When Dr. Joseph Schmidt came to UC San Diego to be chief of the Division of Urology in 1976, he had only been a full professor for one year at the University of Iowa College of Medicine. He was recruited by Dr. Marshall Orloff, the founding chair of UC San Diego’s Department of Surgery and one of the founders of the School of Medicine. In the nearly forty years since that fortuitous day, Dr. Schmidt has cared for thousands of patients and trained sixty urology residents during his thirty years as division chief. Recently a generous group of donors established the Joseph D. Schmidt, MD Presidential Chair in Urology in his honor. In addition, he has received numerous honors and awards in the fields of urology and surgery, such as elected membership in the American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons and honorary membership in the Royal Society of Medicine. He officially retired at the end of August and leaves a lasting legacy.

What highlights come to mind as you reflect on your extraordinary career at UC San Diego?

I had the ability to start from scratch and build Urology as opposed to having something that was not necessarily of my choosing. When I arrived in May 1976, there was hardly anyone in the division besides the interim chief, Dr. George Kaplan. The hospital service was only here at the Medical Center in Hillcrest, which was run by some of the community urologists. I was recruited by Dr. Orloff, who in fact helped recruit just about all of the surgery specialists and division chiefs at the time. Dr. C. Lowell Parsons was the first faculty member I recruited in 1977 and he is still active in the clinic and in research. Another highlight was the ability to choose residents since we didn’t have a national matching program at that time. In the thirty years that I was chief (1976–2006), we trained about sixty residents, graduating two per year, and I think out of that sixty only one resident didn’t finish the program, which is uncommon. We had some of the first female residents and other minorities in the field of urology. For generations prior urology was almost entirely a male specialty.

I was also attracted to being part of a very young university and young medical school that had the vision to expand education and research—everything that is important to medicine. The hospital came under the aegis of the university in 1966. Before that it was run by the County of San Diego and the first students started at the School of Medicine in 1968; so when I got here eight years later, I was one of the young faculty. It was rather a plum position. My favorite joke is that when people questioned why I came to San Diego they said it must have been for the beaches and beautiful weather, but I answered, “No! It was the job and the academic position,” but nobody wanted to believe me.

What achievements are you most proud of?

In addition to developing the urology program, as I mentioned, my first faculty recruitment was Dr. C. Lowell Parsons and as it turns out my last recruitment was his son, Dr. J. Kellogg Parsons, of course, with many faculty in between. Even today we may be the only urology department in the country that has a father and son team. It has been very exciting to see how UC San Diego Health has grown with the opening of Thornton Hospital and the Perlman Ambulatory Care Center, in 1993, and the many other additions, to care for patients not only from the surrounding area but also from other states. With all the subsequent development, including the...
UC San Diego Health No. 1

UC San Diego Health ranked No. 1 in San Diego with national rankings in twelve out of sixteen specialties in U.S. News & World Report’s annual “America’s Best Hospitals” issue—placing it among the country’s most prestigious institutions. Being recognized as a top hospital both locally and nationally reflects the extraordinary talents and expertise of our physicians, nurses, and staff—all of whom put patients first.

Awards for Patient Care and Safety

In 2015, Truven Health Analytics named UC San Diego Health one of the 100 Top Hospitals in the nation out of nearly three thousand based on patient care, operational efficiency, and financial stability. The Leapfrog Group also recognized UC San Diego Health as a Top Hospital, an award that is presented to less than 7 percent of US hospitals, for demonstrating excellence in hospital safety and quality.

Accolades

UC San Diego Urology No. 25 in the Nation

UC San Diego Urology has been ranked in the top 50 by U.S. News & World Report four years running, and for the sixth time in the past eight years. Although we are proud of our top 25 national ranking and our top 5 ranking in urology in California, our vision is to consistently be a top 10 urology program nationally.

Combined Chemotherapy and Immunotherapy Shows Promise for Advanced Prostate Cancers

Chemotherapy can be very effective against prostate tumors. However, cells that suppress the body’s immune response can survive chemotherapy and provide a sanctuary for recurrence. In a recent study published in Nature, researchers at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine now find that blocking or removing these immune-suppressing cells allows a special type of chemotherapy—and the immune cells it activates—to destroy prostate tumors. Christine Jamieson, PhD, and Christopher J. Kane, MD, are co-authors on the multi-institutional study. This novel combination therapy, termed chemoimmunotherapy, achieved near complete remission in mouse models of advanced prostate cancer.

