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 '50s 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 Perman-ente Medical Center and Long Beach

Dr. Harry Herr, Dr. Ralph Clayman, Dr. Donald Martin and Dr. Thomas Ahlering

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

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. She retired from UC Irvine on January 3, 2013.

Ralph V. Clayman, M.D.
Dean, School of Medicine

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. Dr. Clayman served as Dean of the UC Irvine School of Medicine from 2009 to 2014, and has returned to full-time clinical faculty as of January 2015.

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, Tony E. Khoury, M.D. was appointed interim chair for the Department of Urology, and Dr. Clayman became Dean of the School of Medicine in January 2010.

Jaime Landman, M.D.
Chairman, Department of Urology
Professor of Urology and Radiology

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.

Dr. Landman assumed the position of Residency Program Director when Dr. McDougall retired, January 3, 2013.
Dr. Mark Jordan is an alumnus of the University of Toronto Medical School (1977) and the Gallie training program in Surgery and Urology (1983). He was elected Junior AOA in 1976. Following his residency in Toronto, he did fellowships at the Cleveland Clinic (1983-1984) and University of Minnesota (1984-1986) before returning to the University of Toronto as a Faculty member in 1987. In 1989 he was recruited by his former fellowship director Dr. Richard L. Simmons to join the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School where he served for 14 years (1989-2003), advancing to the position of Professor of Surgery with Tenure, and Director of the Urologic Renal Transplant Division at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Pittsburgh. After 14 years at the University of Pittsburgh Dr. Jordan was recruited to assume the position of Harris L. Willits Chair and Program Director of the Urology Division in the Department of Surgery at Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School in July 2003. At that time he was also appointed Professor of Surgery (Tenured) at New Jersey Medical School and Chief of Urology at University Hospital at Newark, NJ.

Dr. Jordan has published more than 200 journal articles and written 12 chapters in medical textbooks. Dr. Jordan’s clinical expertise includes complex renal and renovascular surgery, renal transplantation, urologic oncology, and robotic surgery. Dr. Jordan recently completed his term as President of the Society of Urologic Chairs and Program Directors (SUCPD), having previously served as SUCPD Secretary-Treasurer from 2011-2012 and on the Board of Directors from 2007-2011. He also serves as a Councillor for the New Jersey Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. He has previously served on the Examination Committee for the American Board of Urology, as Councilor for the Association of Academic Surgery, on the Audit Committee for the American Urologic Association, and on the Executive Committee of the Northeast Section of the American Urologic Association, and is Past President of the Urologic Society for Transplantation and Renal Surgery. In 2011 and 2012, Dr. Jordan was nominated for the Golden Apple Teaching Award by the Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School Student Council. He has given many International and National Lectures. Dr. Jordan has been named a Top
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.

UC Irvine Douglas Hospital
Orange, California

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
UC Irvine Surgical Education Center Training Program
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.
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

- 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

On the first day of residency, all UC Irvine urology residents receive new Apple iPads. The fully-loaded iPads include important educational and patient care tools, such as key urology and surgery textbooks, access to online urology journals, the electronic medical records systems, lecture presentation tools, weekly quizzes and case logs. With a $30,000 grant from the Society of Urology Chair-persons and Program Directors (SUCPD), researchers at UC Irvine Department of Urology are designing an iPad-based laparo-scopic surgical skills trainer allowing residents to practice their laparoscopic skills on the go.

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 five years in duration. This includes one year of general surgery internship, four years of urology residency. 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)
- Neurology, 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)
- Complex Renal Surgery
- Research Opportunities

J. Chris Fox, M.D.
Director, Emergency Ultrasound
UC Irvine Department of Emergency Medicine

Portable ultrasound scanners can expedite diagnosis.

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.
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
- Campbell’s Review
- 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 – Junior**
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 – Junior**
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 – Senior**
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 – Senior
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, encompassing robotic, laparoscopic, and open surgery. The resident also actively participates in the outpatient clinic.
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
Our residency program and associated year of surgical internship are in compliance with all ACGME duty hour limitations. Urology residents do not take in-house call.

