

## President's Message by Thomas W. Wood, MD



*Thomas W. Wood, MD*

Dear WUS Members,

"It is a tumultuous time in world of health care, and there are a number of recent and upcoming changes that will affect us as urologists and potentially impact how we deliver care to our patients." I quote Dan Williams in his 2016 President's Message because this statement is even more true today. After a bitter Presidential election cycle and surprising result, what changes will happen to the ACA? To Medicaid expansion? To reimbursement? Last year our Health Policy and Advocacy focus was extremely helpful moving forward.

Our guest lecturers will help educate us on genetics of urologic malignancies, novel biomarkers and other advancements in urology. Genetic testing will allow patient-centered evaluations to guide use of patient screening, as well as family evaluation and screening. Patient-centric cancer treatments are just around the corner. Do we worry about over detection of prostate cancer or focus on not over treating our patients with prostate cancer? Hopefully our visiting professors will guide and educate us going forward.

Welcome to this year's meeting being held at The Osthoff on beautiful Elkart Lake. This pristine setting of this grand hotel will allow us to reconnect with friends and colleagues. The Osthoff, one of the few four-star resorts in Wisconsin, offers many amenities with distinct Old World charm. Enjoy!

Friday's Welcome Reception gives us an opportunity to interact on a casual basis with our generous industry sponsors. There is no need to travel away from The Osthoff Resort for the Annual Banquet, as it will be in a beautiful setting on the resort grounds.

It has been a privilege to work with our WUS board. Both the board and WJ Weiser & Associates have worked very hard to put together a great combination of presentations by the residents and real world practitioners.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Wood, MD  
WUS President

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**Plan to Attend the  
2017 WUS Annual Meeting**  
April 21 – 23, 2017  
The Osthoff Resort  
Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin

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**Secretary/Treasurer's Report** by David R. Paolone, MD



*David R. Paolone, MD*

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable winter and is ready for the nicer weather of spring. Last April, we had a very successful meeting at the Edgewater in Madison. The informative sessions on health care reform and its effect on Urology were particularly interesting.

I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming Wisconsin Urological Society Annual Meeting to be held April 21-23, 2017 at The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake.

The society remains in good financial standing. The society's assets within checking and investment accounts totaled \$368,156 at the end of 2016, and the net income for the year was \$20,467. We have 106 active members, six affiliate members, and 40 senior members. I encourage you and your colleagues to remain actively involved in the society, as your participation keeps the society vibrant and enhances the success of the annual meeting. I would also encourage you to spend time at the annual meeting with our industry sponsors and thank them for their participation. Their commitment to the meeting helps ensure its financial success every year.

The educational focus on this year's meeting will be urological oncology. Dr. Scott Eggner of the University of Chicago will be giving lectures on preventing the over-detection of prostate cancer and novel biomarkers and MRI imaging of the prostate. Our Society president, Dr. Thomas Wood, has also invited Dr. Michael Mullane of Aurora Cancer Care to provide an exciting session on hereditary urological cancer as well as a lecture on systemic treatment options for metastatic CRPC. Podium sessions on kidney cancer, bladder cancer, and prostate cancer on Saturday will help complete the educational focus of the meeting on urological oncology. We will continue the two-day model of the annual meeting, and a half-day session on Sunday morning will include lectures by Dr. Alison Keenan of the University of Wisconsin on pediatric stone disease and Dr. Dane Johnson of the Medical College of Wisconsin on fertility preservation. Podium sessions on pediatric urology, andrology, reconstruction, and miscellaneous urological topics will complete a diverse and educational conference. A total of 41 abstracts were submitted this year, and I am excited to see the hard work done by the residents and medical students come to fruition with their presentations.

I look forward to seeing everyone at The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake on April 21-23, 2017.

Best wishes,

David R. Paolone, MD  
WUS Secretary/Treasurer

# AACU Government Relations and Advocacy Update

By: Ross E. Weber, State Affairs Manager, Policy and Engagement

Based on a partnership between the WUS and AACU, this item provides updates on legislative processes and issues affecting urologists. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Contact the AACU government affairs office at (847) 517-1050 or [info@aacuweb.org](mailto:info@aacuweb.org) for more information.

## Inefficient Payer Approval Processes Fail Patients, Frustrate Docs

Unabridged article posted online at  **Urology Times**  
The Leading News Source for Urologists

Prior authorization. Preauthorization. Prior approval. Pre-approval. No matter what you call it, these “utilization management” schemes that consume more and more of urologists’ days can be redesigned to make them more relevant and more efficient. This is demonstrated by recent attempts to simplify the administrative burden via state law, as well as a set of principles laid out by the American Medical Association and a coalition of physicians, medical groups, hospitals, pharmacists, and patients.

“Preauthorization has escalated beyond reason,” according to AACU President Charles McWilliams, MD. “The list of services that require approval seemingly gets longer every few months. My staff spends at least 30 to 60 minutes for every surgery and medication preauthorization.”

According to a December 2016 survey of 1,000 physicians conducted by the AMA, 90% of respondents reported that the prior authorization process delays access to necessary care. The AMA survey found that 80% of physicians are “sometimes, often, or always required to repeat [prior authorization] requests for prescriptions when the patient has already been stabilized on a treatment for a chronic condition.”

