

Department of Urology

**UB** University at Buffalo The State University of New York

| FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2021 |

**Department  
of Urology**

K. Kent Chevli, MD  
Chairman  
Teresa Danforth, MD  
Program Director



## Message from the Chairman

K. Kent Chevli, MD



First and foremost, congratulations to our graduating class of 2021! The Department had an enjoyable evening together on June 18<sup>th</sup> as we celebrated the graduation of our 2021 Residents – Shervin Badkhshan, M.D., Eugene Ermolovich, M.D. and Tyler Maiers, M.D. Dr. Badkhshan will be heading to Dallas, Texas to complete a one-year fellowship in Urologic Trauma, Reconstruction and Prosthetics at the University of Texas Southwestern while Dr. Ermolovich and Dr. Maiers will be heading into private practice at Lee Health in Fort Myers, Florida. I'd like to wish them the best of luck as they embark on their new journeys. In addition, the Department would also like to wish Wendy Scales all the very best as she begins her well-deserved retirement. Wendy spent 20+ years with the Department of Urology as our Residency Training Program Administrator. We would like to thank Wendy for her endless efforts, hard work and dedication to the Department over all these years.

While some are moving on from the Department, we have some new team members joining. I would like to give a warm welcome to – Bryson Cook, M.D., Guillaume Farah, M.D. and Kevin Xie, M.D. -our new PGY1 Residents. We are looking forward to having them.

Gina Tundo, M.D., David Abramowitz, M.D. and Jackie Gonka-Griffo, M.D. will be joining our faculty in August/September. Some of you may recognize these names as they all completed their residency here at UB. Having now completed their fellowship programs, they are returning to Western New York to begin practice. Dr. Tundo, Dr.

Abramowitz and Dr. Gonka-Griffo will be working with residents at the various local hospitals in the area.

Congratulations to our Program Director, Teresa Danforth, M.D., and her family as they recently welcomed the arrival of their daughter Lennon.

Many of our residents have been extremely busy with various research activities including abstract development and journal article publication. One of the larger research projects residents are working on in conjunction with Western New York Urology, is a data dive into a large prostate cancer database to evaluate clinical correlations. Congratulations to Tyler Maiers, M.D. and Nicole Belko, M.D. on the publication of their recent journal article. I would also like to congratulate Nicole Alavi-Dunn, M.D., Adam Russon, M.D. and Michael Shapiro, M.D. on their acceptance to present at the upcoming AUA Northeast Section meeting.

Our weekly and monthly resident education conferences have been able to resume to a live format, which has been great. While our virtual conferences were able to help bridge the gap during COVID, it has been nice to gather in person again.

This has certainly been a busy time for the Department and we are looking forward to the coming months. I would like to wish you and your families an enjoyable summer.

**Congratulations, Graduates!**



***Shervin Badkhshan, M.D., M.B.A.***

Dr. Badkhshan received his MD degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He completed one year of general surgery residency at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and four years in the Urology Residency Program. Upon completion of his urology training, Shervin will enter into a one-year fellowship in Urologic Trauma, Reconstruction, and Prosthetics at the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, Texas.



***Eugene Ermolovich, M.D.***

Dr. Ermolovich received his MD degree from The Ohio State University College of Medicine. He completed one year of general surgery residency at the State University of New York at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical

Sciences and four years in the Urology Residency Program. Upon completion of his urology training, Eugene will enter into private practice at Lee Health in Fort Myers, Florida.



*Tyler Maiers, M.D.*

Dr. Maiers received his MD degree from The Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He completed one year of general surgery residency at the State University of New York at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and four years in the Urology Residency Program. Upon completion of his urology training, Tyler will enter into private practice at Lee Health in Fort Myers, Florida.

## **Thank You, Wendy!**

After 20 years with the Department of Urology, our Residency Training Program Administrator, Wendy Scales, has made the decision to retire.

