August 27, 2020

Dear Colleague:

Let us be the first to thank you for participating in this unique Annual Urology Advocacy Summit. Earlier this year, the AUA made the difficult yet prudent decision to postpone the in-person event and shift to an online format. While this is not an ideal situation, this new virtual format and engagement with lawmakers is more important than ever before, particularly as Congress moves forward on pandemic-related legislation that directly impacts the entire health care community. Furthermore, this is an election year and the voice of urology is necessary.

Over the past few years, this event has attracted on average over 225 participants, and with the new virtual format this year we are expecting close to 300, many of which have never participated in previous conferences. The Summit continues to represent all facets of the urological community – including physicians, patient advocates, and researchers. The event is founded upon a mission to expand, strengthen, and unify the voice of urology on policy matters that affect our practices and the patients we serve. In addition, we are once again thrilled to note that we have a high number of younger AUA members participating. There are approximately 60 medical students, residents, fellows, and young urologists that have registered.

For the next five days, you will hear from speakers and participate in sessions aimed at addressing the COVID-19 global pandemic crisis. The content will focus on the need to make telehealth provisions permanent, the disparities and social determinants to health and its impact on urology, the physician workforce shortage facing specialists, the pandemic’s impact on urologic research and information on how individual states are coping with the crisis. With the 2020 election around the corner, we also are excited to hear from CBS News correspondent and moderator of Face the Nation, Margaret Brennan. And, we are hosting an exclusive AUAPAC member-only event with political analyst Charlie Cook.

Regardless of the challenges stemming from the pandemic, the AUA will continue to lead in advocating for the profession of urology and the patients they serve. With this thought in mind, on Friday, we invite you to our “Call to Action” Day, which will highlight ways to become involved in AUA activities throughout the year. The day will recap the week’s activities and feature other important legislative priorities such as improving prostate cancer care for our nation’s veterans and reducing regulatory burdens. What we discuss this week are essential messages as we seek to inform and educate federal and state governments on how urology is an integral part of our health care delivery system.

We are excited you could join us to advocate for our specialty and we hope to see you next year!

John H. Lynch, MD, FACS
Immediate Past President, AUA

Christopher Gonzalez, MD, MBA
Chair, AUA Summit Planning Committee
Monday, August 31

5:00 p.m. Welcome Address
- John Lynch, MD, Immediate Past President, AUA
- Christopher M. Gonzalez, MD, Immediate Past Chair, AUA Public Policy Council

5:15 p.m. Keynote Speaker
- Margaret Brennan, Moderator of CBS’ Face the Nation

6:25 p.m. Industry Showcase – Virtual Exhibit Hall

6:35 p.m. **Telemedicine: Expanding Services in a Pandemic

  Moderator: Eugene Rhee, MD, Chair, AUA Public Policy Council
  - AUA Urology Telehealth Task Force
    - Speaker: Aaron Spitz, MD, Chair
    - Speaker: Chad Ellimoottil, MD, Member
    - Speaker: Jonathan Rubenstein, MD, Member
  - Guest Speaker: Kara Watts, MD
    Assistant Professor of Urology, Montefiore Medical Center

7:20 p.m. **Urologic Workforce: Preparing for the Next Pandemic

  Moderator: Amanda North, MD, Chair, AUA Workforce Workgroup
  - Society of Academic Urologists
    - Speaker: John P. Smith, DO
  - The Society of Women in Urology
    - Speaker: Una Lee, MD

**Denotes session is eligible for CME credits.
Tuesday, September 1

12:00 – 5:00 p.m.  Hill Meetings
- Teleconferences/videoconferences with lawmakers and congressional staff

5:30 p.m. Congressional Speaker: Rep. Greg Murphy, MD (R-NC-03)

6:10 p.m. Congressional Speaker: [INVITED]

6:45 p.m. AUAPAC: An Evening with Charlie Cook
- Silver, Gold, Platinum members invited
  ($500+ urologists or $100+ residents/fellows in 2020)

Wednesday, September 2

5:30 p.m. A Manufacturer’s Perspective on 2020: Progress toward a Vaccine and Response to Policy Environment
- Michael Barnard, Director of Federal Affairs, Johnson & Johnson
- Jacqueline Roche, DrPH, MHS, Senior Director, Coverage & Reimbursement Policy, and Global Policy Planning Worldwide Government Affairs and Policy, Johnson & Johnson

Sponsored by: Janssen Biotech, Inc.

6:20 p.m. **Prostate Cancer Disparities: The Pandemic's Impact on the African American Community and the Role of Urology
Moderator: David Penson, MD, Chair, AUA Science & Quality Council
- Prostate Health Education Network
  - Speaker: Keith Crawford, MD, PhD
- R. Frank Jones Urological Society
  - Speaker: Tracy Downs, MD

7:15 p.m. Networking Session for Medical Students, Residents, and Fellows

**Denotes session is eligible for CME credits.
Thursday, September 3

5:30 p.m.  
Industry Showcase – Virtual Exhibit Hall

5:45 p.m.  
**Urologic Research and COVID-19: What We Need Moving Forward

Moderator: Aria Olumi, MD, Chair, AUA Research Council
- Endourological Society
  - Speaker: Dirk Lange, PhD
- The Society for Basic Urologic Research
  - Speaker: Dolores Lamb, PhD
- Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine & Urogenital Reconstruction
  - Speaker: Polina Reyblat, MD

6:40 p.m.  
**State Advocacy: COVID-19 and the Impact on Urology

Moderator: Arthur Tarantino, MD, Chair, AUA State Advocacy Committee
- American Association of Clinical Urologists
  - Speaker: William C. Reha, MD, Chair, AACU State Advocacy Network
- Mid-Atlantic Section
  - Speaker: Mark Fallick, MD, Member, AUA State Advocacy Committee, Chair, AUA Legislative Affairs Committee
- Guest Speaker: Kimberly Horvath, JD, American Medical Association
- Guest Speaker: Peter Bretan, MD, Member, AUA Public Policy Council, President, California Medical Association

Friday, September 4

*Call to Advocacy Day

- Wrap up – Conference Highlights (Concluding Remarks)
- Feature other AUA priorities – Veteran’s Prostate Cancer Pathway Bill (H.R. 6092)/Prior Authorization (H.R. 3107)
- Grassroots Alerts
- Podcasts/webinars featuring various advocacy themes

*All of these activities will be done over e-mail communication with registrants throughout the day.