“The entire process needs to be streamlined,” AACU Health Policy Chair Jeffrey Frankel, MD, said. “In Washington state, a workgroup is looking at a mandated short response time of two to three days, after which the drug ordered is filled.”

Likewise, in several state legislatures, bills are being considered to foster greater efficiency. A proposal in the Georgia House of Representatives would apply already enacted prior authorization requirements to pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), including a 48-hour response mandate (GA HB 35). Florida insurers and PBMs would have to respond to non-urgent requests within three days if legislation under consideration in both the state House and Senate becomes law (FL HB 877/SB 530). To protect physicians from exposure to liability, a lawmaker in Hawaii authored a bill specifying that insurers, not health care providers, are liable for civil damages caused by undue delays for prior authorization (HI HB 885).

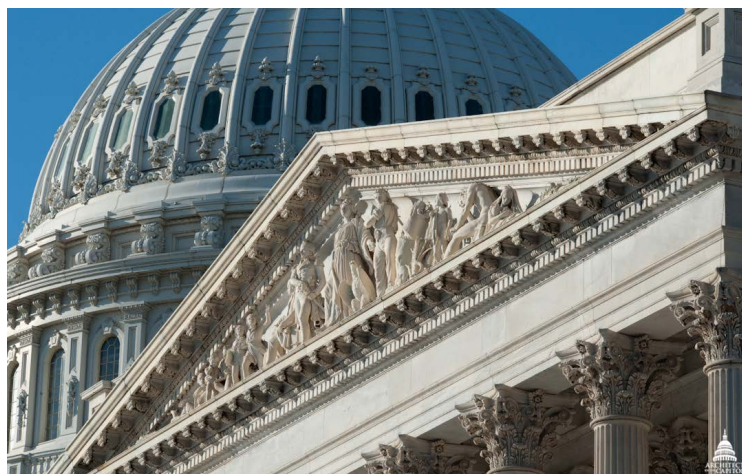
## UROPAC Chair Promotes ‘In-State’ Giving Strategy

In a Joint Advocacy Conference update to the urologic community, UROPAC Chair Jeffrey Frankel, MD, explained that the PAC works on behalf of the urologic community to be heard in Congress by supporting political candidates who believe in preserving the doctor-patient relationship.

Further demonstrating the physician-led nature of the AACU and UROPAC, Dr. Frankel illuminated the PAC’s renewed commitment to have urologists deliver checks to candidates at local events, when politicians are free from DC’s many distractions. UROPAC staff stand ready, Dr. Frankel said, to help urologists schedule office visits, brief meetings over coffee, and even local fundraisers - Whatever the particular physician may be most comfortable with. Email UROPAC about In-State Giving via [info@uropac.org](mailto:info@uropac.org).

## Urologist Elected to U.S. House, While Docs’ Numbers in Congress Drop

The Doctors’ Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives will include a newly elected Florida urologist when the 115th Congress convenes January 3, 2017. Neal Dunn, MD, secured 67% of the vote in Florida’s 2nd District to become the first urologist in modern memory to serve in the federal legislature. Overall, the number of physicians serving in Congress will decline, from 18 to 14. Candidates supported by UROPAC - Urology’s Advocate on Capitol Hill were overwhelmingly successful, achieving a 96% win rate. Read more: [www.bit.ly/aacu12-16-03](http://www.bit.ly/aacu12-16-03)



# Winners of the 2016 WUS Residents Award Certificates

## 1<sup>st</sup> Place – University of Wisconsin, Madison

Jennifer Heckman, MD

“Role of Biopsy in Management of Large, Locally Advanced, and Metastatic Renal Masses”

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – University of Wisconsin, Madison

Amy Lim, MD

“Compliance with Prescribed Pelvic Floor Physical Therapy When Patients Meet with a Physical Therapist at Their Initial Urogynecologic Evaluation”

## 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Medical College of Wisconsin

Meghan Brown, MD

“Effect of Multiple Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor Sorafenib in Combination with Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) on Urothelial Carcinoma Cell Lines”

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Medical College of Wisconsin

Michael Avallone, MD

“The Impact of Closing the Mesenteric Window When Harvesting Ileum in Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgery”

## Thank You to Our 2016 Promotional Partners

### Platinum Level

Endo  
Genomic Health

### Gold Level

Dendreon  
Janssen  
Medivation

## Thank You to Our 2016 Exhibitors

AbbVie  
Amgen, Inc.  
Astellas Pharma US, Inc.  
Bayer HealthCare  
Boston Scientific Corporation  
Coloplast  
Cook Medical  
Delta Medical Systems, Inc.  
Dendreon Corporation  
Endo Pharmaceuticals  
Ferring Pharmaceuticals  
Genomic Health  
Janssen Biotech, Inc.  
KARL STORZ  
MDxHealth  
Medivation  
NorthStar Surgical/Richard Wolf  
Pfizer, Inc.  
Retrophin  
TOLMAR Pharmaceuticals

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### **American Urological Association**

2017 Annual Meeting  
May 12 – 16, 2017  
Boston Convention & Exhibition Center  
Boston, Massachusetts  
[www.aula2017.org](http://www.aula2017.org)

### **North Central Section of the AUA, Inc.**

91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting  
November 13 – 17, 2017  
The Westin Kierland Resort and Spa  
Scottsdale, Arizona  
[www.ncsaaua.org](http://www.ncsaaua.org)