



Advancing Urologic Research Through Partnerships

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AUA Director of Research

2nd International Congress on Underactive Bladder
December 3, 2015
Denver

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Outline

- Overview of the AUA Office of Research
- Challenges for Bladder Health
- Partnerships
 - to Provide Research Funding
 - that Enhance Research Advocacy
 - that Catalyze Research Advancements
- Recommendations for the UAB Community



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Mission

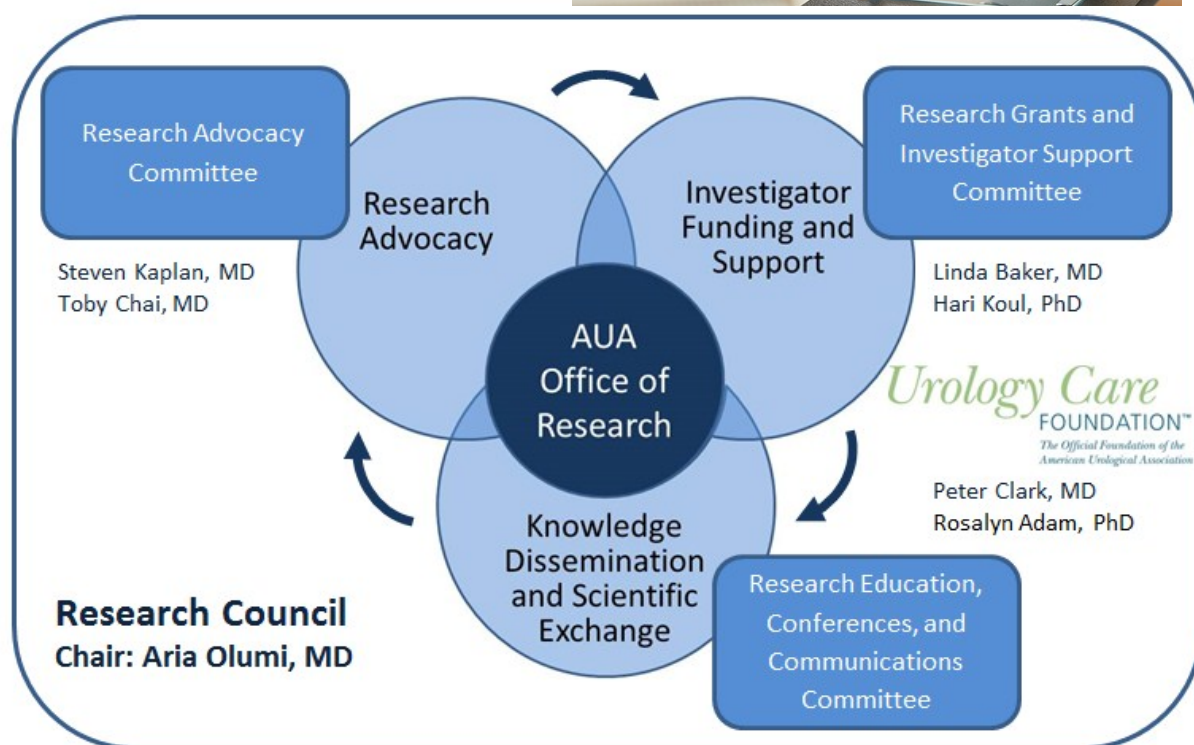
To increase and maintain the workforce of urology
physician-scientists and researchers
to catalyze the advancement of clinical practice
*and reduce the burden of urologic disease through
impactful research*



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(Some) Challenges for Bladder Health

- Bladder health is insufficiently defined.
- Awareness of bladder disease/dysfunction is low.
- Diversity of bladder dysfunction and the phenotypic characteristics are under-recognized.
- Etiologies for bladder disease are poorly understood.
 - How to maintain or restore bladder health
 - How to avoid contributors to (i.e., prevent) bladder disease/dysfunction
- Difficult to break the cycle of low research funding.



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Public

- Federal government
- State government

Private (Non-Profits)

- Foundations
- Medical Societies
- Research Societies
- Patient Advocacy Orgs
- Academia

Private (For-Profits)

- Industry
- Medical Practices

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Investigator Funding and Support

(Partnerships to Provide Research Funding)



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Over the nearly 40 year history
of these funding programs,

OVER **625** SCHOLARSHIPS
AND AWARDS

TOTALING **\$24** MILLION
OVER
have been provided.