**Denotes session is eligible for CME credits.
AUA Accreditation Information

Accreditation: The American Urological Association (AUA) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Credit Designation: The American Urological Association designates this live activity for a maximum of 3.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**Denotes session is eligible for CME credits.**
**AUA Summit Planning Committee**

- Jessica Bateman, MS  
  *Patient & Research Advocacy Senior Manager*

- Quardricos B. Driskell, MPP  
  *Legislative & Political Affairs Manager*

- Mark Fallick, MD, FACS  
  *AUA Legislative Affairs Committee Chair*

- Christopher Gonzalez, MD, MBA  
  *AUA Planning Committee Chair*

- Jason J. Jameson, MD  
  *2018 AUA Gallagher Scholar*

- Joshua Langston, MD  
  *AUA Reg. Workgroup Co-Chair*

- Jay Motola, MD  
  *AUA Coding & Reimb. Committee*

- Aria Olumi, MD  
  *AUA Research Council Chair*

- David F. Penson, MD, MPH  
  *AUA Science and Quality Council Chair*

- Thomas Rechtschaffen, MD, FACS  
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- Eugene Rhee, MD, MBA  
  *AUA Public Policy Council Chair*

- Kathy Shanley, PhD, CAE  
  *Public Policy & Advocacy Executive Vice President*

- Bradley Stine  
  *Legislative & Political Affairs Director*

**AUA Summit Staff Liaisons**

- Keith Hawman  
  *Public Policy Manager*

- Andrea Oh  
  *State Advocacy Manager*

- Joshua J. Webster, MPA  
  *Legislative & Political Affairs Manager*
wants to thank you all for the incredibly important work you do each day.
Michael Barnard

Michael Barnard is a Director of Federal Affairs at Johnson and Johnson, supporting the Janssen Pharmaceutical business. In this role, Barnard works to advocate before the U.S. Congress, White House, and Department of Health and Human Services on key public policy issues that impact our business and the patients J&J serves.

Prior to joining Johnson and Johnson, he spent 10 years as a senior health policy staffer in both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. Most recently, he was the Senior Policy Advisor to U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) managing the health and human services issue portfolio, with the primary focus on the Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act provisions under the jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Finance, of which Senator Menendez is a senior member. In addition, Barnard worked closely on legislation affecting the Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Center for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as issues of international trade and international market access. He also spent two years on the health policy staff of U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), including during the drafting, debate and final passage of the Affordable Care Act.

Barnard graduated from the University of Oregon with a B.S. in economics and received his Master’s in political science from American University in Washington, DC.

Margaret Brennan

Margaret Brennan is moderator of CBS News premiere Sunday public affairs program Face the Nation. In addition, she also serves as CBS News' senior foreign affairs correspondent and contributes to all broadcasts.

Brennan’s news making interviews and reporting have earned her a reputation as a tough but fair questioner with a range of expertise that includes domestic politics, foreign affairs and economic news. Exclusively represented for lectures by Leading Authorities speakers bureau, she delivers a captivating view of the biggest stories driving our 24-hour news cycle and how they impact audiences’ lives. Since joining CBS News, Brennan has conducted numerous interviews with newsmakers including President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence,
Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Secretaries of State Michael Pompeo, Rex Tillerson, John Kerry, and Hilary Clinton. The list also includes many presidential hopefuls as well as heads of state in Iraq and South Korea.

While covering both the White House and State Department for CBS News, Brennan reported extensively on the Trump administration’s efforts to broker a deal with North Korea, presidential actions against ISIS, the migration crisis, attempts at tax and healthcare reform, as well as its trade policies including the standoff with China. In that dual domestic and foreign reporting role during the Obama administration, Brennan also covered the 2016 election interference by Russia, the global refugee crisis, healthcare policy and trade negotiations.

Brennan first joined CBS News as a State Department correspondent in 2012. In that capacity, she traveled the world covering breaking national security issues including the landmark nuclear deal with Iran, the Syria chemical weapons agreement, the 2012 attack on U.S. personnel in Benghazi, and diplomatic opening with Cuba. She has reported from the field in Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, and other hotspots. She received a 2012 DuPont Columbia University award as part of team coverage of the Newtown tragedy.

Brennan has been reporting on politics, international affairs, and global markets since 2002. She anchored a daily broadcast for Bloomberg Television. Before that she was a correspondent at CNBC with a focus on the consumer during the 2008 financial crisis. She also contributed to various NBC News programs. Brennan began her career as an award-winning producer for CNBC’s Wall Street Week with Louis Rukeyser.

Brennan is a member at the Council on Foreign Relations and sits on the Advisory Board for the University of Virginia School of Politics.

Brennan graduated with highest distinction from the University of Virginia in 2002, where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Foreign Affairs and Middle East Studies with a minor in Arabic. As a Fulbright-Hays Scholar, she studied Arabic at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan. She is also the recipient of an honorary doctor of letters degree from Niagara University.

Born in Connecticut, Brennan now lives in Washington, DC. She is married to Yado Yakub, a major in the U.S. Marines Corps. They have one son.

Peter Bretan, MD, FACS

Dr. Peter Bretan was born in Port Hueneme Naval Hospital in California, son of an immigrant Filipino farmer and disabled Army Veteran from World War II. He is a practicing urologist, renal transplant surgeon with special training in laparoscopic surgery with leadership experience in academics, state, local, national, and international arenas. Dr. Bretan served as Health Care Policy Course Lead Instructor, Touro Medical School and recipient of the AUA Presidential Citation May 2016. Dr. Bretan currently serves as the President of the California Medical Association.
He believes that the patient-doctor relationship is sacrosanct and should be the basic emphasis for any health care system to remain economically rational, accessible and sustainable.

Charlie Cook

Charlie Cook is widely considered to be one of the nation’s most respected and impartial analyst of American politics, elections, and political trends. As the editor and publisher of The Cook Political Report, columnist for National Journal, political analyst for NBC News and co-author of the upcoming 2020 edition of the Almanac of American Politics, Charlie’s prodigious writing is a direct line to the heart of politics. Deemed “the Picasso of election analysis” by The Wall Street Journal, he produces the sharpest and most impartial political handicapping in the business, serving as the one-man, go-to-source for Americans who want to be “in the know” about politics.