Annual Salary (2014-2015)
- PGY 1: 51,871
- PGY 2: 53,766
- PGY 3: 55,807
- PGY 4: 58,241
- PGY 5: 60,533

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 279 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.
Urologic Surgery: One-Year Advanced Clinical Training

Overview
The one-year advanced clinical training program at University of California, Irvine is an Endourological Society sanctioned program specifically tailored to train future leaders in the world of minimally invasive urology. This intensive, year-long program is designed to allow the graduating participant to have advanced technical skills in robotics and laparoscopy or endoscopy and ablation surgery to optimize patient outcomes with minimally invasive surgical technique. The program also focuses on developing minimally invasive thinking processes such that the fellow, after graduation, can advance the future of minimally invasive urology. Research training is focused on creative and dynamic innovation, study design and execution and proper presentation.

Program Description
This is an intensive one-year advanced clinical training program with a clinical instructor appointment. During this year the participant is expected to take call on the faculty rotation usually once every 6 weeks. The clinical component of this year includes time spent at the Long Beach Veterans Administration hospital as well as at UC Irvine Douglas Hospital. The robust resources and large number of students participating in the laboratory allow for the participant to remain clinically active while maintaining a robust laboratory experience. The participant is considered a team leader for laboratory and clinical research and will directly manage undergraduate students, medical students, as well as international visiting scholars.

Laboratory Research
The UC Irvine Surgical Education Laboratory is designed to be academically productive as well as a fertile training ground for future leaders of minimally invasive urology. The focus of the laboratory efforts will be on endourological, laparoscopic, robotic and translational research. The dynamic and innovative laboratory research can often rapidly be translated into clinical practice.

Additionally, the program is quite unique as the close working relationship we have with interventional radiology allows the participant to work closely with the chief of interventional radiology to optimize the training experience with percutaneous ablation and other related procedures. In the laboratory the participant will be leading and supervising the laboratory experiments and researchers.

The laboratory has ongoing collaboration with interventional radiology, nephrology, the Department of Engineering and other UC Irvine resources.

Program Directors
The UC Irvine advanced clinical training program is unique in the depth and breadth of the dedicated faculty. Currently, the fellowship is directed by Dr. Jaime Landman. In addition, the participant works closely with Dr. Edward Uchio and Dr. Thomas Ahlering in minimally invasive urological oncology, with Dr. Douglas Yim in interventional radiology, surgical simulation, and surgical education, and with Dr. Ralph Clayman in endourology.

Director
Jaime Landman, MD
Professor of Urology and Radiology
Chairman, Department of Urology

Faculty
Ralph V. Clayman, MD
Professor of Urology
Dean, School of Medicine

Thomas E. Ahlering, MD
Professor of Urology
Vice Chairman, Department of Urology

Edward Uchio, MD
Director of Urologic Oncology

Douglas Yim, MD
Division Chief, Vascular and Interventional Radiology

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www.urology.uci.edu/education_fellowship.shtml
Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship Program

Department of Urology and Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology offer an accredited two-year fellowship training program for urology residents in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS).

Academics
The Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS) Fellowship is offered by the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Department of Urology at the University of California, Irvine. Irvine is accredited by the ACGME, American Board of Urology (ABU) and the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG). This two-year fellowship program takes place at UC Irvine Medical Center and affiliate sites. Fellows are trained in the clinical setting as well as in the research laboratory. Our program shares a unique collaboration among these departments at UC Irvine – Department of Urology; Division of Female Urology Voiding Dysfunction; Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology; Department of Surgery, Division of Colorectal Surgery. The primary goal of our program is to produce specialists who are prepared to provide consultation and comprehensive management of women with complex pelvic conditions, lower urinary tract disorders and pelvic floor dysfunction. Comprehensive management includes those diagnostic and therapeutic procedures necessary for the total care of the patient with these conditions. As such, the program is designed to ensure that the fellow successfully completing the program is well equipped for eventual subspecialty certification with the American Board of Urology in FPMRS. Our program strives to achieve all of the educational objectives set forth by ABOG/ABU.

