Complex Urologic Reconstruction Now Available in San Diego

Patients in the San Diego area in need of complex urinary reconstruction procedures (such as urethral strictures and complex fistulas) no longer need to travel for the best care. We are delighted to welcome home Jill C. Buckley, MD, a native San Diegan who joined the Department of Urology and UC San Diego Health System this past summer as an associate professor. Buckley is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons; prior to her arrival at UC San Diego, she was a member of the faculty at Lahey Clinic Medical Center and Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. “We are very pleased to have recruited a national figure in reconstruction. Dr. Buckley’s expertise is particularly significant for our community, since she is the only surgeon in San Diego specializing in complex urinary reconstruction,” said Christopher J. Kane, MD, chair of the Department of Urology.

California Connection
Buckley graduated from Helix High School in San Diego, earned her bachelor’s and medical degrees from UCLA, and completed her residency in urology as well as a fellowship in reconstructive and trauma surgery at UC San Francisco. “I am happy to be back closer to family and to work with Dr. Kane again, whom I knew when he was at UCSF,” said Buckley. “What also drew me back is the opportunity to join UC San Diego’s leading experts in urology and to build a practice devoted to reconstructive urology, a much-needed service. Reconstructive urology is complex by its nature, and I hope to provide not only the highest level of current care, but also be at the forefront of developing new methods to deliver innovative care.”

WHY RECONSTRUCTION
The treatments now offered by UC San Diego can help patients avoid repeated procedures and return to enjoying a healthy life more quickly. Buckley’s recent publications provide insight and a new approach to treating some of the most challenging cases and address the major urologic conditions requiring reconstruction, such as urethral fistulas and strictures, as well as disabling bladder disorders such as contractures, complications following prostate cancer treatment, and trauma.

A urethral stricture, also known as urethral obstruction, is scar tissue that builds within the urethra. The surgical treatment for complicated urinary obstructions requires extensive expertise in performing delicate surgeries. Because of its length and location, the male urethra and genitourinary system are especially prone to injury, requiring such delicacy. According to Buckley, “Many patients live with symptoms of urinary disorder for years before seeking treatment, causing unnecessary grief and possible long-term problems. As an example, I see patients who have been previously treated unsuccessfully with dilation or an incision (urethrotomy) made in the urethra to help improve the flow of urine. This treatment can be successful in patients with no history of previous dilations.
Accolades
Continued from page 1

cancer-care programs in California, and a
total of 79 nationally, received this award
based on excellence in providing quality
care to cancer patients. “Each of these
facilities is not just meeting nationally
recognized standards for the delivery of
quality cancer care, they are exceeding
them,” said Daniel P. McKellar, MD, FACS,
chair of the Commission on Cancer.

NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE
CANCER NETWORK
UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center
is now a member of the National
Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN),
the only one in San Diego out of 22
nationwide. Several UCSD Urology faculty
have been appointed to NCCN Clinical
Practice Guidelines Committees, setting
the national standards for cancer care:
Dr. Kane (Prostate Cancer Management),
Dr. Derweesh (Kidney Cancer), Dr. Kader
(Bladder Cancer), and Dr. J. K. Parsons
(Prostate Cancer Early Detection).

Pediatric
Urology Update

Physicians in the Division of Pediatric
Urology have joint appointments at
UC San Diego and Rady Children’s
Hospital-San Diego (RCHSD), which
U.S. News & World Report ranked as one
of the Best Children’s Hospitals in the
nation for pediatric urology care for
the fifth consecutive year. At No. 10 in
2013, RCHSD continues to have the
highest-ranked pediatric urology
program in California. The division
focuses on all aspects of genitourinary
disorders encountered in children from
birth through young adulthood and has
satellite clinics in Encinitas, Escondido and
Murrieta.

MORE INFORMATION
To learn more about pediatric urology,
visit rchsd.org/programsservices/ and
select Urology.