Cook’s expertise receives endless praise. The New York Times called him “one of the best political handicappers in the nation” and noted that The Cook Political Report is “a newsletter that both parties regard as authoritative.” The Washington Post said he is “perhaps the best non-partisan tracker of Congressional races,” and the Washingtonian called him “the man who knows more about politics than anyone else.”

With his encyclopedic knowledge, memorable stories, quick wit, and meaningful insights, Charlie Cook focuses on the broad implications of the latest election results. Using poll numbers, economic indicators, and historical data, he forecasts the fortunes of each party in a non-partisan way, leaving audiences with the concrete information they need in today’s political environment.

Keith Crawford, MD, PhD

Dr. Keith Crawford has more than 20 years in the life sciences and completed his graduate and post graduate training at Harvard Medical School where he developed competencies in the area of genomic, proteomics, immunology, microbiology, infectious disease, and regenerative medicine. During his post-doctoral training, Dr. Crawford was selected by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as a Harold Amos Fellow. His work in the field of immunology caught the eye of the Department of Defense, where he was funded to develop antidotes for chemical and biological weapons exposure as well as creating a high throughput platform for the detection of recent exposure to infectious agents.

After completion of this directive, Dr. Crawford became the principal investigator at the Center for Molecular Orthopedics at Brigham and Women’s. He was responsible for leading research efforts in the Center, which gave rise to the discovery of a novel population of adult stem cells, early lineage adult. Dr. Crawford and the laboratory were responsible for the preclinical studies, which laid the foundation for a spinal fusion therapeutics. He is a graduate of University of Texas Medical School in Houston (Medical Doctorate) and Harvard University (Doctor of Philosophy) where he studied cell biology and immunology.
**Tracy Downs, MD**

Dr. Tracy Downs is a Professor of Urology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison, Wisconsin. He also is a board-certified urologist, specializing in the surgical treatment of urologic cancers. He has a special interest in the treatment of both prostate and bladder cancer. Dr. Downs plays an instrumental role overseeing the recruitment and support programs for individuals who are from racial/ethnic diverse backgrounds underrepresented in medicine (URM) as complete their undergraduate and graduate medical education.

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**Chad Ellimoottil, MD**

Dr. Chad Ellimoottil is Assistant Professor of Urology and a member of the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation (IHPI) at the University of Michigan. After graduating with a degree in economics from Northwestern University, Dr. Ellimoottil gained healthcare policy experience at the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission in Washington, DC. He subsequently completed medical school and urology residency at Loyola University Medical Center. He also completed a master’s degree in health and healthcare research and an NIH-sponsored fellowship in health services research at the University of Michigan.

He currently is a urologist at the University of Michigan, the Director of Telehealth for the Urology Department and serves as physician consultant for Michigan Medicine’s Virtual Care Team. Dr. Ellimoottil’s research agenda is focused on evaluating and optimizing the delivery and implementation of telehealth. He serves as the Director of IHPI’s strategic initiative focused on telehealth policy and the Telehealth Research Incubator. He has more than 80 scientific publications and has received multiple grants for research.

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**Mark Fallick, MD, MBA, FACS**

Dr. Mark Fallick’s clinical practice is focused on male infertility, male reproductive medicine and surgery, and men’s health. He is a member of New Jersey Urology and practices in southern New Jersey. In addition to his care of patients, he has been active in health policy and advocacy work locally, regionally, and nationally. Dr. Fallick was a board member of the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition. He previously served on the board of the Mid-Atlantic Section of the AUA, and is currently the section Health Policy Chair. He is the Mid-Atlantic Section representative to the AUA Public Policy Council and the Practice Management Committee. Mark serves on the AUA State Advocacy Committee and is the Chair of the AUA Legislative Affairs Committee. He has been part of the AUA APM Workgroup, and the USP 800 Taskforce.
Daniel Frendl, MD, PhD

Dr. Daniel Frendl is a urologic surgery resident at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and AUA’s 2019-2020 H. Logan Holtgrewe Legislative Fellow. He received his medical degree, as well as a Ph.D. in clinical and population health research, from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and holds a Master of Science degree in physiology and biophysics from Georgetown University. He completed his undergraduate studies at Duke University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in public policy with minors in chemistry and biology.

Chris Gonzalez, MD, MBA, FACS

Dr. Chris Gonzalez is a native of Toledo, Ohio. He graduated from Denison University in Granville, Ohio with a B.S. degree in 1989. Afterwards he obtained his M.D. degree from the University of Iowa College of Medicine in Iowa City, Iowa. Dr. Gonzalez then completed both his general surgical and urologic residency training at the McGaw Medical Center, Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Gonzalez served in the U.S. Army National Guard from January 1991 – January 2001. He joined the Northwestern University Department of Urology in 2000 following residency, and was appointed Professor of Urology in 2011. He served as Chief of Urology for the VA Lakeside from 2003 – 2006 and completed his MBA degree from the Northwestern Kellogg School of Management in 2006. He was the Director of Surgery for the Northwestern Medicine Surgical Services Department from 2014 - 2015. Dr. Gonzalez was the Lester Persky Professor and Chairman of the Urology Institute at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Case Western Reserve University, and Cleveland, Ohio from 2015 to 2018. He was named the Albert J. Jr. and Claire Speh Professor and Chair of Urology for the Loyola University Medical Center and Stritch School of Medicine in August 2018.

He is the Associate Editor for the Genitourinary Reconstruction Section of Urology and section editor for the “Hands On” section of Urology Times. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgery Society, and he was a member of the first International Consultation on Urologic Stricture Disease. Dr. Gonzalez was a member of the Urethral Stricture guidelines panel for the AUA.

Dr. Gonzalez recently concluded his four-year term as the Chair for the AUA Public Policy Council. Previous to this position he served as Vice Chairman of the AUA Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Committee, Public Policy Council, and Practice Management Committee. He is a former AUA Gallagher Health Care Policy Scholar, and was a member of the second AUA Leadership Program class. Dr. Gonzalez has served on the AUA BPH Guidelines Committee, AUA expert panel to the AMA RUC, and the ABU/AUA Examination Committee. He was also President of the Chicago Urological Society in 2014. Dr. Gonzalez is a member of the American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons.