The strengths of our program:
- A unique collaboration between urology, urogynecology and colorectal surgery.
- UC Irvine is consistently rated among the best urology and best OB/GYN departments in the country.
- Diverse primary and associated faculty with a tremendous depth and breadth of clinical and academic experience including: fellowship-trained urologists, urogynecologists and colorectal surgeons, together with pelvic floor physical therapists. Additional contributions to our program come from our unique relationship with other services including: gastroenterology, neurology, a dedicated pelvic floor radiologist and a nationally recognized geriatrics program.
- Highly ranked urology and obstetrics and gynecology research with established NIH funding.

Application Process
All applicants should have satisfactorily completed a urology residency approved by the American Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). We accept applications through ERAS, following the same timeline and requirements:
- Current curriculum vitae
- A personal statement addressing why you wish to study female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery
- Three letters of reference from physicians with whom you have worked, one of whom should be your department chair or residency director
- 2x2 inch recent photo attached to application
- USMLE transcripts
- An interview will be required for consideration

Gamal M. Ghoiem, MD, FACS, FPMRS
Professor of Urology
Vice Chair, Department of Urology
Female Pelvic Medicine Reconstructive Surgery

Problems such as irritable bladder, urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse are increasingly common among older female patients. Other problems, such as interstitial cystitis or spinal cord injury that affect bladder control, can arise at any age. To treat these disorders, Dr. Ghoiem uses a wide range of surgical and nonsurgical techniques, including modern fluoroscopy and urethral testing which determines the precise causes of blocked urine flow or leakage. He also uses minimally invasive procedures to restore weakened pelvic tissue seen in pelvic organ prolapse, using robotic-assisted approach. To treat cases of severe overactive bladder, Dr. Ghoiem has mastered the technique of implanting electronic stimulators to aid in normal bladder function. He is board certified in the subspecialty of Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS).
UC Irvine School of Medicine, Department of Urology
Clinical and Staff Faculty and Volunteer Faculty

Jaime Landman, M.D.
Professor of Urology and Radiology
Chairman, Department of Urology
Director Ablative Oncology Center

In January 2011, Dr. Jaime Landman accepted the position as 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 in New York. 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 is an expert in the management of kidney cancer and is a pioneer and internationally recognized expert on the application of minimally invasive techniques for ablation of kidney cancer. He is the director of the American Urological Association courses on the management of kidney cancer and on kidney and prostate ablation. Dr. Landman developed and tested novel ablation devices, which are currently used for minimally invasive ablation of renal tumors and malignancies. He has also invented novel technologies for the diagnosis of kidney cancer. His research focuses on stone disease, and he pioneered the combined antegrade and retrograde approach for treatment of complex kidney stones.

Ralph V. Clayman, M.D.
Professor, Department of Urology

Dr. Clayman is world renowned for his expertise in minimally invasive surgery for kidney stone disease, kidney cancer, and strictures of the ureter and is named as one of America's Best Doctors. Following his general surgery and urology training at the University of Minnesota, he spent two years at Southwestern Medical School in Dallas pursuing his interests in renal cancer research, kidney stone disease, and minimally invasive urology. Dr. Clayman spent 17 years at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, rising to the positions of Professor of Urology and Radiology, Director of the Midwest Stone Institute, and Co-director of the Division of Minimally Invasive Surgery. In January 2002, he was appointed chair of the newly formed Department of Urology at UCI Medical Center. Dr. Clayman and his associates performed the world's first laparoscopic removal of a kidney for benign disease and for cancer, as well as the first laparoscopic removal of a kidney and ureter to treat cancer. He helped develop a balloon catheter to treat obstruction of the ureter and performed pioneering work on percutaneous and endoscopic therapy for ureteral and kidney stones. Dr. Clayman established the first fellowship program in minimally invasive urology, and trainees of his program now occupy academic positions at universities throughout the United States, Canada, and Israel. Dr. Clayman is the author of textbooks on laparoscopic and percutaneous urologic surgery, and has published more than 480 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters. He is co-founder and coeditor of the Journal of Endourology. He has 16, minimally invasive surgical instrumentation patents to his name. He is a member of the American Board of Urology, a position he will hold through 2011. He is a member of the American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons, the Clinical Society, and the American Surgical Association. Dr. Clayman's patient care, teaching, and research efforts are focused on developing and perfecting all aspects of less invasive surgery in which incisions are either reduced in size or eliminated all together. In order to accomplish this goal, he and his team continue to explore a broad range of minimally invasive and noninvasive surgical techniques to bring up-to-the-moment technology into the operating room. He was named interim Dean of the School of Medicine in 2009 and was appointed to that position full time in 2010. Dr. Clayman served as Dean of the UC Irvine School of Medicine from 2009 to 2014, and has returned to full-time clinical faculty as of January 2015.
Dr. Ahlering is a highly regarded surgeon in urologic oncology. His years of experience in treatment of prostate, bladder, kidney and testicular cancers placed him as one of the original America's Best Doctors since his membership in 1994 and a lifetime Global Who’s Who. He trained under Dr. Donald G. Skinner at USC in urinary diversion and reconstruction and helped pioneer innovations to the Indiana pouch and ileal neo-bladder reconstructions.