Compassionate Care for Veterans

San Diego is a military town. Naval Base
San Diego is the largest U.S. Navy base on
the West Coast, and the 1st Marine Expedi-
tionary Brigade is based at Camp Pendleton in
Oceanside. Our VA San Diego Healthcare System
(VASDHS) has a special responsibility to care
for many of our recently wounded warriors, as
well as older veterans from World War II, Korea
and Vietnam. VASDHS provides compassionate
health care to more than 232,400 veterans in
San Diego and Imperial Valley. According to
Jeffrey T. Gering, director, “I am proud that
VASDHS is a leader in providing quality
health care and services to veterans in San Diego
and Imperial Counties. The number of
patients we serve, including veterans
from Iraq or Afghanistan,
increased by more than 3 percent this last year.
So, each year more veterans rely upon us for
timely first-rate primary and specialty care. We
are fully committed to meet this challenge.”
The number of urology patient visits also increased
by more than 3 percent this past year.

Many of our UCSD Urology faculty perform
technically complex surgeries and see patients
at the VA Medical Center (VAMC) in La Jolla
and the outpatient clinic in Oceanside. In 2008,
VASDHS was the first VA hospital in Southern
California to begin using the robotic da Vinci
Surgical System. Kyoko Sakamoto, MD, urology
section chief at VAMC since 2008, said that
the Department of Urology “maintains the
highest number of robotic assisted laparoscopic
surgeries performed within the national
Veterans Affairs Healthcare System. We continue
to receive referrals from other hospitals, such
as Loma Linda University Medical Center and
hospitals in Las Vegas, for robotic assisted
laparoscopic surgeries.”

Some of our surgeons are also veterans or cur-
rently serve, and UC San Diego has a Veterans
Association. Christopher J. Kane, MD, chair
of the Department of Urology, served in the 3rd
Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Okinawa,
Japan, during Operations Desert Shield and
Desert Storm, and mobilized to active duty in
support of Operation Enduring Freedom and
Iraqi Freedom. He retired from the U.S. Naval
Reserve in 2009 as a captain in the Medical
Corps. Roger L. Sur, MD, is a Navy reservist
urologist; he completed a six-month overseas
deployment for Operation Enduring Freedom in
2012, serving as the sole Navy urologic trauma
surgeon at Landstuhl, Germany. “It is a privilege
to care for those men and women who have
served. The Department of Urology takes our VA
responsibility very seriously,” said Kane.

As part of its affiliation with the UC San Diego
School of Medicine, VASDHS trains more than
1,500 medical interns, residents and fellows and
has one of the largest VA research programs
nationally, with a budget of $52 million (FY2012),
204 principal investigators (PI) and 584 projects.
Sakamoto is the VASDHS site investigator on

Continued on page 5
We have much to celebrate this year – the growth and success of UC San Diego Urology was acknowledged in March when UCSD Health System designated our program as an official clinical department. This complements our original Division of Urology within the Department of Surgery at UC San Diego School of Medicine. We are in the top fifth percentile in the nation for quality, measured by risk adjusted mortality, complications and patient safety. Urology patient volume has grown by more than 100 percent in the past five years, while the number of faculty increased from 10 to 18 with the successful recruitment of Jill C. Buckley, MD, our new specialist in urologic reconstruction.

Our achievements have been recognized nationally by a continued uptick in the U.S. News & World Report rankings – UCSD Urology was ranked No. 22 for 2013-14, the highest position in the program’s history. We have been ranked in the top 50 nationally four times in the past six years, which is a great statement about our collective progress in building a distinguished and outstanding department. We are headed in the right direction.

We welcomed four fellows from across the United States this summer: Gina Cambareri, MD, from New Jersey Medical School in Newark, N.J., is our pediatric urology fellow; our sexual medicine fellow is Seth D. Cohen, MD, from Lenox Hill Hospital, N.Y.; Hak J. Lee, MD, joins us from UC Irvine as our 2013-15 Society of Urologic Oncology Fellow; and our first UC San Diego-Kaiser Endourology Fellow is David Wenzler, MD, from Beaumont Health System in Royal Oak, Mich. We welcomed Unwanaobong Nseyo, MD, from Duke University and Stephen Unterberg, MD, from University of Texas as our two new urology residents.