Dr. Gonzalez has published more than 150 peer reviewed manuscripts, review articles, invited editorials, and book chapters. He has had funded research in the past with an NIH pilot project in the
area of prostate cancer screening in underserved populations, and an ambulatory care process improvement award from the Grant Healthcare Foundation. His recent focus has been on patient reported outcome measures in the area of genitourinary reconstruction, practice patterns in reconstructive urologic surgery, practice integration of advanced practice providers, and the urology workforce shortage in the United States. His areas of clinical specialty include urethral stricture disease, salvage of failed hypospadias surgery, genitourinary fistula disease, erectile dysfunction, penile prosthetic placement, Peyronie’s disease, and penile curvature correction.

**Kimberly Horvath, JD**

Kimberly Horvath, JD is a senior legislative attorney in the Advocacy Resource Center at the American Medical Association where she leads multifaceted advocacy campaigns across the 50 states on top level healthcare issues, including telehealth, scope of practice, medical liability reform, physician-led team based care, physician licensure, workforce, and truth in advertising. Kimberly works in strong collaboration with the 50 state medical associations and national medical specialty associations across the country to help shape and inform state laws, regulations and policies in support of patients and physicians. Kim has advocated before national policy making organizations, state legislatures and state regulators.

**Dolores Lamb, PhD**

Dolores J. (Dorrie) Lamb, PhD, is Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Urology and Director of the Center for Reproductive Genomics at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York. She holds the Dow Professorship of Urology. Dr. Lamb is a highly recognized NIH-funded researcher in the fields of urology, male infertility, steroid hormone action, prostate cancer, and genitourinary birth defects. Her experience is unique as she has an extensive background in both the clinical diagnostic and the basic science arenas in men’s health as well as having a remarkable record of achievement in the mentoring and development of clinician-scientists. She is a former president of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) and five other national societies, the recipient of the Distinguished Researcher Award from ASRM, the American Society of Andrology Distinguished Andrologist Award, the Ramon Gutierras Lecturer at the AUA’s annual meeting and the Distinguished Mentor Awards from the AUA Foundation, The Endocrine Society, and the Society of Women in Urology.
Dirk Lange, PhD

Dr. Dirk Lange is an Associate Professor in the Department of Urologic Sciences at the University of British Columbia, the Director of Basic Science Research at the Stone Centre at Vancouver General Hospital, and Co-Leader of the Basic and Translational Research Section of the Endourological Society. Dr. Lange completed his Ph.D. at the University of Western Ontario (London, Ontario) in microbiology & immunology. Dr. Lange completed his Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Stone Centre at Vancouver General Hospital, where he was instrumental in building an internationally renowned translational research program focusing on improving the treatment and prevention of kidney stone disease. Specifically, the research program focuses on the role of bacteria in urologic disease, including the development of novel strategies to prevent complications associated with indwelling urinary devices, mainly urinary tract infections. Furthermore, Dr. Lange is becoming a leader in studying the role of the intestinal microbiome in recurrent kidney stone disease. Internationally, Dr. Lange is viewed as one of the leading experts in these areas and a sought-after speaker at numerous international conferences and institutions on the subject.

Una Lee, MD

Dr. Una Lee is a urologist in the Section of Urology at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, Washington. She is subspecialty board certified in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS), and serves as Associate Program Director of the FPMRS fellowship at Virginia Mason. Her undergraduate and medical school degrees are from Stanford University. She completed a urology residency at the Cleveland Clinic, and did her fellowship in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery at UCLA. Dr. Lee’s clinical practice is focused on the evaluation and management of female pelvic floor disorders. She specializes in overactive bladder, incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse and vaginal reconstructive surgery, robotic-assisted laparoscopic surgery, as well as complications from prior surgeries using mesh.

Dr. Lee conducts clinical and translational research to advance a deeper understanding of female pelvic floor problems, and grounds her research in patient-centered perspectives. She enjoys writing blogposts to help educate women on their pelvic floor health. She volunteers with the nonprofit organization Medicine for Humanity and travels to Mbarara, Uganda to partner with local gynecologists to provide care and medical education on issues of women’s health including the surgical repair of childbirth injury. She serves as the Women’s Health Chair of the Washington State Urology Society, and organizes advocacy and leadership development for Washington state urologists. She currently is serving as Guest Editor of a special edition of Urology focused on women’s health. She hopes to raise awareness of urologic issues related to advancing women’s health.
John Lynch, MD, FACS

Dr. John H. Lynch is Professor and Chairman of the MedStar Georgetown University Hospital Department of Urology, Georgetown University School of Medicine Department of Urology and Chief of MedStar’s newly formed Regional Urology Service Line.

Dr. Lynch is a former Director of the Prostate Cancer Center within the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. He serves as Director of the Robotic Program within the hospital. He is a past-president of the medical staff. He served for ten years as co-chair of the Committee on Medical Education and was a member of the Committee on Students for the past seven years. He received the Kaiser-Permanente Teaching Award and the Founders Medal from the School of Medicine and is a member of the Magis Society of Masters Teachers of the School of Medicine. He is an expert on prostate cancer surgery, PSA screening tests, and cancer survivorship. His special interests are in urologic oncology, especially nerve-sparing radical prostatectomy, cystectomy as well as the treatment of benign prostatic enlargement. He has well over one hundred publications, one hundred and forty national and international presentations and a similar number of abstracts.

Dr. Lynch has been active both regionally and nationally. He is a past president of the Washington Urologic Society. He has been Program Chairman and Local Arrangement Chairman for several Mid-Atlantic Section of the AUA meetings. He served on the Board of Directors for the Mid-Atlantic Section and is a past president of the section. He served a term on the Executive Committee of the Society of Urology Chairs and Program Directors. He is a former Mid-Atlantic Section Representative on the AUA Board of Directors and during that term served on the Finance Committee and as Chair of the Compensation Committee. He was awarded an Honorary Membership in the AUA in 2016.