Formerly the chief of the Division of Urology (1991-2002) after his arrival at UC Irvine from the City of Hope, Dr. Ahlering became chief of the Division of Urologic Oncology until the new Department of Urology was established in 2002. He majored in chemistry as an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley, and received his medical degree at St. Louis University School of Medicine, followed by a residency in urology at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. He then completed a two-year fellowship in urologic oncology under the clinical training of Dr. Donald G. Skinner and laboratory training under Peter Jones, Ph.D. Dr. Ahlering became a member of the Society of Urologic Oncology in 1988; his clinical practice is devoted to urologic cancer. He has received local, national, and international recognition for his expertise in urologic oncology, for continent urinary diversion, and in particular robotic prostatectomy. His research focuses on the invasion and metastasis of prostate cancer, and development of minimally invasive radical prostatectomy assisted by the da Vinci® Surgical System. He has performed greater than 1,100 such robotic surgeries, including the first robotic prostatectomies in Denmark, Canada and Australia. Beginning in 2008, Dr. Ahlering invented and pioneered the use of localized pre-emptive cooling during surgery to prevent secondary side effects of inflammation and nerve damage during radical prostatectomy. An earlier return to pad-free continence in ‘cooled’ patients has proven the concept.

Dr. Ahlering has active research projects in prostate and bladder cancer, and has produced over 100 publications of journal articles and book chapters. He is a reviewer for the journals: Urology, Journal of Endourology, and the Journal of Urology, and associate editor of Journal of Robotic Surgery. He is a member of several of the Societies of the American Urological Association, and served as its Western Section president for 2007-2008. In January 2008, Dr. Ahlering accepted the position as vice chairman of the Department of Urology.

As a commitment to public service, he has lectured at the American Cancer Society's Prostate Cancer Awareness Forum in Southern California for the last four years. He was also an invited speaker at Senator Barbara Boxer's Prostate Cancer Forum in 1996.
Dr. Ghoniem was born in Alexandria, Egypt. He graduated from Alexandria Medical School in November, 1974. He completed his residency at the University of Alexandria, Alexandria, Egypt in 1978 and departed Egypt for an additional residency training program in urology at the University of Michigan. His fellowship training in neuourology and female urology was at Brown University in Rhode Island. Dr. Ghoniem joined Tulane University in 1987 and was promoted to a full tenure professor of urology & gynecology in 1998. He joined the urology faculty at the Cleveland Clinic in 2000, and in 2011 Dr. Ghoniem joined the urology faculty at University of California, Irvine.

