Inside Urology at Yale

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WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

Ankur Choksi, MD
University of Maryland School of Medicine

Tashzna Jones, MD
State University of New York Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine

Soum Lokeshwar, MD
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Eric Ghiraldi, MD
Endourology Fellow

Gregory McMahon, MD
Urologic Oncology Fellow
SAM S. CHANG, MD, MBA, 2020 BERNARD LYTTON VISITING PROFESSOR

We were pleased to have Sam S. Chang, MD, MBA, Professor, Department of Urology and Patricia and Rodes Hart Professor of Urologic Surgery from Vanderbilt University Medical Center, join us virtually as our 2020 Bernard Lytton Visiting Professor.

On Thursday, June 18, Dr. Chang presented and participated in our Virtual Visiting Professor session, and he also presented Grand Rounds on Friday, June 19. Please contact Jodi Canapp to request a link to view the Visiting Professor session in its entirety. Dr. Chang's Grand Rounds presentation is available here.

ANNUAL HONORS PRESENTED AT VIRTUAL GRADUATION

On Thursday, June 18, we virtually celebrated and recognized the achievements of our graduating chief residents, Juan Javier-DesLoges, MD and Jeannie Su, MD, and our fellows, Adam Ludvigson, MD, Mohammed Zaher, MD, and Alejandro Abello, MD.

Each year, the graduating residents present honors to the urology technician, nurse, and advanced practice provider who most influenced them during their training at Yale. They also recognize an individual who has provided compassionate care, as well as who has made a difference in patient safety.

Congratulations to all!
Most Influential Technician:  
Enid Fletcher, ST

Most Influential Nurse:  
Kerin Hinman, RN

Most Influential Advanced Practice Provider:  
Kassandra August-Marcucio, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, CUNP

Compassionate Care Award:  
Kristie Hotchkiss, APRN

Patient Safety Award:  
Alejandro Abello, MD

Richard Dean Compassionate Care Award:  
Richard Ho, MD

Dr. Robert M. Weiss Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award

This year, the Inaugural Robert M. Weiss, MD, Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award was presented to Dr. Weiss and Robert Stroup, MD. The award was created to honor Dr. Weiss who has been an essential part of the residency program for many years, as well as to honor faculty members who, like Dr. Weiss, have demonstrated excellence, educational skills, and contributed significantly to resident
education over the past academic year.

Dr. Stroup was honored in recognition of his dedication to resident education at the Residents' Clinic based at Cornell Hill Scott Health, as well as clinic at the Saint Raphael Campus. Dr. Stroup enjoyed this strong teaching role with PGY-2 residents at his side in full clinic to help diagnose and treat conditions. With Dr. Stroup's kind, calm demeanor, residents learned empathy, how to calm patients, how to prepare well-written patient notes, and much more.

Congratulations, Dr. Weiss and Dr. Stroup!

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RESIDENTS JOIN TIKTOK

The Yale Urology Residency Program has created an unofficial account on the social media site, TikTok. For those unfamiliar, TikTok features short, fun videos set to music or audio from a movie or TV program. It is an engaging tool to catch the interest of medical students pursuing a residency program.

Several faculty, including Peter Schulam, MD, Adam Hittelman, MD, PhD, Piruz Motamedinia, MD, John Colberg, MD, Dinesh Singh, MD, Angela Arlen, MD, and Michael Leapman, MD, have made appearances. You can view all of the Residents’ videos (without having to create an account) by clicking [here](#).

(Left) Dinesh Singh, MD, appears with Kristie Hotchkiss, APRN, and Jeannie Su, MD, in a TikTok video. Click image to view!

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STAN HONIG PRESENTS IN LECTURE SERIES

Last month, Stanton Honig, MD, was a presenter in the Society for the Study of Male Reproduction (SSMR) Male Infertility Lecture Series (SMILES). His presentation, "AUA Vasectomy Guidelines," can be viewed in its entirety [here](#) by advancing ahead to the 35:00 mark.