Urology Care FOUNDATION™

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Urology Care Foundation Grant Programs

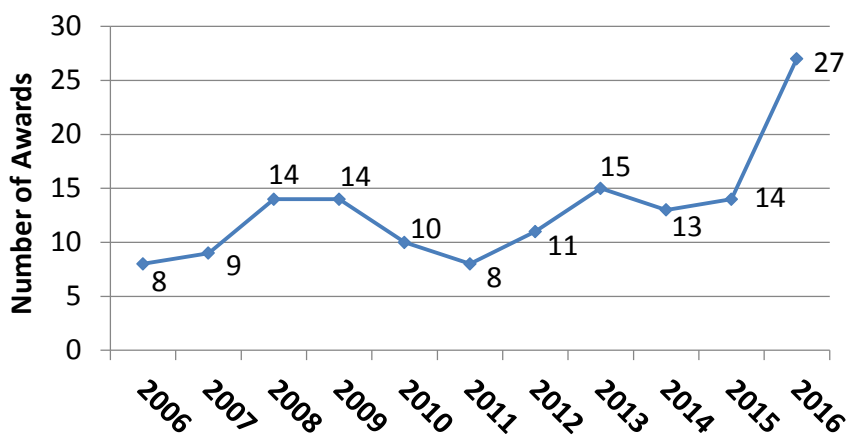
- **Summer Medical Student Fellowships**
 - \$4,000 stipend for ten-week summer research training
 - 46 funded since 2010
- **Residency Research Awards**
 - \$40,000/yr to support residency 6- to 12-month research training
 - Requires institutional match
 - 10 funded since 2010
- **Research Scholar Awards**
 - \$40,000/yr for one-year or two-year mentored training for clinical and post-doctoral fellows, junior faculty
 - Over 550 funded since 1975
- **Rising Stars in Urology Research Awards (Astellas/Hinman)**
 - Up to \$200,000 total for up to five years of salary support for urologists with external career development award
 - 21 funded since 2005

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Increased Support for Research

Research Scholar Awards 2006-2016



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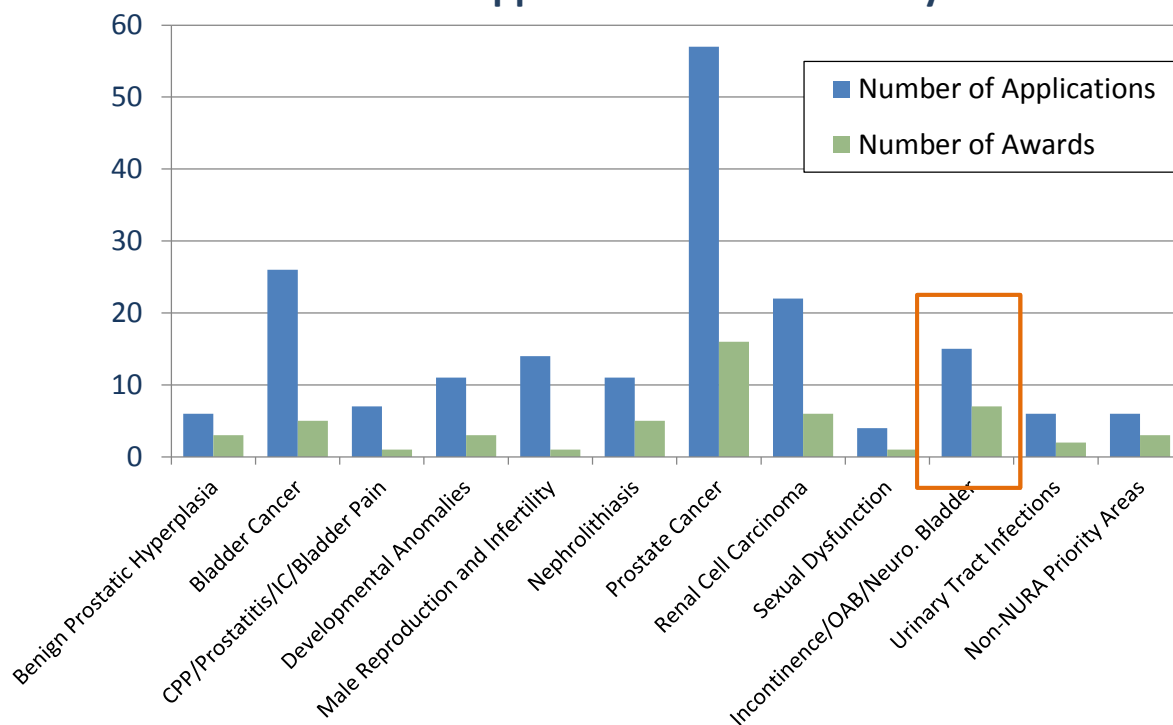
Funding Sources Across UCF Programs