Rep. Greg Murphy, MD (R-NC-03)

Dr. Gregory Murphy, originally from Raleigh, NC, graduated magna cum laude from Davidson College in 1985. He then attended University of North Carolina School of Medicine graduating with honors. After doing his residency in Urology and Renal Transplantation at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, he and his wife settled in Greenville, North Carolina (NC) to begin his practice. He and his wife, Wendy, have three children all are either working or in graduate school.

He was formerly President of Eastern Urological Associates in Greenville and Affiliate Professor and Chief of the Division of Urology at the East Carolina University School of Medicine. He recently served as Davidson College’s Alumni President and was on its Board of Trustees. Outside of work he has traveled extensively for the last 35 years to third world countries including India, several parts of Africa, Nicaragua, and Haiti as a Medical Missionary.

Dr. Murphy’s professional career has been primarily one of clinical practice and administrative leadership positions. His surgical practice site is Vidant Medical Center, a 1,000-bed level 1 Trauma Center, which serves 29 eastern NC counties. He served for three years as Chief of Staff of the Medical
Center. He previously served on the Board of the North Carolina Urological Association, on the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Section of the American Urological Association and on the Executive Board of the Judicial and Ethics Committee for the American Urological Association as well as on the By-Laws Committee. He is a member in good standing of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine.

As a newcomer to politics Dr. Murphy served in the North Carolina House of Representatives from 2015 to 2019. During his second term in the General Assembly, he served as Senior Chair of Health Policy and Chair of Health and Human Services Appropriations. While he was successful in getting a variety of legislation passed, he was the Primary Sponsor of both the STOP Act and the HOPE Act, North Carolina’s two main legislative actions to combat the Opioid Crisis. He led efforts to combat waste, fraud and abuse in the state's Medicaid system which saved the state hundreds of millions of dollars during his tenure.

Dr. Murphy, along with 25 other candidates, ran in a Special Election in 2019 to replace Congressman Walter B Jones, Jr, who passed away after serving the citizens of the NC District 3 for more than 22 years. Running against 16 other Republicans, he came in first in the primary but had to compete in a runoff two months later. He won the run off by more than 20 points and then won the General Election two months later with 61 percent of the vote. As a freshman in the U.S. Congress, he serves on the Science and Technology Committee as well as the Education and Labor Committee.

Amanda North, MD
Dr. Amanda C. North, Associate Professor of Urology at Montefiore Medical Center, is a pediatric urologist who specializes in the care and treatment of children with congenital anomalies of the urinary tract and complex voiding issues. Dr. North earned her medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine (Alpha Omega Alpha); she subsequently trained in General Surgery and Urology in the Einstein/Montefiore program. Dr. North completed fellowship training in Pediatric Urology at Johns Hopkins University and joined the faculty of The Department of Urology at Montefiore in 2007.

Dr. North is the Chairperson of the AUA Workforce Workgroup. She is a graduate of the AUA Leadership Program, serves on the AUA Data Committee, and is Chairperson-Elect of the Urology Cares Foundation Pediatric Health Committee. She serves as Treasurer of UROPAC and the Board of Directors of the New York Section of the American Urological Association.

Her research has focused on physician burnout as well as addressing workforce issues in medicine with a focus on increasing the number of women in urology and improving access to care in rural areas.

When she isn't working, Dr. North is a mom, a Disney-lover, and a runner.
Aria Olumi, MD

Dr. Aria Olumi serves as the Chair of Research for the AUA. A physician scientist, Dr. Olumi is the Chief of Urologic Surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center & Janet and William DeWolf endowed Professor at Harvard Medical School. His clinical activities are focused on urologic oncology and surgical management of kidney, bladder and prostate cancer. Previously, he served as the Residency Program Director at Massachusetts General Hospital and the director of the Combined Harvard Urologic Oncology Fellowship Program.

Dr. Olumi’s NIH-funded laboratory is focused on providing personalized care for prostatic diseases. His lab has learned that the 5-alpha reductase 2 gene, an important gene that is responsible for normal prostatic development and growth, and a target of the commonly used 5-alpha reductase inhibitors (finasteride or dutasteride), is not expressed in 30% of adult men. His lab defined the epigenetic mechanism that leads to variable expression of the gene in adult prostates. Their findings have broad implications that can explain the variable growth patterns of the prostate gland and the reason for resistance to the therapeutic effects of 5-alpha reductase inhibitors.

As Chair of the AUA Research Council, Dr. Olumi’s goal is to enhance the research activities for the urologic community and increase the educated workforce of urologic researchers who can effectively study urologic diseases with the ultimate goal of reducing burden of disease for our patients. Through advocacy, education and promotion of grant funding mechanisms for urology investigators, the AUA is hard at work for its constituents, and he feels privileged to be part of that mission.

David F. Penson, MD, MPH

Dr. David F. Penson is the Hamilton and Howd Chair in Urologic Oncology, Director of the Center for Surgical Quality and Outcomes Research and Professor and Chair, Department of Urologic Surgery at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Penson studied clinical epidemiology and health services research at Yale University, obtaining a Master’s in Public Health. Upon the completion of his fellowship, Dr. Penson joined the faculty of the University of Washington School of Medicine and was appointed affiliate investigator at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. He was awarded a VA Career Development Award in 2001 and soon after obtained R-01 grant funding from the National Cancer Institute to study quality of life in prostate cancer survivors.

He then served as Associate Professor of Urology and Preventive Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California from 2004 to 2009. In 2007, Dr. Penson received the AUA Gallagher Health Policy Scholar award presented to urologists who demonstrate a commitment to health policy.

In August 2009, Dr. Penson joined the faculty at Vanderbilt University as Professor of Urologic Surgery and Director of the Center for Surgical Quality and Outcomes Research in the Vanderbilt
Institut for Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Penson maintains a clinical practice in urologic oncology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

In April 2013, Dr. Penson was awarded the Paul V. Hamilton, MD and Virginia E. Howd Chair in Urologic Oncology.

Dr. Penson served as Chair of the AUA’s Public Policy Council from 2012-2016. He currently serves as the Chair of the AUA’s Science & Quality Council.