Dr. Ghoniem has served as a consultant of the surgical treatment group of the 1st International Consultation on Urinary Incontinence in 1998, and he was a member of the same committee in the 2nd Consultation on Urinary Incontinence, 2001. NIH appointed him as chairman for a review panel on incontinence in 2009, and he also served as a reviewer on the study sections of bladder physiology in 2000 and urinary incontinence in 2006. He served as an elected member of the scientific committee of ICS and elected member of the SUFU executive committee. He completed a three-year term as chairman of the Research and Development Committee of the IUGA. Currently, he is the North American representative for International Urogynecological Association (IUGA) and member of the IUGA executive board.

Dr. Ghoniem has edited two books: Practical Guide to Female Pelvic Medicine and Pelvic Floor Dysfunction: a Multidisciplinary Approach. He wrote or co-wrote more than 130 publications including peer-reviewed papers, 20 videos, audio-tapes, review articles, editorials, and 23 book chapters. Also, he is editor of the special issue of Neurourology and Urodynamics for "Animal Models to Study Lower Urinary Tract," and co-editor of a special issue of Clinics in Colon and Rectal Surgery for "Pelvic Floor Dysfunction: the Importance of a Multidisciplinary Approach." He is section editor for the Arab Journal of Urology (AJU) and on the editorial board of Journal of International Urogynecology, Pelvic Floor Medicine Journal, and Journal of Neurourology and Urodynamics. He is a reviewer of many journals and has been appointed as an expert reviewer for Journal of Urology, Urology, Neurourology and Urodynamics and American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

He is a member of several societies including the American Urological Association, Southeastern Section of the American Urological Association, Society of Urodynamics and Female Urology, International Continence Society (ICS), International Urogynecological Association (IUGA) and the American Urogynecology Society (AUGS). He has been named in “Best Doctors” in America from 2005-2011. In 2011, the National Association for Continence (NAFC) awarded him with the Rodney Appell Continence Care Champion.

Dr. Uchio is a nationally recognized leader in the management of GU malignancies. Prior to joining UC Irvine, he was on faculty at Yale University School of Medicine specializing in urologic oncology, serving as the Chief of Urology and Director of Urologic Oncology / Robotics and Minimally Invasive Surgery at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System. He completed a fellowship in urologic oncology at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bethesda, Maryland in 2003. His clinical expertise includes all areas of urologic oncology including the advanced surgical treatment of prostate, renal, testis and bladder cancers. He also utilizes laparoscopic, robotic, and minimally invasive techniques (Cryo, RFA, HIFU), as well as newer technologies and therapies only available in clinical trials.
Dr. Tony Khoury joined the Department of Urology faculty in March 2008 as professor of urology. He serves as chief of pediatric urology at both UC Irvine and at Children’s Hospital of Orange County. He completed his residency training at the University of Toronto from 1981-1985 and his fellowship training in pediatric urology at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto from 1985-1987 under the mentorship of Dr. B. Churchill. Following his fellowship, he spent a year at the University of Calgary with Dr. Bill Costerton conducting research in the field of Infection and Biomaterials. This work resulted in several publications and a patent award on the bioelectric mechanism to eliminate bacterial biofilms.

He joined the faculty of the Division of Urology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto in 1988 where he was the division head from 1995-2008. His special interests are in reconstructive surgery of the genitourinary tract, urological malignancies and renal transplantation. He has maintained an active laboratory research effort and has established extensive collaborations nationally and internationally in the fields of infection, biomaterials and regenerative medicine.

Dr. Khoury’s research has resulted in more than 200 publications, 33 book chapters, and 250 presentations at national and international meetings. He has delivered 160 lectures as a visiting professor or invited speaker. Dr. Khoury is on the executive boards of several national and international specialty committees, which include the American Academy of Pediatrics section on urology and the International Children’s Continence Society (ICCS). He has been president of the Society of Pediatric Urologists of Canada and immediate past chairman of the scientific council of the Canadian Urological Association’s Scholarship Foundation.