In 2013 we reinstated the annual Prentiss Lecture Series, funded by the San Diego Urological Society, as part of the UC San Diego Visiting Professor Grand Rounds program. Peter R. Carroll, MD, professor and chair of urology at UC San Francisco, gave the first Prentiss Lecture in September to an enthusiastic audience. His session garnered the highest attendance to date for our relatively new program.

Our basic and translational research efforts continue to flourish. The prostate cancer bone metastasis laboratory, led by Christina A. Jamieson, PhD, has had a number of significant publications and discoveries. Genitourinary oncology outcomes research in the areas of prostate, kidney and bladder cancer has also produced interesting results. The investigation into complex stone disease associated with chemotherapy, headed by Roger Sur, MD, won the 2013 Miley B. Wesson Resident Essay Contest at the Western Section AUA meeting. We also participate in a number of national clinical trials. See Recent Publications on Page 7 for more highlights.

We are deeply grateful to the community partners and philanthropists who support our mission to provide the highest quality compassionate care, research and training to improve the quality of life and surgical outcomes for the local and global community. The achievements noted here would not be possible without you. Thank you for your continued interest and confidence in us. We also appreciate our clinical and administrative staff, especially Darlene Vergara, our operational administrator, who with her team ensures the efficient management of the department, going above and beyond to provide excellent patient service.

NEW HOSPITALS FOR ADVANCED SURGERY AND CANCER CARE
Future plans for the Department of Urology include our ability to provide state-of-the-art care to more patients when the Hospitals for Advanced Surgery and Cancer Care are completed in 2016. Both are part of the new UC San Diego Jacobs Medical Center, the largest hospital project in Southern California. UC San Diego surgeons have pioneered innovations in robotic technology, miniaturized microsurgery, single-incision laparoscopy and natural orifice transluminal surgery. Our new operating rooms are designed to accommodate these lifesaving techniques while promoting surgical safety. The Hospital for Advanced Surgery is designed for what we do today and for what we predict we will do in the future.

We welcome your comments, and look forward to many more exciting new developments for the department as we pursue our mission to provide expert, compassionate treatment and perform practice-changing research.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Kane, MD
Professor and Interim Chair of Surgery
Chair of Urology
C. Lowell and JoEllen Parsons Endowed Chair in Urology
Peter R. Carroll, MD, MPH, professor and chair of urology and the Ken and Donna Derr-Chevron Distinguished Professor at UC San Francisco, gave the Robert J. Prentiss Lecture as part of our Visiting Professor Grand Rounds in September. The Prentiss Lecture Series, funded by the San Diego Urological Society, was reinstated this year after a long hiatus. Prentiss founded the first urology residency program in San Diego in 1949, preceding UC San Diego School of Medicine by almost two decades. Carroll’s lecture, “Deferred Treatment of Prostate Cancer – Are There Risks?,” garnered the highest attendance yet for our regional lecture series, which began in 2012. His visit included a tour of the Center for the Future of Surgery at UCSD School of Medicine, and presentations by UCSD Urology and Naval Medical Center residents.

Carroll has published more than 500 research articles and is a past president of the American Board of Urology. His research interests include the development of biomarkers to help predict risk for all the major urologic cancers, and outcomes research that aims to improve survival and quality of life for cancer survivors. “It’s very fitting that we reinstated the annual Prentiss Visiting Professorship with Peter Carroll,” said Christopher Kane, MD. “Peter is a close friend and mentor and one of the most outstanding urologic oncologists.”

See the schedule of upcoming Visiting Professor Grand Rounds at urology.ucsd.edu/cme.