Tom Rechtschaffen, MD, FACS

Dr. Thomas H. Rechtschaffen is a partner at Integrated Medical Professionals PLLC and is the Chief of Urology of SBH Health System in Bronx, New York. He attended Columbia University, the New York University School of Medicine and his residency training at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center. He began advocacy activities in 2010. He is a graduate of the AUA’s Leadership Program and was the 2016-17 AUA Gallagher Health Policy Scholar. He proudly serves on the executive board of the New York Section of the AUA, is the Immediate Past Chair of the AUA Legislative Affairs Committee, and is the Chair of AUAPAC.

He believes that advocacy participation enriches physician’s careers and has as a stated priority to encourage young urologists to participate in this rewarding and productive facet of medicine, adding that many of the other urologists from around the country that he’s met in this capacity are amongst his closest friends and mentors.

William Reha, MD, MBA

Dr. William Reha is a board-certified urologic surgeon in Woodbridge, Virginia. In addition to his private practice, he has been an active advocate for organized medicine. He has served as speaker and president of the Medical Society of Virginia (MSV). Additionally, he has served as president of the Potomac Hospital Medical Staff, Prince William County Medical Society, and the Virginia Urological Society. On a national level he serves as Vice-Chair, the Virginia Delegation to the American Medical Association and is the State Advocacy Network Chair for the American Association of Clinical Urologists. He is a Medical Society of Virginia Foundation Claude Moore Physician Leadership Institute fellow and the recipient of the MSV Clarence A. Holland Award, which is presented annually to a Virginia Physician for outstanding contributions promoting the arts and science of medicine and the betterment of public health through political service. He is a past recipient of the Ambrose-Reed Socioeconomics award from the AUA and currently serves as a member of the Public Policy Council.

Dr. Reha received his bachelor’s degree in Biochemistry from Binghamton University, medical degree from New York Medical College, residency in Urologic Surgery at Georgetown University, and an M.B.A. from Strayer University, where he now serves as member of its Board of Trustees. He was
recently elected to the Board of Directors for Professionals Advocate Insurance Company.

**Polina Reyblat, MD**

Dr. Reyblat did her urology residency at University of Southern California under tutelage of Dr. Donald G. Skinner and Dr. John P. Stein. Their tireless commitment to excellence and surgical precision, their sincerity and hands-on approach to clinical urology will always be the guiding principle of Dr. Reyblat’s life and practice. While in residency, she was a recipient of Intern of the Year award and Urology Resident-Teacher of the Year award and was named the Outstanding Teacher of the Los Angeles County Medical Center.

Dr. Reyblat was the first fellow of the Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive and Prosthetic surgery fellowship at USC. She completed her training under guidance and mentorship of Dr. David Ginsberg and Dr. Stuart Boyd.

After graduation she accepted a position to lead reconstructive and neuro-urology division of the Urology Department at Kaiser Permanente (KP) Los Angeles Medical Center, taking care of more than 2,000 patients with neurogenic bladder. In 2015, she was appointed a Chief of the Urology Department. Since 2017, Dr. Reyblat co-leads a multi-disciplinary comprehensive program for Gender Affirmation Surgery serving KP patients of southern California. In 2019, Dr. Reyblat was awarded the SCPMG Distinction Merit Award – one of the most prestigious awards that recognizes physician’s extraordinary commitment to quality of care.

**Eugene Rhee, MD, MBA**

Dr. Eugene Rhee is the Regional Coordinating Chief of Urology for Kaiser Permanente (KP) in Southern California and the National Chair of Urology for the Permanente Federation, responsible for empowering urologic care for 11.8 million lives within the largest nonprofit, managed healthcare organization in the U.S. He also serves as Area Assistant Medical Director for the Business Line & Finance for KP in San Diego.

Dr. Rhee is the 2013 AUA Gallagher Health Policy Scholar and is Chair of the AUA Public Policy Council. He is a past president of the California Urological Association and the San Diego Urologic Society. He served as the inaugural Section Editor for Health Policy for *Urology Practice Journal*. He recently served as Co-Chair of the AUA Telemedicine Committee exploring the role of telemedicine in urologic care and as Chair of the Western Section AUA Health Policy Committee. He has sat on the AUA Legislative Affairs Committee, the AUA State Advocacy Committee, the AUA Electronic Health Records Workgroup, and the AUA Workforce Workgroup. He served on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Clinical Urologists as the Western Section Representative.

Dr. Rhee’s interests lie in the field of incontinence, urologic reconstruction & sexual medicine, and minimally invasive techniques for BPH. Dr. Rhee earned his medical degree from Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia and completed his residency at the Kaiser Permanente
Jacqueline Roche, DrPH, MHS

Jacqueline Roche is a Senior Director of Health Policy and Reimbursement and Global Policy Planning within the Global Health Policy team in Johnson & Johnson’s corporate Government Affairs and Policy office. Jacqueline’s areas of focus include coverage and reimbursement policy and strategy, value-based payment models, and the impact of key laws and regulations including the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicare payment reform (MACRA) on Johnson & Johnsons operating companies. Jacqueline provides key thought leadership on the major health reforms germane to the U.S. market and is a subject matter expert in Medicare, Medicaid, the ACA and role of quality metrics in the major payment programs. Jacqueline joined J&J after nearly ten years at the US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), where she played a critical role in the agency’s implementation of the ACA. Jacqueline is also an Occupational Therapist with experience in the direct provision of clinical care in a variety of healthcare environments, including: acute care hospitals; psychiatric ERs; skilled nursing facilities; home care; and school-based services. Jacqueline holds a Doctorate of Public Health, in Health Leadership and Policy from Johns Hopkins University and also serves as a Standing Advisory Committee Member for the Maryland Health Exchange and for the Value of Life Sciences Innovation at the USC Schaeffer Center.

Jonathan Rubenstein, MD

Dr. Jonathan Rubenstein is the Chair of the AUA Coding and Reimbursement Committee and a member of the AUA Urology Telehealth Task Force. In these roles he has been active in assessing, valuing and teaching appropriate use of telehealth. He is also the Compliance Officer and Medical Director for Coding and Reimbursement for the United Urology Group, a group with over 180 providers and a group who has been very active in the use of telehealth in urology starting even before this Public Health Emergency. He received his M.D. from Baylor College of Medicine, did his urology training at Northwestern University in Chicago, IL, and his fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco.