Dr. Irene M. McAleer received her medical degree from the Ohio State University, College of Medicine and successfully completed a surgical internship at the Naval Hospital, Oakland, California and a urology residency at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland. She pursued further fellowship training in pediatric urology at the University of California, San Diego and completed her active military service as the division head of pediatric urology at the National Naval Medical Center as well as being a consultant at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. She has held appointments as assistant clinical professor of pediatrics and surgery at the University of California, San Diego as well as holding the same appointments at the University of Connecticut. Most recently, she held an appointment as an assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco and currently is an associate clinical professor in the Department of Urology at the University California, Irvine. Dr. McAleer is certified by the American Board of Urology with a sub-specialization certification in pediatric urology through the board. She additionally has achieved a Masters in Business Administration as well as being an author or assistant author in multiple journal articles and medical textbooks. She is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as being a past president of the American Association of Pediatric Urology. Dr. McAleer has practiced pediatric urology for over 20 years and has a particular interest in antenatal genitourinary conditions, medical and surgical management and diagnosis of vesicoureteral reflux, hypospadias and intersex reconstruction, as well as endoscopic treatment of pediatric stone disease and vesicoureteral reflux. She brings her expertise and experience to CHOC Children’s Hospital of Orange County to advance the urologic care of the children of Orange County.
Dr. Elias Wehbi joined the Division of Pediatric Urology in July 2013 after having completed his fellowship training in pediatric urology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto under the internationally recognized reconstructive surgeon Dr. JL Pippi Salle. Prior to that he received his Royal College certification and medical doctorate at the University of Toronto. He has keen interests in complex reconstruction, urologic malignancies, renal transplantation and minimally invasive Pediatric Urology. He helped perform the first laparoendoscopic single site (scarless) surgeries in the pediatric population in Canada. Appreciating the importance of lifelong learning, he is currently enrolled in a Master’s Degree program at the University of California Irvine in Biomedical and Translational Science. And even though Dr. Wehbi has only finished his fellowship training a short while ago, his CV includes numerous publications in peer reviewed journals, presentations at national and international meetings as well as several awards for his novel clinical research. He has also been an invited speaker and lecturer to residency training programs. Dr. Wehbi enjoys medical missions and as an avid peninsular traveler, he has a sincere interest in international health making over a dozen trips to Central America over the last 10 years. Having done so, he was recognized by his predecessors with humanitarian and patient care awards.

Dr. Leland Ronningen was appointed to the faculty at UC Irvine in June 1999. He completed his undergraduate studies at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, and received his medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences School of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland. He received urology training at Letterman Army Medical Center, Presidio of San Francisco, and the Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia. He served as a urologist in the United States Army for seven years prior to coming to UC Irvine. Dr. Ronningen’s areas of expertise are benign diseases of the prostate and urologic care of spinal cord injury/disorder patients. He provides urologic care at the Long Beach Veterans Hospital, primarily in the Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder Center. He is a reviewer of manuscripts for *The Journal of Urology* and *Journal of Endourology*.

Dr. Ross Moskowitz earned his bachelor’s degree from UCLA in Economics in 2004, and then completed his M.D. at UC Irvine in 2008, graduating with distinction in service. He served two years as class president during his medical school training, and began his residency in Urology at UC Irvine in 2008. He joined the Department of Urology at UCI as a Clinical Instructor in 2013, and became an Assistant Clinical Professor in 2014. Currently he holds multiple positions on hospital committees, primarily for perioperative care, and he serves both as the Director of Ambulatory Urology Services and Associate Residency Program Director. His clinical practice is focused on general urology diagnoses, with emphasis in endoscopic management or lower urinary tract symptoms, low grade cancers, and urinary stone disease. His research interests are in these fields, as well as in education and surgical quality improvement projects.
Dr. Babaian received her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with comprehensive honors and was awarded her medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston. After completing her general and urologic surgery training at the University of California – Los Angeles and the University of Wisconsin-Madison she distinguished herself by completing fellowships in Urologic Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center and an Endourology Fellowship at the University of California at Irvine. Her goal is to capitalize on her unique training to provide optimal, personalized, and multidisciplinary treatment of urologic cancers with minimal surgical morbidity. Although she provides comprehensive care for all genitourinary malignancies (kidney, bladder, prostate, penile, and testis cancer), her special clinical interests are focused on providing state of the art diagnostic evaluation and surgical treatment for kidney and prostate cancers. Utilizing her background in basic science and molecular biology, her research at MD Anderson focused on ascertaining mechanisms of resistance to targeted therapy in patients with renal cell carcinoma. Dr. Babaian’s clinical research interests include advanced renal cell carcinoma and prostate cancer detection/staging. Her research has been presented at national and international forums.