- **Endowments**
 - AUA and AUA Sections
 - AUA-affiliated Societies
 - SUO
 - SMSNA
 - SUFU
 - Endo
 - IAUA
 - SPU
 - Industry/Other
 - Astellas
 - Dornier MedTech
 - Chesapeake Urology Associates
 - Krane, Hinman, Scott
 - Boston Scientific/Segura
- **Variable Funding**
 - Industry
 - Allergan
 - Astellas
 - Amgen
 - Genentech
 - Olympus
 - Pfizer
 - Patient/Research Groups
 - ICA
 - KCA
 - Other
 - Brendler, Arkansas Urol Soc
 - CPDR

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2012-15 Research Scholar Applications and Awards by Research Area



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Questions re: UAB Research

- Likelihood of funding often relates to numbers of applications submitted. Why are there so few applications for funding for research training in UAB research?
- What are the most important areas in which to support UAB research training? Basic? Translational? Clinical?
- Who can we partner with to specifically support proposals for UAB research?
- For those we do fund, how can we help them succeed post-award?



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Research Advocacy

(Partnerships that Enhance Research Advocacy)



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Research Advocacy: Recipe for Success

Step 1: Work on Both Fronts

Step 2: Raise Awareness

Step 3: Make a Request

Step 4: Make a Request



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Research Advocacy: Recipe for Success

1. Work on Both Legislative and Non-legislative Fronts

A. Legislative (Congress)

- i. Individual Champions, e.g.
 - a. Senator Durbin
- ii. Congressional caucuses, e.g.
 - a. NIH caucus
 - b. Men's Health Caucus
- iii. Advocacy coalitions, e.g.
 - a. "Friends of ..."
 - b. Defense Health Research Consortium
 - c. OAB Roundtable



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Legislative Advocacy Success Story #1



Blocked Cuts to Federal Funding for Urologic Research

- Senate amendment proposed that, starting in Fiscal Year 2016, would have cut all urologic research funding to the DoD Congressionally

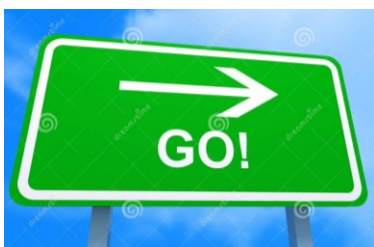
Directed Medical Research Programs (i.e., > \$100 million for prostate cancer, kidney cancer, interstitial cystitis and bladder/urinary dysfunction secondary to other conditions , e.g., spinal cord injury, tuberous sclerosis)

- Defense Health Research Consortium (AUA is Executive Committee member) rapid effort to obtain 64 sign-ons to letter reinforcing the importance of the funding for innovative research to help patients
- **In response, Senator rescinded amendment before voting.**

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Legislative Advocacy Success Story #2



Added Bladder Cancer Research as a Fundable Topic in DoD PRMRP

- Bladder cancer obvious void in federal funding for research, e.g., NIH, DoD
- Raised awareness with AUA letter highlighting:
 - Mortality and morbidity in comparison to other funded topic areas
 - Major disparities in funding
- Made the request
- Had the right champion (staffer in House Appropriations Committee; HAC-D)
- **In response, HAC-D added bladder cancer to the congressionally directed FY16 topics for PRMRP funding.**

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Legislative Advocacy Success Story #3 (In Progress)



Federal and State Proclamations of Bladder Health Awareness Month

- Spawned from AUA Urology Care Foundation's "It's Time to Talk about OAB" Awareness Campaign (commercial partner funding)
- Effort now inclusive of full scope of bladder health and disease
- Potential to leverage for:
 - Public awareness and education for UAB and other bladder-related challenges
 - Research advocacy for UAB and other bladder-related challenges



Campaign Overview

Overall Campaign Goals:

1. Identify overactive bladder (OAB) as a public health issue.
2. Establish a new connection between patients and their physicians, providing both with tools to open a conversation for diagnosis and therapy.
3. In conjunction with the healthcare community, patients and advocates, launch a multi-phased, national education campaign to break the stigma of OAB

Call-To-Action:

- Go to your doctor to discuss your symptoms; know your risk factors
- Visit www.ItsTimetoTalkAboutOAB.org for more information

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IT'S TIME
TO TALK
ABOUT OAB

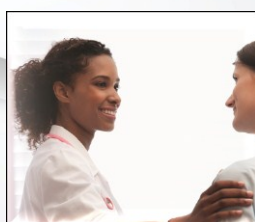
Overview of Activities



Materials



Website



Health Care Provider Outreach



Patient/ General Public Outreach



Media Outreach



**Social Media/
Media Partnerships**



Advocacy Outreach



Patient Survey

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Research Advocacy: Recipe for Success

1. Work on Both Legislative and Non-legislative Fronts

A. Non-legislative (Everyone else)

i. Federal Funders (NIH, VA)

- a. NIH Advisory Councils
- b. Institutional Centers (IC) Directors and Program Officers
- c. Multiple ICs (e.g., NCI, NIDDK, NIA, NICHD, NIEHS)



ii. Other Major Funders

- a. PCORI (Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute)
 - » AUA-driven urologic research funding priorities
 - » Opportunities for AUA/Academic collaborations
- b. Commercial partners
 - » Opportunities for AUA/Private Practice/Academic collaborations



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Scientific Symposia/ Conferences/Communications

*(Partnerships that Catalyze Research
Advancements)*



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Research Events at the AUA Annual Meeting



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Research Events at the AUA Annual Meeting

Three Full Days of Research Programming

Friday May 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Sciences Symposium, 8am-5:30pm “The Microbiome in Urologic Health and Disease” • Urologic Oncology Research Symposium, 8am-5:30pm “Forging New Paths in Research to Advance Urologic Oncology”
Saturday May 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subspecialty society sessions that highlight research • Urology Care Foundation Research Honors Program
Sunday May 8	<p>Challenges for Urologic Research, 10am-2:30pm “Diabetesity”</p> <p>Funding Opportunities Workshop, 1-3pm</p> <p>Early Career Investigator Showcase, 3-5:30pm</p>

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AUA Summer Research Conference

Goals:

- Timely and important area in urologic research
- Leaders in the field, synergizing through multidisciplinary approaches
- Inspire newer investigators
- Facilitate successful grantwriting

21st Summer Research Conference focused on “Patient Phenotyping: Advancing Treatment of Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction.”

***Next Conference:
“Epigenetics and Genome Regulation in Urologic Health and Disease”
July/August 2016***



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Critical Partnerships!

- Federal Government (R13s, U13s)
 - Funding brings stakeholders
 - Ideas engage community
- Research societies
 - Publicity raises awareness
 - Memberships bring stakeholders
 - Ideas engage community
- Commercial (invaluable funding partners)

