

EUREKA!



American
Urological
Association
Education & Research, Inc.

Research News & Funding Digest

NEW THIS WEEK

Access the Latest Science from the 2017 AUA Annual Meeting!

The 2017 AUA Annual Meeting featured an extraordinary array programs devoted to urologic research! You can now access **FREE** Webcasts from this year's Basic Sciences Symposium:

- Progenitor Cells and the Origin of Prostate Cancer, Speaker: Michael M. Shen, PhD
- Clinical Trials and Bioethics of Regeneration, Speaker: Carlos R. Estrada Jr., MD
- The First Tissue Engineered Neo-Urinary Conduit Clinical Trial for Complete Organ Replacement: Successes, Pitfalls, Challenges, Speaker: Trinity J. Bivalacqua, MD
- Regenerating and Replacing Organs: Research Ethics and Policy Issues, Speaker: Nancy King
- From Bench to Bedside: The Clinical Drug & Device Development Pathways, Speaker: Christopher J. Cutie, MD

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Robotic Prostatectomy Centers on the Rise in the United Kingdom

A national, population-based study published on October 3, 2017 in *The Lancet Oncology*, reported an increase in the number of centers performing robotic surgery for radical prostatectomy between 2010 and 2014. Using prostate cancer surgery as a model, the researchers investigated the effect of patient mobility and hospital competition on service configuration and technology adoption in the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK. They reported that 57% of 65 health centers experienced a significant net loss of patients, 5% of which were established robotic centers, 27% closed their radical prostatectomy service during the study period. The researchers also reported that, irrespective of the overall net losses of patients, there were no closures of any of the robotic surgery centers. Rather, the number of centers performing robotic surgery, increased from 18 to 71%. Overall, the study highlights the need for robust quality performance and outcome measures not just for patients, but for referring health centers.

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Clinical Trials to Start for New Bladder Cancer Therapy

Researchers have discovered that checkpoint immunotherapy is not as effective on some bladder cancers because of the suppression of immune cell activation. Now an agreement between Cancer Research UK and Cancer Research Technology (CRT), the charity's commercial arm, and the Canadian biotechnology company Sitka Biopharma Inc., a spin-

off of the Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD) and the University of British Columbia (UBC), has made it possible for an experimental treatment for bladder cancer to move into early phase clinical trials. The new treatment: STK-01, is being developed to improve delivery of chemotherapy for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC).

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New Study, New Insights, and Possibly a New Way to Reduce Kidney Discard Rates

A new study published in the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*, points to a possible new way to reduce kidney discard rates in the United States. The researchers purported that although donation after circulatory death (DCD) donors are a fundamental source of kidneys for transplantation, DCD donor transplantation is less common in the United States than in other countries. The study employed national data obtained between 2008 and 2015, and found a substantial variance in the recovery of DCD kidneys among the country's 58 donor service areas. The study also revealed that 20% of recovered DCD kidneys were discarded. This lead researchers to conclude that, while more research is necessary in the area, there is a large variation in the donor service area, and the recovery and discard of DCD kidneys.

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IN THE AUA

AUA and Partners to Host Informational Webinar on the NEW DoD Kidney Cancer Research Program: Funding for Kidney Cancer Researchers

Thanks to the unwavering advocacy efforts of kidney cancer patients and survivors, their loved ones, and their many supporters, for fiscal year 2017 (FY17), **kidney cancer research funding** will be provided through a new, \$10 million, stand-alone program in the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. This is an enormous gain for kidney cancer research—it now has a protected line of funding for the first time in the CDMRP's 24-year history. In an effort to assist researchers from urology and other disciplines in navigating the new Department of Defense (DoD) [Kidney Cancer Research Program \(KCRP\)](#) and submitting grant applications, the AUA and its advocacy partners, [Action to Kure Kidney Cancer \(ACKC\)](#), [KCCure](#), and the [Kidney Cancer Action Network \(KCAN\)](#) are hosting an informational webinar, with a presentation by the DoD's KCRP Program Manager, Dr. Donna M. Kimbark.