Dr. Yaacoub’s interest is in Medical and surgical management of kidney stone disease, endoscopic management of urinary tract obstruction, minimally invasive urologic surgery, minimally invasive treatment of benign and malignant urologic conditions, robotic and laparoscopic urologic surgery, bladder cancer, upper tract urothelial cancer, kidney cancer and prostate cancer.
treatment of men with blockages of their genital tract. He performs testicular mapping and testicular microdissection for men who suffer from the most severe forms of testicular failure. Dr. Spitz works in close coordination with many in-vitro fertility centers throughout Southern California to help provide state-of-the-art comprehensive care to infertile couples.

Dr. Spitz currently directs the Center for Male Reproductive Medicine and Surgery at Orange County Urology in Laguna Hills and Mission Viejo, California. He participates in an array of clinical research involving sperm toxicity studies, andrology, sexual dysfunction, and male contraception. Dr. Spitz also serves as the medical director for Fertility Center of California, a comprehensive andrology testing facility and sperm bank. Dr. Spitz has served as faculty for the American Urological Association’s national microsurgical course. Dr. Spitz has been awarded several prestigious honors including Alpha Omega Alpha at the University of Southern California. He has authored book chapters and articles in peer reviewed publications on the topic of male infertility.

Dr. Spitz earned his medical degree from Cornell University Medical College. He completed his urology residency at the University of Southern California Medical Center and completed a fellowship in male reproductive medicine and surgery at The Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX.

Joel Gelman, M.D.
Associate Clinical Professor
of Urology
Volunteer Clinical Faculty

At UC Irvine, Dr. Gelman is a fellowship trained expert in male urethral and penile urethral reconstruction and the only urologist in Southern California who is exclusively specialized in male reconstructive urethral and penile surgery. In 1998, Dr. Gelman was recruited to join the UC Irvine urology faculty and has established an international referral center for reconstructive urology. Most of Dr. Gelman’s patients are referred by other urologists. More than 200 urologists have referred patients to Dr. Gelman for complex reconstruction for strictures of the urethra (called urethroplasty) and Peyronie’s disease (a disorder of disabling curvature of the penis of up to 90 degrees). In addition, Dr. Gelman specializes in complex revision penile implant surgery. Widely known for his outstanding success, even with complex revision surgery, patients have travelled from 20 different states across the country and also from other countries specifically to have their surgery performed by Dr. Gelman. To date, he has performed over 700 male urethral and penile reconstructive surgeries.

As a reflection of his expertise and recognition as a leader in urethral and penile reconstructive surgery, in 2010, Dr. Gelman was elected for a three-year term to the board of directors of the Society of Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgeons.

Xiaolin Zi, Ph.D. & M.Sc.
Associate Professor
Director of Urologic Research

At McGill University, Dr. Zi has been studying the biological roles of secreted Wnt antagonists in prostate and bladder cancer progression. His study on secreted Wnt antagonists may lead to new therapeutic and/or preventive approaches for bladder and prostate cancer.

Dr. Zi combines his knowledge in population science with laboratory skills in basic science to develop less or non-toxic bioactive agents from edible plant products for cancer prevention. His publications that have identified silibinin as a strong antiproliferative and differentiate agent for prostate cancer cells have resulted in a Phase II clinical trial of silibinin in prostate cancer patients.

Dr. Zi is developing novel preventive agents for patients with superficial bladder tumors to prevent recurrence and progression of this disease. These agents may also prevent bladder cancer in those who work in high risk industries or engage in high risk activities such as smoking. He is also studying the biological roles of secreted Wnt antagonists in prostate and bladder cancer progression. His study on secreted Wnt antagonists may lead to new therapeutic and/or preventive approaches for bladder and prostate cancer.
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