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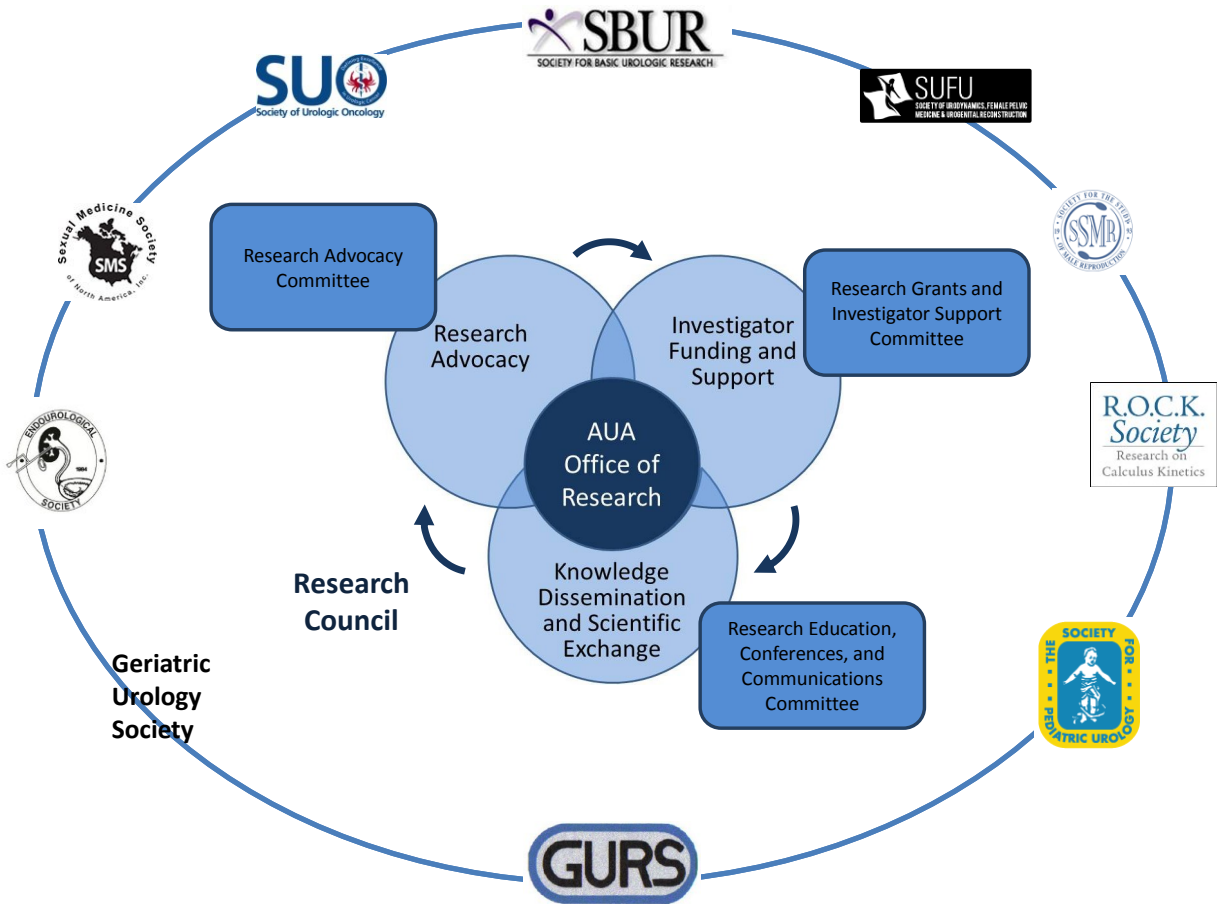


New Initiative to Partner Urologic Research Organizations: Urology Research Conferences Advisory Board (URCAB)



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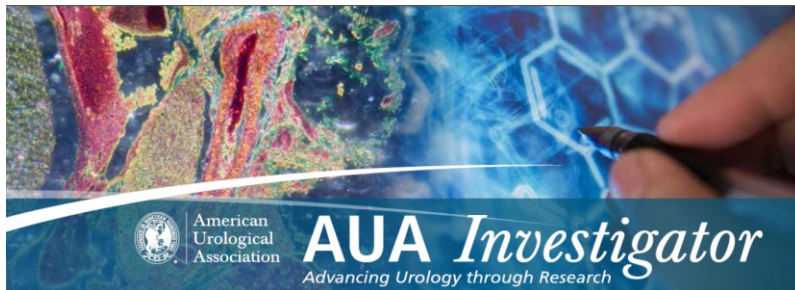
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AUA Investigator (*launched November 24, 2015!*)



- Feature articles covering current research events/developments
- Featuring AUA/UCF investigators and mentors
- Research funding and resource highlights (e.g., NIDDK urology ctrs)
- Advancements in research advocacy
- Calendar of urologic research events
- Urologic research position announcements

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AUA Research Communications

EUREKA! electronic newsletter



- Office of Research updates & advertisements
- Information on research meetings and events
- Information on research funding opportunities
- Updates and advertisements from other groups

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Recommendations for the UAB Research Community

- **Keep** the AUA Office of Research and Urology Care Foundation **informed** of your activities and accomplishments
 - Make use of all communication platforms within your means
- **Plug in** to AUA Research and Foundation activities (advocacy, funding, education/conferences)
 - Prioritize needs and align with ongoing initiatives
- Regularly **engage** with relevant congressional advocacy coalitions (be a part of the landscape); some have no financial requirements
- Regularly **engage** with NIH program officers

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THANK YOU!

The AUA wants to partner with you
and help you partner with others.



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