Are you interested in applying for federal funding through the new DoD Kidney Cancer Research Program (KCRP)? Please join the AUA and its advocacy partners for this complimentary webinar on **October 24th, 2017 from 2:00-3:00 PM, Eastern Time.**

[Register Now](#)

2018 Annual Urology Advocacy Summit - Save The Date!

The American Urological Association will host its first independent advocacy summit, on **March 12-14, 2018**, in Washington D.C. This new, AUA-led event aims to expand, strengthen and unify the voice of urology on policy matters impacting our practices and patients by bringing together a broad array of stakeholders, including patient advocates and researchers. The conference will host speakers ranging from urologists to patients, government employees and members of Congress. It will also feature training in grassroots lobbying for those new to the process, and opportunities for

participants to meet with lawmakers and their staff, and officials from agencies such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services or the National Institutes of Health. **Registration will open in late October.**

[Learn More](#)

AUA Annual Meeting In May 2018 - Save the Date!

Start making plans now for the [2018 AUA Annual Meeting](#) occurring May 18-21, 2018 in San Francisco, CA. Entering its 113th year, the AUA Annual Meeting is the largest gathering of urologists in the world, providing unparalleled access to groundbreaking research, new guidelines and the latest advances in urologic medicine.

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CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Donald Gleason Conference on Prostate and Urologic Cancers

The Donald Gleason Conference on Prostate and Urologic Cancers brings together top-notch faculty to share updates and best practices in the interest of advancing our collective knowledge related to early diagnosis, proper staging, and effective treatment of urologic cancers. The conference will be held on: **Friday, November 3, 2017**, at [The Commons Hotel, in Minneapolis, MN.](#) **Registration is available at the link below.**

[Learn More](#)

Surgical Outcomes Club 13th Annual Scientific Session-Registration is Now Open!

[The Surgical Outcomes Club](#) (SOC) is a consortium of surgeons and scientists interested in advancing health services and outcomes research in surgery. The Thirteenth Annual Scientific Session will be held on **Sunday, October 22 in San Diego, California**. This session will feature keynote speakers and special topics in Global Surgery Research, including, but not limited to: research conducted in low and middle income countries, health services research, and the epidemiology of surgical conditions. **Health Information Technology** will include presentations and discussions on the latest innovations and improvements in surgical care delivery, as well as visions for information technology to transform health care.

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Don't Miss This Year's SBUR Fall Symposium - Register Now!

Registration is open for the [SBUR 2017 Fall Symposium](#), "*Multiple Genetic and Epigenetic Mechanisms of Urologic Disease.*" The symposium will be held **November 9-12, 2017** at the Westshore Grand in **Tampa, FL** and, in addition to over 30 outstanding scientific presentations, will include a "Career Choices and Survival Forum," a Q&A session with experts addressing scientific careers. **The SBUR is actively soliciting questions for this forum.** Experts include Susan Lim, Ph.D., Program Director at National Cancer Institute; Michael A Tessel, Ph.D., Director of Graduate Career

Development and Employer Relations at The University of Chicago; Carolyn Best, Ph.D., Director of the Office of Research at the American Urological Association; and David Degraff, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pathology at Penn State. **Registration is available at the link below.**

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Pragmatic Research in Healthcare Settings to Improve Kidney Disease Prevention and Care (R18)

The purpose of this Research Demonstration and Dissemination Projects (R18) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to encourage research applications to test approaches to improve kidney disease prevention and/or treatment in routine healthcare settings. Research applications should be designed to test practical and potentially sustainable strategies that target the prevention or improved care of kidney disease, or the prevention or delay of the complications of kidney disease. The goal of the research is to obtain results that will improve routine healthcare practice and inform healthcare policy for the prevention or management of these conditions. **The application deadline is October 24, 2017.**

[View FOA](#)

Research Grant Program: Oxalosis & Hyperoxaluria Foundation (OHF)

The OHF is currently soliciting research proposals for its Fall 2017 cycle. The OHF supports research that will ultimately lead to new diagnostics, treatments, and/or a cure for primary hyperoxaluria and related hyperoxaluric conditions. Up to \$200,000 total cost per project per year can be requested, with a maximum project length of 2 years. Meritorious projects are selected after a rigorous scientific review process. **The application deadline is November 1, 2017.**

[View FOA](#)

