

Urology News

From the chair

Christopher E. Keel, D.O., FACS

As we enter the fall season, it is a time for reflection, gratitude, and looking ahead with optimism. In the Department of Urology at USA's Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine, we have much to be thankful for this year.



Our residency program continues to thrive, drawing tremendous interest from across the country. This year, we received a record number of applications from outstanding medical students eager to train with us. We are now in the midst of a very busy interview season, meeting with these impressive candidates who represent the future of our specialty. It is energizing to see their enthusiasm and to showcase the unique opportunities and culture of our program.

Our faculty and residents have also been exceptionally active on the academic front. Over the past several months, members of our department have presented research and clinical work at regional and national meetings, sharing innovative ideas and advancing the field of urology. These contributions reflect the hard work, curiosity, and collaborative spirit that define our team.

As we look ahead, the coming year promises significant growth. We are excited to be welcoming several new faculty members whose expertise will expand the breadth of care we can provide for our patients and enhance the training environment for our residents. In addition, we anticipate an increase in our residency complement, which will allow us to train even more future leaders in urology and further strengthen our program's impact.

Fall is also a season of gratitude, and I want to take a moment to thank you — our alumni, colleagues, and friends — for your continued support. The progress and successes of our department are made possible not only by the dedication of our faculty, staff, and residents, but also by the generosity of those who believe in our mission. If you are able, I encourage you to consider making a gift to our department through the QR code or link provided in this newsletter. Your support directly enhances the educational experience of our residents, fuels academic innovation, and advances the care we deliver to our patients.

As we approach the end of the year, I am filled with appreciation for all we have accomplished together and for the bright future ahead. Thank you for being part of our journey.



Achievements

Residency program earns continued accreditation

Our urology residency program recently earned continued accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education following a site visit. The five year program accepts one PGY 1 resident per year, with applications managed through ERAS. Lorie Fleck, M.D., is program director.

Events

Journal Club

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 6 p.m.
 Ruth's Chris Steak House

Urology In-Service Exam

Saturday, Nov. 15

A Night Honoring Healers

Tuesday, Nov. 18
 Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center
 Proceeds benefit USA Health

Social media

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 @jag_uro
 jag_uro

Keel moderates SAU webinar on 'Starting a Residency'

Christopher Keel, D.O., FACS, chair of urology, served as a moderator for the webinar "Starting a Residency: Soup to Nuts," hosted by the Society of Academic Urologists (SAU) in collaboration with the American Urological Association (AUA). The session guided participants through the SAU's comprehensive toolkit that sets up residency programs for success. Keel is a member of the 2025-2026 SAU Board of Directors.



Current clinical trials

The ABLE 32 study is a phase 3 randomized, controlled trial of Nadofaragene vs. observation for the treatment of intermediate risk nonmuscle invasive bladder cancer. Inclusion criteria include newly diagnosed or recurrent intermediate risk (IR) NMIBC at screening as defined by AUASUO Guidelines (2020) with pathology confirming low grade Ta or T1 tumor, multifocal low grade Ta tumor, or solitary high-grade Ta, < or equal to 3 cm. Pathology must confirm the presence of muscularis with no muscle invasion.

The RESQ132EX-NMIBC study is an expanded access use of Recombinant Bacillus Calmette-Guerin for treatment of NMIBC. Inclusion criteria include pathology confirming intermediate or high-risk non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC), to include high-grade T1, high grade Ta > 3 cm (or multifocal), or CIS. It is indicated for any bladder cancer approved for Tice BCG use.

Manganti to be recognized at gala

Second-year resident Christian Manganti, M.D., will be one of the providers honored and highlighted at A Night Honoring Healers, USA Health's signature event, on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at the Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center. Manganti is being recognized for his role in the care of a pediatric trauma patient, where his dedication, teamwork, and clinical skill exemplified the mission of USA Health. His recognition highlights the immense value of residency training to our community. By integrating resident physicians into the care team, USA Health ensures not only exceptional outcomes today but also the continued development of compassionate, skilled physicians for the future. More information about A Night Honoring Healers can be found at www.usahealthsystem.com/healers.