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ADAM HITTELMAN AND ISRAEL FRANCO PRESENT AT PEDIATRIC UROLOGY MEETING

Drs. Israel Franco and Adam Hittelman recently participated in the The Brazilian School of Pediatric Urology 1st International Virtual Meeting in Pediatric Urology.
Dr. Franco spoke about Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) and its mode of action. Recent work done at Yale with functional MRI data shows that transcutaneous electrical stimulation leads to an increase in activation in executive function sites in the frontal lobes of the brain.

Dr. Hittelman spoke on the Botulinum Toxin A-Mechanisms, which incorporated recent work studying the mechanisms of action of Botulinum Toxin A and its role in mitigating the inflammatory response in a rat model.

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**WELCOME SHEILA GARCIA**

Sheila Garcia has joined the Department as Senior Administrative Assistant, and she will support faculty members as well as coordinate Grand Rounds, Morbidity and Mortality, and Urology Quality Assurance and Improvement Committee (UQAIC) meetings.

Sheila previously was employed at Yale New Haven Hospital, where she held various positions for 12 years while pursuing her Bachelors of Science degree. After her 12-year tenure, she transitioned to the Urology CARE Center for one year, working with Rosy Cruz. She joins our Urology team from the Department of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Hepatology where she has worked for the last year.

Welcome, Sheila!

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**NEWS, NOTES, AND EVENTS**

The Urology Town Hall Listening Session on Racism and Violence takes place on Friday, July 10, from 7:00-8:00am. Darin Latimore, MD, Deputy Dean and Chief Diversity Officer, Yale School of Medicine, and Katherine Tucker, DNP, RN, APRN-BC, NE-BC, Clinical Program Director, Heart and Vascular Center, Yale New Haven Hospital, will be the featured speakers. Please join us for this Virtual Session here.

In April, Adam Hittelman, MD, PhD, presented on 'Common Urologic Emergencies' for the NEMG pediatric workgroup in addition to presenting in the National Pediatric Urology Fellowship Lecture Series on 'Introduction to Disorders of Sexual Differentiation.'
Adam Hittelman, MD, PhD, with co-authors Marianne Casilla-Lennon, MD, and Jose Murillo Netto, MD, recently submitted a book chapter, "New Robotic Systems, Minimally Invasive and Robotic-Assisted Surgery in Pediatric Urology."

The Smilow Cancer Hospital Prostate and Urologic Cancers Program is expected to launch a multidisciplinary clinic at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Waterford soon. The Clinic will feature medical, radiation, and urologic oncology for management of high risk prostate, kidney, testis and bladder cancers. Patients will see all providers in a single visit for a comprehensive assessment and plan.

GRANTS

Darryl Martin, PhD, Research Scientist and member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Signaling Networks Research Program, has been awarded an Idea Development Award from the Department of Defense. In this interdisciplinary collaborative project, Dr. Martin will serve as the PI and work with Co-PIs, James Yu, MD, MHS, Preston Sprenkle, MD, Peter Humphrey, MD, PhD, and John Onofrey, PhD, to use therapeutic response genomic signatures and machine learning to predict treatment intervention. This award is $750,000 over three years, and began on July 1, 2020.

Darryl Martin, PhD, has also been awarded a Career Development Award from the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program. Dr. Martin’s research aims to understand the impact of the tumor immune microenvironment on bladder cancer progression. This 3-year award began on July 1, 2020. Alfred Bothwell, PhD, Professor of Immunobiology, will serve as a mentor on this award.

Shailja Mehta, MD, Female Pelvic Reconstructive Medicine and Surgery Fellow, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, has been awarded a Fellow Research Award from the Pelvic Floor Disorders Foundation Grant Program. Dr. Mehta’s project will target urinary tract infections using non-antibiotic substances. Darryl Martin, PhD, is the mentor for Dr. Mehta on this award.

PUBLICATIONS


Do you have any news, publications, or photos to share for an upcoming issue?

Please share with Eliza Folsom, Assoc. Communications Officer for Yale Urology:

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