During her time working in graduate medical education, she has been an administrator for 7 programs and has worked with 10 program directors. Ms. Scales was most recently also the Training Program Administrator for the Department of Pathology until July 2020.

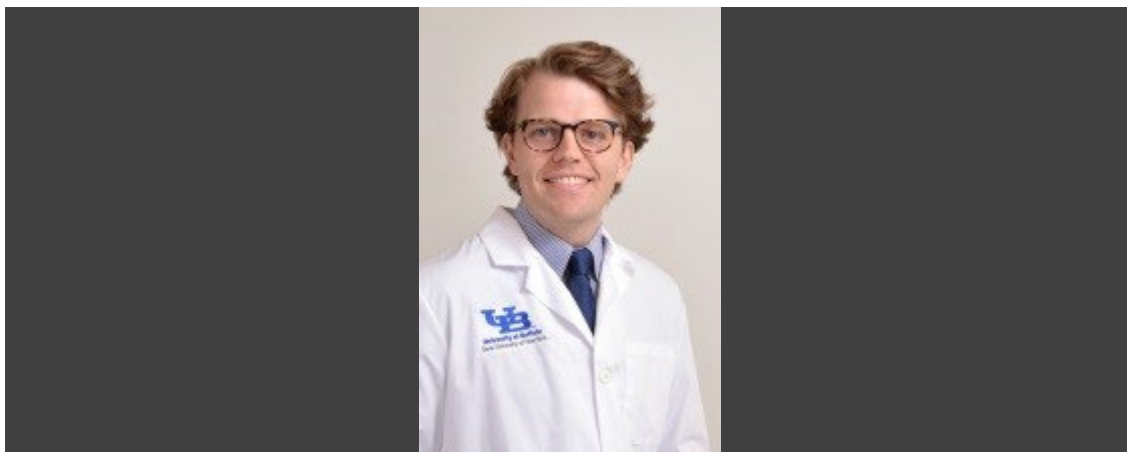
We'd like to sincerely thank Wendy for all of her hard work and dedication to this department over the years. We wish her all the best in her retirement and hope that she lives every day to the fullest with her two daughters and four grandchildren.

Thank you for everything, Wendy!



## Welcome Our New Faculty

Please give our new faculty members a warm welcome.



Please welcome Dr. David Abramowitz.

David Abramowitz, M.D., attended Medical School at Sackler School of Medicine and performed his Residency in Urology at the University at Buffalo. Following his residency, Dr. Abramowitz completed a prestigious fellowship in Cancer Survivorship and Reconstructive Urology at City of Hope National Cancer Center in Los Angeles. He is a member of the American Urologic Association (AUA), Society of Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgeons (GURS) and Sexual Medicine Society of North America (SMSNA). He will be practicing general urology with a focus on reconstructive and prosthetic urology. Dr. Abramowitz will be joining us in August 2021.



Please welcome Dr. Jacquelyn Gonka-Griffo.

Jacquelyn M Gonka-Griffo, M.D., is a graduate of the Stony Brook School of Medicine. She completed her Internship and Residency in Urology at the Jacob School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Gonka-Griffo then completed a fellowship in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery at Metro Urology in Minnesota. She specializes in pelvic organ prolapse, voiding dysfunction, urinary incontinence, overactive bladder, pelvic pain, and female sexual dysfunction. She is a member of many clinical societies including the American Urologic Association (AUA). Dr. Gonka-Griffo will be joining us in August 2021.



Please welcome Dr. Gina Tundo.

Gina N. Tundo, M.D. is a graduate of the State University of New York, University at Buffalo Medical School. She completed her internship and residency at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Dr. Tundo then completed a fellowship in reconstructive urology at Emory University. Dr. Tundo will be joining us in August 2021.

## 2021 Graduation

On Friday, June 18, 2021 the Department of Urology held its graduation ceremony and dinner at The Buffalo Club to honor our graduating residents, Drs. Shervin Badkhshan, Eugene Ermolovich and Tyler Maiers. The graduates' family members attended the evening's festivities, along with department faculty, residents and staff.