Prostate cancers eventually grow in spite of chemotherapy and hormonal therapy. Prostate cancers also fail to respond to a promising new type of immunotherapy drugs, called checkpoint inhibitors, which disable the cloaking mechanism of cancer cells so that a person’s own immune system can better fight the tumor. This specific resistance is likely due in part to immunosuppressive B cells, which are common in prostate tumors in mice, as well as in advanced and metastatic prostate cancer in humans. As the name suggests, these cells keep the immune system at bay, rendering most therapies ineffective and allowing malignant tumors to grow unchecked.

In this study, researchers worked with three different mouse models of advanced prostate cancer. All three models were resistant to low doses of the chemotherapy drug oxaliplatin, which has the unique ability to activate cancer-killing immune cells. But when the researchers blocked the development or function of immunosuppressive B cells or removed them entirely before treating the mice with low-dose oxaliplatin, the prostate tumors were almost completely destroyed by the mice’s own immune cells. The team got similar results when low dose oxaliplatin was combined with a checkpoint inhibitor.

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in American men. About one in seven men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during their lifetimes. “In addition to prostate cancer, similar immunosuppressive B cells can be detected in other human cancers,” said senior author Michael Karin, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology and Pathology at UC San Diego. “This indicates that B cell-mediated immunosuppression might be the reason several other cancers are also unresponsive to checkpoint inhibitors, raising the hope that chemoimmunotherapy will have broader applications for many cancer types.”

“These newly identified immunosuppressive B lymphocytes illuminate the dual personality of the immune response in cancer and are a brand new immunotherapy target,” said Dr. Jamieson. Based on these findings, we have initiated the PROTUX clinical trial (NCT01804712) with Stephen Howell, MD, of the UC San Diego Department of Medicine to use the well-tolerated anti-B cell drug, Rituxan, prior to prostate cancer surgery to see if it can reduce B cells in prostate cancer tissue of patients at high risk of recurrent disease. This trial is currently recruiting at Moores Cancer Center.

This research was funded, in part, by the National Institutes of Health (grants CA127923 and AI043477), California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, German Research Foundation, Genome Research-Austria and Cancer Research Institute, and was conducted in collaboration with Charite-Medical University of Berlin and Medical University of Vienna.

Message from the Chair

Christopher J. Kane, MD

“The future starts today not tomorrow,” said Pope John Paul II. We are building our future of becoming one of the outstanding urology programs in the country. We are planning our transition to become a School of Medicine Department of Urology this year. As many of you know, we became a hospital department in 2013, separating our clinical operations from the Department of Surgery. This year, becoming an academic department will complete our path to independence by separating our academic and research programs from the Department of Surgery. We are very grateful to the faculty, trainees, nurses, and staff who have built our programs to the quality and stature that have made this transition possible.

I am honored to announce a second endowed chair benefiting the Department of Urology. The Joseph D. Schmidt, MD Presidential Chair in Urology was established by a group of donors who wanted to ensure Dr. Schmidt’s legacy remained at UC San Diego in perpetuity. This is a prestigious honor for me as the inaugural chair holder, and one that will continue for future Department of Urology chairs.

We welcomed new faculty while saying farewell to former division chief Dr. Schmidt and Dr. Charles Lakin, both of whom retired.

Dr. Schmidt’s legacy and contributions cannot be overstated (see cover story). Dr. Lakin trained at UC San Diego and then was in private practice in Chicago for many years. He returned to UC San Diego in 2003 and led the Hillcrest urology clinic, providing compassionate care and leading the education of our residents in general urology. Dr. Lakin will be missed. Dr. Jason Woo joined us as an assistant professor immediately after completing his residency here at UC San Diego. Dr. Kelly Swords is our new pediatric urologist, who completed her fellowship at Children’s National Health System in Washington, DC, and we are currently recruiting for a female pelvic medicine specialist and a urologic oncologist. Dr. Nicholas Holmes resigned from clinical practice to become the senior vice president and chief operating officer of Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego.