Support our residency

Support the education of our urology residents with your tax-deductible donation.



Urology Residency
Education Endowment

Upcoming clinical trials

The BT8009 or Bicycle trial is pending with startup potentially in December. This study is a randomized open label study comparing BT8009 as monotherapy or in combination with Pembrolizumab in participants with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer.

Marcia Miller is the urology clinical trials coordinator at the USA Health Mitchell Cancer Institute and can be reached at marciamiller@health.southalabama.edu.



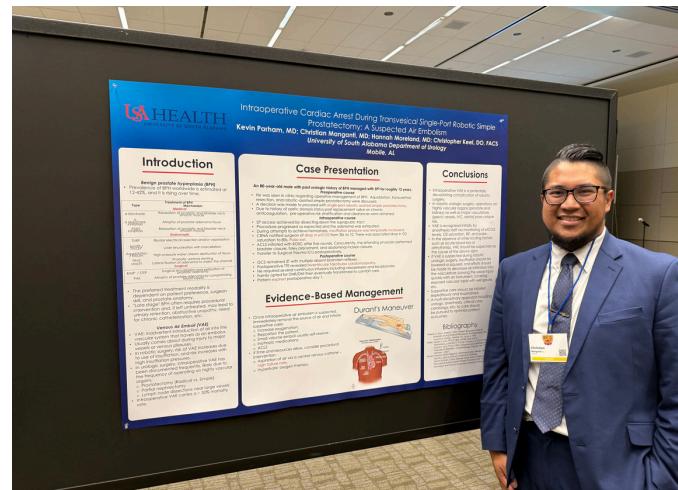
Refer a patient to University Urology

Contact Lisa Wheat at Lwheat@health.southalabama.edu or call 251-660-5930.

Photos and Highlights



Kevin Parham, M.D., PGY-3, presents research at the Genitourinary Society of Reconstructive Surgeons Academic Congress in September in Minneapolis.



Christian Manganti, M.D., PGY-2, presents a poster at the 42nd World Congress of Endourology and Uro-Technology, held Sept. 8-12 in Phoenix.



Residents Marjorie Jones, M.D., PGY-1, Hannah Moreland, M.D., PGY-4, and Christian Manganti, M.D., PGY-2, enjoy a meal together at Taco Mama in Mobile.



Hannah Moreland, M.D., PGY-4, and Marjorie Jones, M.D., PGY-1, collaborate in the OR with residency program director Lorie Fleck, M.D.



Christopher Keel, D.O., FACS, works with Kevin Parham, M.D., PGY-3, on the da Vinci robot.



Residency program director Lorie Fleck, M.D., hosts residents at a dinner at Chuck's Fish in Mobile.

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USA Health has 'gold standard' treatment for urethral stricture

Urethral stricture disease can be a challenge, particularly in patients with recurrent or complex strictures. While dilation and direct visual internal urethrotomy remain common first-line approaches, long-term success is limited, with high recurrence rates after repeat procedures.

USA Health is pleased to announce that comprehensive urethroplasty services are available at USA Health University Urology, which offers referring urologists and their patients access to reconstructive options.

Our reconstructive urology team, led by Jatinder Kumar, M.D., an assistant professor of urology at USA's Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine, provides personalized surgical planning based on stricture length, location, and etiology. Postoperative follow-up includes flow studies and symptom tracking to monitor for recurrence. Early referral for urethroplasty is associated with better outcomes and lower rates of recurrence compared with repeated endoscopic procedures, said Kumar, who is fellowship trained in advanced urology and reconstructive urology.



For a consultation or to refer a patient, contact USA Health University Urology at 251-660-5930. Our offices are located at 3290 Dauphin St., Suite 400, in Mobile.