## Gold Humanism Honor Society

On May 19th, the Jacobs School hosted its annual Richard Sarkin/Emeritus Resident & Faculty Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society Ceremony. The Gold Humanism Honor Society honors students and physicians for their commitment to providing excellent, compassionate care, as well as for their dedication to patients and families.

Among the 20 residents and faculty inducted into the class of 2021, the Department of Urology was represented by one of our residents, Dr. Adam Russon, and faculty member, Dr. Abeer Eddib.

Congratulations, Drs. Russon and Eddib!



## **30 Years of Service**

Please join us in congratulating Dr. John Griswold on achieving 30 years of service with the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Griswold was recently recognized by the University at Buffalo for his dedication.

Congratulations, Dr. Griswold, and thank you for your contributions and service to the University at Buffalo and the Department of Urology!





## **UROLOGY Cover Article**

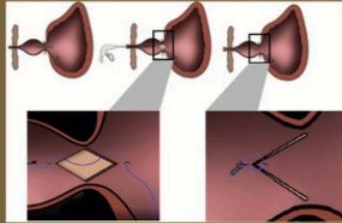
Dr. Abramowitz recently had a paper published in UROLOGY. This paper, titled "Transurethral Incision with Transverse Mucosal Realignment for the Management of Bladder Neck Contracture and Vesicourethral Anastomotic Stenosis," was featured on the cover of the June 2021 issue.

The paper is available to read online on the [UROLOGY website](#).

VOLUME 152, JUNE 2021

# UROLOGY

SPECIAL ISSUE ON GU RECONSTRUCTION



Transurethral Incision with Transverse Mucosal Realignment  
for the Management of Bladder Neck Contracture

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Video Articles

- Surgical Outcomes of Glansectomy and Split Thickness Skin Graft Reconstruction for Localized Penile Cancer
- Orchidopexy and Split-thickness Skin Graft for Scrotal Defects After Necrotizing Fasciitis
- Ventral Approach for the Non-transecting Bulbar Urethroplasty
- A Laparoscopic Approach to Parastomal Hernia Repair With Re-Siting of Urinary Stoma
- Technique and Outcomes of Hand-Assist Laparoscopic Continent Cutaneous Ileocecostoplasty
- Single-Stage Reconstruction of Fossa Navicularis Strictures Using a "Sliding-T" Dorsal Inlay Urethroplasty With Buccal Mucosal Graft



## Faculty of the Year

During the graduation ceremony, the residents presented the annual Dr. Robert Huben Educator Award to Dr. John Rutkowski in recognition of his dedication, commitment, and steadfast support of resident education in Urology.



Dr. Rutkowski (right) accepts the award from Chief Resident, Dr. Tyler Maiers.

## Twitter Recognition

Dr. Nicole Belko gave a presentation at Grand Rounds on Thursday, May 13th on the topic of "Female Sexual Dysfunction."

Dr. Belko received a lot of attention from the community for her presentation, and attracted the attention of Dr. Rachel Rubin. Dr. Rubin retweeted Dr. Belko's original tweet, giving more widespread attention to not only Dr. Belko, but also the topic of female sexual dysfunction.

Dr. Rachel Rubin is a urologic surgeon from IntimMedicine Specialists in Washington, D.C. She specializes in the treatment of sexual dysfunction in both men and women. Her

expertise includes erectile dysfunction, pelvic pain, penile curvature, low testosterone, low libido, sexual arousal disorders, urinary incontinence, penile implants, and menopause care.



## Chief Resident Dinner

On Wednesday, June 2nd, the Department of Urology held its annual Chief Resident meeting at Hutch's in Buffalo. The meeting is a way for the current Chief Residents, along with the Chairman, Program Director and Training Program Administrator, to talk with the incoming

Chief Residents about responsibilities for the upcoming year, what to expect as Chief Residents, and to ask any questions they may have.