John P. Smith, DO

Dr. John Smith graduated with a B.S. from Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. He then attended medical school at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth, Texas. After graduation from medical school, he completed a traditional internship at Bluefield Regional Medical Center in Bluefield, West Virginia and went on to complete a Family Medicine residency at Long Island Community Hospital in Patchouge, New York. Dr. Smith then continued his training,
becoming the second graduate of the Genitourinary Medicine fellowship at the Smith Institute for Urology at Northwell Health, in Lake Success, New York. After completing his fellowship training, he joined the Urology Department at the University of Utah, where he is currently an assistant professor.

Aaron Spitz, MD

Dr. Aaron Spitz earned his medical degree from Cornell Medical College and he completed his Urology residency at the University of Southern California, and then obtained fellowship training in infertility at the Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Spitz has expertise in the treatment of male infertility and sexual dysfunction, and is actively engaged in clinical trials and research in the area of andrology, male sexual dysfunction, and male infertility.

Dr. Aaron Spitz served as an assistant clinical professor in the U.C. Irvine department of Urology, specializing in male reproductive medicine and surgery.

Dr. Spitz directs the Center for Male Reproductive Medicine and Surgery at Orange County Urology in Laguna Hills and Mission Viejo, California.

Dr Spitz is the Co-Chair of the AUA Urology Telehealth Taskforce. He also serves on the AUA Workforce Workgroup and the AUA ad hoc Workgroup on Advanced Practice Providers as well as the AUA Position Statement on Opioid Use Workgroup. He served as the lead delegate to the AMA House of Delegates representing the AUA. He has served as the President of the California Urologic Association. He is the Orange County District representative to the Western Section of the AUA. Dr Spitz served on the Board of Directors as Vice President of Finance for the Pacific Coast Reproductive Society. Dr Spitz also served as treasurer for the Society for the Study of Male Reproduction.

Dr. Spitz has been awarded several prestigious honors including Alpha Omega Alpha at the University of Southern California as well as the AUA Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Spitz is the author of *The Penis Book: A Doctor’s Complete Guide to the Penis*, from size to function and everything in between published by Rodale Books. He appears regularly on CBS’ The Doctors to discuss urology topics. He was also featured in the documentary The Game Changers. He has authored book chapters and articles in peer reviewed publications on the topic of male infertility and sexual dysfunction as well as on telemedicine.

Dr Spitz is a member of the AUA, AMA, Society for the Study of Male Reproduction (SSMR), Society for Male Reproduction and Urology (SMRU), and ASRM.

He serves as a reviewer for the *Journal of Endourology*, the *Journal of Urology* and the *Journal of Andrology* and *Urology Practice Journal*. 
Arthur Tarantino, MD

Dr. Arthur Tarantino is a practicing urologist for more than 30 years, now employed by Hartford Healthcare Corporation in Hartford, Connecticut. Dr. Tarantino received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his master’s and medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed his General Surgery training at the University of Rochester and his urology residency at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, Massachusetts. Dr. Tarantino has served organized urology in a variety of capacities. He has been on the Board and President of the AACU. He has served as state representative, treasurer, president and immediate past president of the New England Section of the AUA. He currently is the Chair of the AUA State Advocacy Committee and is the New England Section Alternate Representative to the AUA Board of Directors.

Kara Watts, MD

Dr. Kara L. Watts, Assistant Professor of Urology, joined the urology faculty at Montefiore in 2016. Dr. Watts earned her medical degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in 2010 and subsequently completed her six-year residency training in surgery and urology at Montefiore Medical Center.

As Dr. Watts launches her general urology practice at Montefiore, she is also focusing on advances in technology that will improve the diagnosis of prostate cancer. She is leading a department-wide initiative to implement the UroNav, a platform for MRI-ultrasound fusion biopsy of the prostate, to more accurately detect prostate cancer in men. Furthermore, she is working to develop protocols for risk stratification of men with newly diagnosed prostate cancer based on this technology, as well as programs for active surveillance of indolent prostate cancer and small renal masses. Lastly, she is pursuing her interest in focal therapy for prostate cancer.

Dr. Watts has numerous awards from her residency training. In 2013, she won an award for Clinical Research at the NY Section of the AUA Valentine Essay Contest. In 2016, she was the winner of the New York AUA Chief Resident Debate as well as the National AUA Chief Resident Debate in San Diego, CA. She has also presented her work on multiple occasions at the AUA annual conference, World Congress of Urology, and the Society for Pediatric Urology.
### Attendee Roster (as of August 25)

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John Stephen Lam
Jonathan L. Wright
Jonathan N. Rubenstein
Julie M. Riley
Junghwan Choi
Justin Seungchan Ahn
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Katherine Cilwa
Katie E. Wall
*Katy Lyall
Keith Crawford
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*Tyron McClain
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Valentina Grajales
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Vikas S. Bhatt
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Yooni Yi
Zachary Robert Burns

*Industry Representative
I am a urologist.
I am a patient.

When my BPH symptoms became unbearable I really didn’t want to undergo invasive surgery and I’m not a personal fan of BPH medications. Relief can be inadequate and temporary and they have a whole host of side effects.¹

Peter J. Walter, M.D., F.A.C.S. Western New York Urology Associates and UROLIFT® SYSTEM PATIENT

Enlarged Prostate (BPH) affects over 40 million men in the United States. Symptoms may include interrupted sleep and urinary problems as well as loss of productivity, depression and decreased quality of life.²

If your patients have symptoms of an enlarged prostate, introduce them to the UroLift® System. Here’s why I chose UroLift System and recommend it to my patients.

**Proven** minimally invasive approach to treating enlarged prostate that provides rapid symptom relief and recovery³,⁴

**An earlier alternative** to medical therapy that provides symptom relief better than reported for medication³,⁵

**Durability** through 5 years⁶

**Over 175,000** men have been treated with the UroLift System worldwide

The procedure is **covered by Medicare** and all major private insurers when medical criteria are met.

Learn more and check out the data at [UroLift.com/info](http://UroLift.com/info)

The UroLift System procedure is FDA-cleared for the treatment of symptoms due to urinary outflow obstruction secondary to BPH, including lateral and median lobe hyperplasia, in men 45 years of age or older. Results and patient experience may vary. Clinical data from a pivotal 206-patient randomized controlled study showed that most common adverse events reported include hematuria, dysuria, micturition urgency, pelvic pain, and urge incontinence. Most symptoms were mild to moderate in severity and resolved within 2 to 4 weeks after the procedure.