On the staff side, we welcomed Lisa Rhodes as our new administrative vice chair. Lisa will lead the business operations of the department. She has extensive business leadership experience and training and has successfully led the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery administration for many years. We also recently said farewell to Peggy Jean Ealson, who assisted Dr. Schmidt and Dr. CL Parsons for almost twenty-four years. Finally, it is with a heavy heart that we learned of the passing of friend and colleague Dr. John J. Greisman, who served on the medical staff at Scripps Encinitas for many years and often attended our educational conferences and grand rounds.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Kane, MD
Professor of Surgery
Joseph D. Schmidt, MD Presidential Chair in Urology

Grant Highlights

Michael Albo, MD, is co-investigator on a four-year, $1.1 million grant from the NIH/ National Institute of Child Health and Human Development awarded to the VA San Diego Healthcare System. In collaboration with M. Raj Rajasekaran, PhD, the PI, Dr. Albo will study urinary incontinence (UI), a major medical illness that affects over 15 percent of men and women. They will evaluate the morphological changes and molecular mechanisms of age-related urethral sphincter degeneration. This is especially relevant to aging veterans, as these degenerative changes result in UI. The long-term goal is to develop novel molecular or pharmacological strategies to prevent age-related UI in older veterans.

T. Mike Hsieh, MD, received a 2015 Health Sciences Academic Senate Grant from UC San Diego to investigate and improve the response to pharmacotherapy of diabetic patients with erectile dysfunction (ED). ED in men with diabetes is more severe and is associated with poorer quality of life. This study of caveolin regulation will be conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Hemal Patel (Department of Anesthesiology) and Dr. M. Raj Rajasekaran (Department of Medicine).

Partnering with the Community

We continue to expand our clinical integration network (CIN) to help translate best practices to patients. Our CIN relationships enhance our partnerships and communication with community physicians. Our CIN initiatives occur in both primary care and specialty practices. In Urology, we are very pleased to have enhanced network relationships with Genesis Healthcare Partners, a large urology practice group in San Diego, and with Tri-Valley Urology in Temecula.

UC San Diego Health and Tri-City Healthcare District have entered into a strategic affiliation designed to enhance the delivery of high-quality health care to patients in North San Diego County, including Carlsbad, Oceanside, and Vista.

As we look to the future, we are grateful to the philanthropists and community partners 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. Our deepest gratitude for your continued confidence in us. We welcome your comments.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Kane, MD
Professor of Surgery
Joseph D. Schmidt, MD Presidential Chair in Urology

continued on page 5
Alumni Update

Congratulations to our residents and fellows who graduated in June 2015—we wish them all the best in the next phase of their careers. Hossein Mireheydar, MD, is a robotics and prosthetics urologist at Sutter Health in Roseville, CA, and Jason Woo, MD, is an assistant professor of surgery here at UC San Diego. Gina Cambareri, MD, practices at Children’s Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Hak Lee, MD, is director of robotics/ minimally invasive surgery and urologic oncology at Gordon Hospital in Calhoun, GA, and Daniel Miller, MD, joined The Oregon Clinic in Portland.

Dr. Joseph Schmidt continued from page 1

new Jacobs Medical Center, it’s not just the buildings that are important, it’s the people and what they’re doing, whether in research or teaching or the clinic.

Speaking of people, will you miss your patients?

Absolutely. A perfect example was today in the clinic with everyone wishing me well in my retirement but also wishing that I wouldn’t retire so that I could continue their care. I plan to come to the department office about once per week as I’m still doing some medical-legal expert witness consultations and there will also be some patient information that I can help with such as phone calls and prescriptions—I’m maintaining my medical license—and of course I have to get my mail!

What will you do now?

I plan to spend more time with my wife, Andrea, and my family. We have a teenager (Alli, age fifteen) who needs a lot of supervision so now I will have more time to spend with her. My major physical fitness is tennis and walking. I will continue to play in tennis tournaments [many trophies decorate his office], but most important from a mental point of view is that over many many years I have amassed a collection of old if not antique medical books in urology, and I’ve never had the time to create an inventory. I might go into the book-bounding and -selling business since there are only a few people around the world who trade in these items. Some of them go back to the 1700s and have probably not been digitized, and most are in English with some in Latin, Italian, or French. I have collected them on my travels around the world, searching out old bookstores. At some point I plan to donate my collection to a library or university.

I’ve been privileged to work with so many talented people, not just the faculty, residents, and medical students, but also the staff, whether it’s the nurses in the clinic—who without exception have all been excellent in urological nursing—staff in the operating room, or the administrative staff in the academic office. You can’t do it all by yourself. One really does need help, especially in a large institution such as UC San Diego. And finally, I’m keeping my office but I’m giving up my pager!