George M. O'Brien Kidney Research Core Centers (P30)

The goal of the [O'Brien Kidney Research Center](#) program is to make state-of-the art technologies and resources readily accessible to a broad spectrum of investigators pursuing studies in relevant topic areas. The emphases for this program are fourfold: (1) to attract new scientific expertise and to develop new tools for the study of human kidney physiology and disorders in humans and in animal and other models; (2) to encourage multidisciplinary research in these areas; (3) To explore new areas with translational potential; and (4) to generate Developmental Research (DR)/Pilot and Feasibility (P and F) studies which could lead to new and innovative approaches to study kidney disease. **The application deadline is November 1, 2017.**

[Learn More](#)

NIDDK Partnerships with Professional Societies to Enhance Scientific Workforce Diversity and Promote Scientific Leadership (R25)

The NIH Research Education Program (R25) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The over-arching goal of this NIDDK R25 program is to support educational activities that enhance the diversity of the biomedical, behavioral and clinical research workforce. This R25 program encourages Professional Societies to design and implement educational programs with the goal of recruiting of individuals from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue careers in the biomedical, behavioral, clinical, and social sciences workforce. Applications from Professional Societies supporting the NIDDK mission areas are encouraged to develop educational programs aimed at recruiting talented, fellows, and junior faculty from groups underrepresented in biomedical, behavioral, clinical, and social sciences research in the NIDDK mission areas. To accomplish the stated over-arching goal, this FOA will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on *Mentoring Activities* and *Courses for Skills Development* such as leadership development, identification and development of junior investigators from underrepresented backgrounds. **The Letter of Intent deadline is November 5, 2017. The application deadline is December 5, 2017 by 5:00 PM.**

[View FOA](#)

NIH Social Epigenomics Research Focused on Minority Health and Health Disparities (R21)

The purpose of this FOA is to support and accelerate innovative exploratory and developmental human epigenomic investigations focused on identifying and characterizing the mechanisms by which social experiences at various stages in life, both positive and negative, affect gene function and thereby influence health trajectories or modify disease risk in minority and health disparity populations. **The application deadline is November 15, 2017.**

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2017 Diokno/Lapides Essay Contest: Now Accepting Applications!

Win the most prestigious urology prize in the world and have your innovative ideas recognized among those of the greatest urologists of the past 30+ years. This contest is open to all physicians, PhD scientists, and MD and PhD trainees throughout the world. Essays will be judged in a blinded fashion by an independent panel. Contest winners will be announced on January 8. Winners will then be honored among peers at the AUA National Meeting, and Awards Dinner in San Francisco, CA on May 19, 2018. **The essay submission deadline is December 15, 2017.**

[Learn More](#)

Testing Interventions for Health-Enhancing Physical Activity (R01 - Clinical Trial Optional)

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to fund highly innovative and promising research that tests multi-level physical activity intervention programs acting on at least two levels of the socio-ecological model and designed to increase health-enhancing physical activity: 1) in persons or groups that can benefit from such activity; and 2) that could be made scalable and sustainable for broad use across the nation. This FOA provides support for up to 5 years

for research planning, intervention delivery, and follow-up activities. **Early Submission date is January 6, 2018. The first application deadline will be February 5, 2018. The next four application deadlines are: October 5, 2018; June 5, 2019; February 5, 2020; and October 5, 2020.**

[View FOA](#)

OHF Global Registry Initiative: Open Application Deadline!

A call for proposals has been issued to develop international collaborative patient registries and databases to identify the determinants of the clinical manifestations and prognosis of patients with primary hyperoxaluria. Financial support will be given to international collaborative projects that develop and make use of well-defined patient cohorts covering a wide range of genetic and cultural backgrounds. **Application deadline is open for this initiative.**

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Urology Research Opportunities For Residents: Montefiore/Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Montefiore, in its collaboration with the Albert Einstein College of Medicine is currently providing residents the opportunity to participate in pioneering research in the field of urology. Their full-time scientists, who staff the Department of Urology Research Laboratory, will provide various basic science and translational research opportunities to residents-in-training. Residents will also have the unique opportunity to work with the Institution's full-time scientists and physician researchers.

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Linthicum, MD 21090
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