior resident and the entire service where they experience a wide variety of cases. The senior resident has an excellent operative experience participating in urologic oncology and other complex cases. The resident also actively participates in the outpatient clinic.

The Sixth Year Clinical Instructor
Residents are required to join the faculty as clinical instructors for one year following their formal residency training. This is an important year, combining additional operative and clinical experience with research opportunities. The clinical instructor works closely with the residents, staffing surgical procedures and outpatient clinics at both UC Irvine Medical Center and the Long Beach VAMC. The residents who have participated in the clinical instructor year have found it to be a helpful transition, providing extremely valuable experience.
**General Information**

**Vacation/Educational Leave**
Two weeks of vacation and two weeks of educational leave are offered annually. The Department of Urology provides financial support to residents to attend the American Urological Association (AUA) annual meeting, the Western Section AUA annual meeting, and other educational conferences.

**Medical/Dental Insurance**
Full medical and dental insurance are provided to residents and their dependents.

**Meals**
Meals are provided when the resident is on call.

**Professional Liability Insurance**
Residents are provided with professional liability coverage for all activities that are approved components of the residency program.

**Call Schedule**
Interns take in-house call approximately five days per month. Urology residents do not take in-house call; all call is taken from home.

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**Affiliated Training Hospitals**

**VA Long Beach Healthcare System**
The VA Long Beach Healthcare System is a 237-bed facility located 12 miles west of UC Irvine Medical Center. The LBVA is a comprehensive facility, providing complete medical care for veterans. The patient population of LBVA reflects diseases typical of U.S. male and female veterans. The facility includes a large inpatient Spinal Cord Injury Center (85 beds), Women Veterans Health Clinic, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Same Day Surgery Center, and research facility.

**Children’s Hospital of Orange County**
Since opening its doors in 1964, CHOC Children’s has provided the highest quality medical care to children. Their regional health system includes a state-of-the-art 238 bed main hospital facility in the City of Orange, a hospital-within-a-hospital in Mission Viejo, and several primary and specialty clinics — plus over 100 additional programs and services. With admissions growing by 124% since 1998, CHOC and CHOC at Mission combined rank as the 17th busiest children’s hospital in the country.

**Kaiser Permanente Irvine**
Kaiser Permanente Orange County-Irvine Medical Center opened its doors May 2008, making it the first new hospital to be built in the Irvine area in more than a decade. Designed with the patient in mind, this spacious 434,000 square foot, 150-bed facility combines advanced technology with a personal touch.