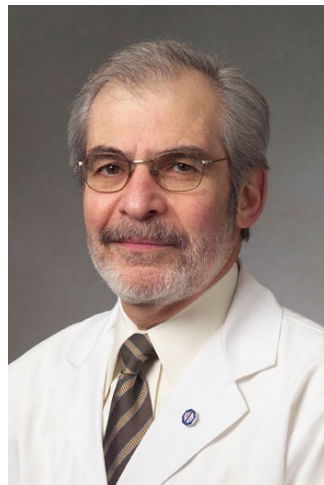
After the meeting concluded, the residents were able to meet and get a picture with Buffalo Bills' quarterback, Josh Allen, who happened to be at Hutch's the same evening.



## AUA Honoring Dr. Pranikoff for Service

The full published article on the Jacobs School site can be read here:

[http://medicine.buffalo.edu/news\\_and\\_events/news/2021/06/pranikoff-urology-award-12575.html](http://medicine.buffalo.edu/news_and_events/news/2021/06/pranikoff-urology-award-12575.html)





## Department of Urology

### Presentations by Visiting Professors

**Dr. Sankar Kausik**, Director, BPH Program, Chesapeake Urology Associates, presented "**Tips and Tricks for the Advanced UroLifter**" at the Department of Urology Grand Rounds conference on Friday, May 21st.

## Scholarly Activity

### Awards and Recognition

Adam Russon, DO: Inducted in the Richard Sarkin/Emeritus Resident Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society. May 2021.

### Journal Articles

Eric J. Szczecinskia; Raymond Pominville; Tyler Maiers, MD; Nicole Belko, MD; John Bodkin, III, MD. [High flow or low flow? An unusual case of ischemic priapism following gunshot wound to the cervical spinal cord.](#) Urology Case Reports. Volume 37, July 2021, 101631. PMID: 33747794.

Oussama M. Darwish, MD; Ellen Lutnick, BS; Zafardjan Dalimov, MS; Kyle M. Waisanen, MD; Daniel Wang, MD; Ali Houjaij, MD; Ichabod Jung, MD; D. NaderNader, MD, PhD, FCCP, FACC, FAHA. [Neuraxial vs general anesthesia: 30-day mortality outcomes following transurethral resection of prostate.](#) UROLOGY, July 15, 2021. PMID: 34274392.

### Abstracts

Ellen Lutnick; Kyle Waisanen, MD; Nader Nader, MD; Zafardjan Dalimov; Ali Houjaij, MD; Oussama Darwish, MD; Ichabod Jung, MD. Neuraxial vs General Anesthesia: 30-day Mortality

Outcomes Following Transurethral Resection of Prostate. 16<sup>th</sup> Annual University at Buffalo UBMD Surgery Research Day. Buffalo, NY. May 13, 2021.

Ellen Lutnick; Kyle Waisanen, MD; Nader Nader, MD; Zafardjan Dalimov; Ali Houjaj, MD; Oussama Darwish, MD; Ichabod Jung, MD. Meta-Analysis of Perioperative Outcomes Comparing General and Neuraxial Anesthesia. 16<sup>th</sup> Annual University at Buffalo UBMD Surgery Research Day. Buffalo, NY. May 13, 2021.

### **Conference/Courses Attended**

Kyle Waisanen, MD: Attended the 16th Annual University at Buffalo UBMD Surgery Research Day. Buffalo, NY. May 13, 2021.

Shervin Badkhshan, MD: Attended the American Urological Association Virtual Annual Review Course. June 4-6, 2021.

Eugene Ermolovich, MD: Attended the American Urological Association Virtual Annual Review Course. June 4-6, 2021.

Tyler Maiers, MD: Attended the American Urological Association Virtual Annual Review Course. June 4-6, 2021.

If you have any news that you'd like to contribute to the next issue of the newsletter, please email them to Steve Crowe at [scrowe2@buffalo.edu](mailto:scrowe2@buffalo.edu).