*Dr. Walter is UroLift System faculty and a paid consultant for NeoTract|Teleflex

**Management estimate based on product sales and average units per procedure.


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SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO MAKE TELEHEALTH CHANGES PERMANENT

Telehealth has transformed the practice of urology during the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the American Urological Association (AUA) quickly adapted their practices to deliver health care virtually to their patients. While this transition was rapid, AUA members have long recognized the potential for telehealth to improve their patients’ access to care and ultimately their health outcomes under normal circumstances. The AUA believes Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) must take action now to preserve Medicare beneficiary access to telehealth services.

REQUEST – The AUA respectfully requests that House members cosponsor H.R. 7663, the Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act. The legislation seeks to make permanent some of the telehealth flexibilities implemented in response to COVID-19.

While there is currently no Senate companion bill, the AUA encourages Senate offices to consider introducing this legislation. Any offices interested should contact the AUA’s Legislative & Political Affairs Department.

BACKGROUND – The authority granted to HHS in multiple pieces of COVID-19 relief legislation as well as the declaration of a public health emergency allowed HHS and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement a number of flexibilities to expand virtual care. If no action is taken, many of these flexibilities will end once the public health emergency concludes.

The AUA evaluated these flexibilities and shared with the administration its recommendations about which of them will support the delivery of high quality care after the pandemic. The AUA’s letter recommended the following:

- Maintenance of the services added to the telehealth list post-public health emergency;
- Continuation of the telephone evaluation and management services;
- Ongoing telehealth service eligibility for new and established patients;
- Pay parity between in-person and telehealth visits;
- Virtual supervision of clinical staff;
- Virtual delivery of face-to-face requirements in national and local coverage determinations; and
- Relaxation of originating site requirements so that patients can continue to receive telehealth services in their homes.

CMS proposed a number of telehealth policy changes and solicited comments on others in their CY 2021 Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule (CMS-1734-P). However, congressional action is required to make some of these changes permanent.
RATIONALE – H.R. 7663 is a bipartisan bill introduced by Telehealth Caucus members, Representatives Mike Thompson (D-CA), Peter Welch (D-VT), Bill Johnson (R-OH), Dave Schweikert (R-AZ), and Doris Matsui (D-CA). The bill does not address all of AUA’s telehealth priorities, but it does propose a number of important changes to support the expanded use of telehealth.

1) Eliminates the Restrictions on the Location of the Patient: Prior to the public health emergency, telehealth services could only be delivered to patients at qualified originating sites, including physician offices and hospitals, in counties outside of Metropolitan Statistical Areas and a rural Health Professional Shortage Area. This prohibited Medicare beneficiaries from receiving telehealth services in their homes. Should this legislation be enacted, patients no longer have to be in a rural area to receive telehealth services and may receive them in their homes as of December 31, 2020. This change is a priority for AUA to expand patient access to telehealth services.

2) Grants the Secretary Authority to Waive Medicare Telehealth Requirements during Future Public Health Emergencies: It took an act of Congress early in the pandemic to give HHS the authority to implement telehealth flexibilities to address COVID-19. This provision would make future congressional action unnecessary, as it would grant the Secretary of HHS the authority to implement telehealth waivers during any public health emergency period. This section also provides for the waivers to sunset 90 days after the public health emergency concludes and directs the Secretary to report to Congress on the utilization of telehealth services 180 days after the conclusion of the emergency.

3) Authorizes Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to be Eligible Telehealth Providers: Neither RHCs or FQHCs qualified as eligible distant site providers of telehealth prior to the public health emergency, yet these sites play an important role in the treating rural and underserved populations. This legislation would change this, improving access to telehealth services, as of January 1, 2021.

CONTACT – For more information or to be added as a cosponsors, please contact Crozer Connor, with Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA-05) at 5-3311 or crozer.connor@mail.house.gov or Sam Hattrup with Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH-06) at 5-5705 or sam.hattrup@mail.house.gov.
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS SPECIALTY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGES IN RURAL AREAS

The American Urological Association (AUA) has actively worked with Members of Congress on legislation to address the urological workforce shortage that jeopardizes patient access to care. The shortage of urologists and other specialists is most acute in the rural areas of the United States.

REQUEST – The AUA urges House members to cosponsor H.R. 5924, a bill that would encourage urologists and other specialty medicine physicians to practice in rural communities by creating a student loan forgiveness program for these important providers.

While there is currently no Senate companion bill, the AUA encourages any offices interested in sponsoring a Senate version to please contact the AUA’s Legislative & Political Affairs Department.

BACKGROUND – The United States is facing an overall shortage of physicians. Projections have shown that at least half of the shortage is among specialty medicine physicians such as urologists. In fact, only 38 percent of all U.S. counties have a practicing urologist, there have been significant declines in the number of urologists per capita, and the average age of a practicing urologist makes the specialty one of the oldest in the medical profession. While the number of specialty medicine physicians, such as urologists, is decreasing and the average age is increasing, 53.8 percent of urology residents have more than $150,000 in student loan debt, and for 26.8 percent of them, the figure is $250,000 or more.

The bill authorizes the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide urologists and other qualified specialty medicine physicians the opportunity to have a portion of their eligible student loans repaid by the federal government in exchange for practicing in a rural community experiencing a shortage of specialty medicine physicians.

The required period of service is six years of full-time employment with no more than one year passing between any two-year period of employment. The loan repayment for each year of service would be 1/6 of the principal, and interest on each eligible loan (which is outstanding on the date the service started). The remaining principal and interest on any loans is paid upon completion of the sixth and final year of service. The total amount of repayments cannot be more than $250,000.

The bill defines a specialty medicine physician as a physician whose specialty has a baseline projected demand that exceeds its projected supply, as identified in the Health Resources and Services Administration’s most recent report on the physician workforce, “The Physician Workforce: Projections and Research into Current Issues Affecting Supply and Demand”.

CONTACT – For more information or to be added as a cosponsor, please contact Kirsten Wing with Rep. David McKinley (R-WV-1) at 5-7564 or Kirsten.Wing@mail.house.gov or Alexandra Morris with Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT-AL) at 5-6790 or alexandra.morris@mail.house.gov.
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