Reflections from Faculty and Staff

Dr. CL Parsons reflected, “Joe Schmidt was to me an outstanding chairman. He let me develop my career as I saw fit with all the help that I needed. He was dedicated, never lost his cool, and always supported his staff. Despite offers of other jobs and chairmanships, I never hesitated to turn them down. In large part due to both Dr. Schmidt and UC San Diego, I always felt that I already had the best job. He is a skilled surgeon, mentor, and friend. He had an uncanny ability to run a conference and draw comments from all the staff. He made us feel comfortable and he never expected us to agree with his philosophy. In fact, he promoted a difference of opinion. I consider myself privileged to have had so many great years as his associate.”

Peggy Jean Ealson, who also retired this summer and assisted Dr. Schmidt from 1992 to 2015, said, “I have truly enjoyed being part of urology and working for some of the most inspiring doctors and great coworkers for almost twenty-four years. A special thank you to Dr. Schmidt and Dr. Parsons, who have always made my job easier by taking such good care of their patients.”

In closing, Dr. Schmidt is fond of saying “the only inevitable thing is change.” Though we all knew he would retire from the clinic at some point—he retired from teaching at UC San Diego and service at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in 2006—we are honored he cared for his patients for so many years and postponed this momentous change.

Residency and Fellowship Match Results

Eric Ballon-Landa, MD, from UC Irvine, Brittney Cotta, MD, from Southern Illinois University, and Sunil Patel, MD, from Boston University, are our new residents. Joel Abbot, DO, from St. John Providence Health, is the 2015–16 UC San Diego-Kaiser Endourology Fellow. The 2015–17 Society of Urologic Oncology Fellow is Zachary Hamilton, MD, from the University of Kansas. Our Pediatric Urology Fellows are Michael Yap, MD (2014–16), from the University of New Mexico, and Kelly Nast, MD (2015–17), from Georgetown University.
Grant Highlights continued from page 3

Christina Jamieson, PhD, is the UC San Diego site PI on a Prostate Cancer Research Program Idea Development New Investigator Award funded by the Department of Defense entitled “Redirecting Engineered T Cells Using a Small Molecule Drug: A Novel Approach for the Treatment of Metastatic Prostate Cancer” in collaboration with Chan Hyuk Kim, PhD, of the California Institute of Biological Research (CalIBR).

J. Kellogg Parsons, MD, is the PI of a $1.6 million grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for a phase 2 randomized, placebo-controlled trial of PROSTVAC®—a prostate cancer vaccine—in patients with clinically localized prostate cancer undergoing active surveillance to determine the immunologic response and the clinical indicators of disease progression. He is currently enrolling patients at Moores Cancer Center and several have already begun treatment. In addition, the Men’s Eating and Living (MEAL) phase 3 trial reached its national accrual target of 464 patients. This NCI-funded study is the first nonindustry sponsored trial to test an intervention of any kind in prostate cancer patients on active surveillance, and the main goal is to alter disease progression.

Prentiss Visiting Professor Ian M. Thompson, MD

In September, we were honored to have Ian M. Thompson, MD, president of the American Board of Urology (ABU), professor of urology, and director of the Cancer Research Therapy Center at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio, give the 2015 Robert J. Prentiss Lecture as part of our Visiting Professor Grand Rounds. His lecture was on the early detection of prostate cancer and enhanced risk stratification. His interaction with the residents was tremendous and highly valued by them.

Dr. Thompson is also a trustee of the ABU, which establishes and maintains standards of certification for urologists to ensure high-quality, safe, efficient, and ethical practice. He is the chair of the Genitourinary Committee of the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG), leading some of the most important clinical trials in urology, including the Prostate Cancer Prevention Trial (SWOG-coordinated Intergroup Study S9217). He previously served as chair of the Residency Review Committee in Urology for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). In addition, he serves as chair of the Early Detection Research Network of the National Cancer Institute, and served as president of the Society of Urologic Oncology. He serves on Subcommittee A (Cancer Centers) of the National Cancer Institute.

The Prentiss Lecture Series is funded in part by the San Diego Urological Society. The Visiting Professor Grand Rounds program is held monthly during the academic year and includes presentations by UC San Diego Urology and Naval Medical Center residents.

See the schedule of upcoming lectures at urology.ucsd.edu/cme.

Publications

UC San Diego urology has more than eighty-five publications this year. A few key articles are noted below.

Cancer, Kidney


Cancer, Prostate


Cancer, Testicular


Incontinence


Interstitial Cystitis

treatment of interstitial cystitis symptoms. 