Roger Sur, MD, hosted the first UC San Diego Hands-On Endourology Surgery for Residents Course in September at the Center for the Future of Surgery at UC San Diego School of Medicine. This two-day course, completely funded by industry, offered residents from across the Southwest an opportunity to learn ureteroscopy and percutaneous nephrolithotomy techniques in a low-pressure, collaborative environment from some of the best in the field, including Glenn Preminger, MD, of Duke University Medical Center and Brian Matlaga, MD, MPH, of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Caroline J. Colangelo, MD, and Ryan P. Kopp, MD, finished their residency training this summer. Colangelo practices urology at North Coast Urology in Oceanside, Calif. Kopp is now a urologic oncology fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Puneeta Ramachandra, MD, our 2011-13 pediatric urology fellow who completed her training at UC San Diego and Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego, is now at Children’s Hospital Central California in Madera.
Urologic Reconstruction

Continued from page 1

or those who have a short urethral stricture located close to the body. For patients who have undergone a dilation or incision where the stricture returned within a few months, the success rate of repeated incisions is very low, and for patients who have had three or more unsuccessful dilations or incisions, the success rate is zero. Definitive repair however, while technically complex, is highly successful.”

GLOBAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

While there is an obvious need locally for her specialized skills, Buckley also takes a global view. As a urology resident, she volunteered in Vietnam with International Volunteers in Urology to provide services in Ho Chi Minh City, and recently co-authored a study analyzing urologic data from central Haiti. Buckley hopes to volunteer more in the future and plans to research the burden of urinary strictures and fistulas among underserved populations in the U.S. and abroad. For the present, we’re glad she’s here.

MORE INFORMATION

health.ucsd.edu/urology, select Areas of Expertise

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


Veterans

Continued from page 2

a grant from the National Cancer Institute in collaboration with UC San Diego PI J. Kellogg Parsons, MD, and PI James Marshall, MD, of Roswell Park Cancer Institute in New York, to run a clinical trial known as the Men’s Eating and Living (MEAL) Study, which is focused on dietary modification for the treatment of localized prostate cancer. The San Diego VAMC is in the top 25 percent of recruiting sites for this study.

Our UCSD Urology residents rotate at the VAMC in their third, fifth and sixth years, and our Society of Urollogic Oncology fellows also serve at the VA during their two-year fellowship. “The rotation at the VA is invaluable. The monitored independence given to us as we care for and partner directly with these patients provides a setting for exceptional growth as a physician/surgeon. There is knowledge to be learned at every step; these heroes recognize us as their ‘docs’ and expect nothing but the best care from us,” said Seth A. Cohen, MD, chief resident.

Urology faculty, fellows, residents, nurses and administrative staff are all honored to interact with and learn from their veteran patients, and to participate in the VA I CARE Campaign, launched by VASDHS to instill the VA core values and to participate in the VA I CARE Campaign, launched by VASDHS to instill the VA core values of integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect and excellence.

MORE INFORMATION

VA San Diego Healthcare System (VASDHS): sandiego.va.gov

UC San Diego Veterans Association: veterans.ucsd.edu

UC San Diego Student Veterans Resource Center: students.ucsd.edu/campus-services/_organizations/veterans/

Honors and Awards

Michael Albo, MD, is now board certified in female pelvic medicine/reconstructive surgery in addition to urology, and completed the UC San Diego Health Sciences Leadership Academy. He was also appointed vice chair of our new clinical department and was selected as a Top Doctor by the San Diego County Medical Society for the ninth year in a row.

Congratulations to George Chiang, MD, who was promoted to associate professor and received the 2013 UCSD Urology Faculty Educator Award.

Ithaar Derweesh, MD, is a member of the AUA Guidelines Committee, Follow-up Care for Renal Cancer. He was invited to give two important plenary lectures this year at the Society of Urologic Oncology annual meeting in San Diego and at the 31st World Congress of Endourology in New Orleans, La.

Congratulations to Karim Kader, MD, PhD, who was appointed as the Genitourinary Oncology Team Leader at UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center.