**Men’s Health**


**Pediatric Urology**


**Reconstruction**


**Stones & Endourology**


**Translational Science**


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**Ninth Annual UC San Diego Urology Postgraduate Course**

We invite you to attend the Ninth Annual UC San Diego Urology Postgraduate Course: Clinical Case Discussions in Urology taking place March 11–12, 2016, at the San Diego Marriott in Del Mar, CA. This one-and-a-half day course is designed to offer the most up-to-date evidence for the management of select urologic conditions and will utilize an interactive approach that encourages conversations between participants and lecturers. Participants will be able to submit cases in advance for discussion as well. This focused set of didactic lectures will emphasize the practical evidence-based application of the most recent literature from world-renowned experts in the field.

In addition, we are also offering a **hands-on workshop, MRI-Guided Prostate Biopsy**, concurrently on the morning of Friday, March 11, at the hotel. This workshop will present practical approaches to incorporating MRI-guided prostate biopsy into clinical practice.

**COURSE DIRECTORS**

Roger L. Sur, MD  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
UC San Diego Health

A. Karim Kader, MD, PhD  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
UC San Diego Health

**VISITING FACULTY**

Leonard S. Marks, MD  
Professor of Urology and deKernion Endowed Chair  
Department of Urology  
UCLA

Leonard N. Zinman, MD  
Co-Director, Center for Reconstructive Urologic Surgery  
Lahey Hospital & Medical Center

**UC SAN DIEGO FACULTY**

Michael E. Albo, MD  
Jil C. Buckley, MD  
Ithaar H. Derweesh, MD  
T. Mike Hsieh, MD  
Christopher J. Kane, MD  
David S. Karow, MD, PhD  
J. Kellogg Parsons, MD, MHS  
Joel E. Abbott, DO (Endourology Fellow)  
Zachary Hamilton, MD (SUO Fellow)

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**REGISTER**

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

Michael Albo, MD, is a San Diego County Medical Society and San Diego Magazine Physician of Exceptional Excellence (“Top Doctor”) for the eleventh consecutive year.

Jill C. Buckley, MD, is a board member of the Society of Genitourinary Reconstruction Surgeons (GURS), Chair of the GURS Fellowship Committee, and a member of the Trauma and Urinary Reconstruction Network of Surgeons.

Congratulations to Ithaar Derweesh, MD, the 2015 Department of Urology Outstanding Faculty Educator. He is a member of the AUA/ASCO Renal Mass and Localized Renal Cancer Clinical Practice Guidelines Panel and a member of the International Consultation of Urologic Diseases Guidelines Panel for Management of Small Renal Masses (an NGO affiliated with the World Health Organization).

T Mike Hsieh, MD, was selected for the UC San Diego Health Sciences 2015 National Center of Leadership in Academic Medicine Program.

Congratulations to Christina Jamieson, PhD, on her promotion to Associate Professor-in-Residence with tenure.

Christopher Kane, MD, is a San Diego County Medical Society “Top Doctor” for the seventh consecutive year. He is a member of the NCCN Prostate Cancer Guidelines panel and continues as co-chair of the National Cancer Institute Renal Cancer Task Force.

J. Kellogg Parsons, MD, is a San Diego County Medical Society “Top Doctor” and a member of the AUA National Research Council.

Roger Sur, MD, is a founding member of the Stone Institute, dedicated to urology education worldwide.

Breakfast with Champions

The 2015 Breakfast with Champions: A Prostate Cancer Fundraiser featured nine-time Pro Bowl safety and analyst for the NFL on Fox, John Lynch. Pro Football Hall of Famer Mike Haynes was a return Champion. “This event has special personal meaning to me, as Dr. Kane successfully treated and performed surgery on my brother-in-law. I am proud to say that my brother-in-law has been healthy and cancer-free now for three years, thanks in large part to the efforts of Dr. Kane and the talented staff at Moores Cancer Center,” said Lynch. He recounted stories of his great college and pro football career, including when his team, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, defeated the Oakland Raiders in Super Bowl XXXVII in 2003.

According to Dr. Kane, who led the event, “Breakfast with Champions brings together a community of people who support a vision for improved prostate cancer treatments and cures, restored health, and preserved quality of life.” This event is open to the public and all proceeds benefit prostate cancer research at Moores Cancer Center and UC San Diego Health. For more information, visit benefitprostatecancer.ucsd.edu or call (858) 246-1571.

If you would like to make a donation to the Department of Urology, please contact Whitney Nifong Egan, senior director of development, at wnegan@ucsd.edu or (858) 246-1561.