Christopher Kane, MD, was elected as a member of the Academy of Clinician Scholars, appointed as the inaugural chair of the Department of Urology, and was appointed interim chair of the Department of Surgery. Kane has also been selected as a Top Doctor for the sixth year in a row by the San Diego County Medical Society.

J. Kellogg Parsons, MD, MHS, is the chair of the Genitourinary Surgery Committee of the National Cancer Institute and was selected as a Top Doctor by the San Diego County Medical Society for the fourth year in a row.

George Kaplan, MD, placed first in the 2013 Western Section AUA History Essay contest.

Congratulations to Hossein Mirheydar, MD, who placed first in the 2013 Western Section AUA Miley B. Wesson Resident Essay Contest.
We are delighted to present a world-class group of visiting faculty for the seventh annual UCSD Urology Postgraduate Course: Evidence-Based Urology Update, taking place March 14-15, 2014, at the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay in San Diego, Calif. The main topics of the course are prostate cancer, benign prostatic hyperplasia and stones, reconstruction, economics of health care, men’s health, urologic oncology and female urology. The AUA is also hosting a one-day ultrasound hands-on course on March 13 at UC San Diego.

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Associate Professor of Surgery, UC San Diego Health System

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Charles W. Nager, MD
Paul Viviano, Chief Executive Officer, UC San Diego Health System

**REGISTER**

For more information and to register online, visit cme.ucsd.edu/urology.

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**Grant Highlights**

Christopher Kane, MD, and Christina Jamieson, PhD, are investigators in a new clinical trial sponsored by Genentech: Rituximab Neoadjuvant Therapy in Patients with Prostate Cancer Scheduled to Undergo Radical Prostatectomy. This pilot study is led by Stephen Howell, MD, and opened at Moores Cancer Center in July. Based on the work of Michael Karin, PhD, showing that immune system B cells support the growth of tumor cells responsible for the recurrence of prostate cancer, the trial will test the ability of rituximab to reduce the number of B cells found in prostate cancers.

George Chang, MD, received a grant from Rady Children’s Hospital Physician’s Development Fund for a strategic collaboration project on the inquiry of pediatric electronic health information systems and completed two clinical trials involving new medical therapy to treat neurogenic detrusor overactivity in children performing intermittent catheterization.

Ithaar Derweesh, MD, is the UC San Diego site PI for PROTECT, an international clinical trial with Glaxo Smith Kline to evaluate whether pazopanib compared with placebo can prevent or delay recurrence of kidney cancer in patients with a high risk of developing recurrence after undergoing surgery for renal cell carcinoma.

J. Kellogg Parsons, MD, is the co-PI of a $2.5 million, five-year clinical trial sponsored by the National Cancer Institute in collaboration with James Marshall, PhD, of Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Known as the Men’s Eating and Living (MEAL) Study, the national trial enrolls patients at more than 50 sites, focuses on diet change among prostate cancer patients under expectant management, and is a continuation of his study begun in 2008 with a grant from the Department of Defense. He is also the co-PI on a two-year grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, in collaboration with Lynn Marshall, SCD, of Oregon Health Sciences University, to study risk factors for lower urinary tract symptom progression among older men.
Recent Publications

**Urology faculty, fellows and residents have more than 80 publications this year. A few key articles are noted below.**

**BPH**

**CANCER, BLADDER**


**CANCER, KIDNEY**


**CANCER, PROSTATE**


**INCONTINENCE**

**MEN’S HEALTH**


**NEUROUROLOGY**

**PEDIATRIC UROLOGY**

**STONES AND ENDOUROLOGY**

**TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE**

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We thank our supporters who have generously contributed $10,000 or more to the Department of Urology during the last year.

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The Barros Family
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The Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation
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**THE LEO AND ANNE ALBERT CHARITABLE TRUST**
We are honored to receive a significant three-year grant in the amount of $450,000 from The Leo and Anne Albert Charitable Trust to support Dr. Christina Jamieson’s research on new patient-derived models of bone metastatic prostate cancer.

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**Past Funding Acknowledgements**


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