The Department of Urology Welcomes New Chief of Pediatric Urology

In its ongoing efforts to provide the highest quality care for the children of Orange County, the Department of Urology at University of California, Irvine is proud to announce the successful recruitment of Dr. Tony Khoury. Dr. Khoury served as the Chief of Pediatric Urology at the world-renowned Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada for the past 13 years. There he helped build the program into one of the world's largest pediatric urology facilities, based on the number of patients receiving care, the number of physician visitors, and the number of fellows trained.

Dr. Khoury’s wealth of experience in pediatric urology is sure to propel the clinical and educational standards of the Southern California community to an advanced new level.

The long-term goal of the Department of Urology is to develop a pediatric urology center of excellence that is recognized as a tertiary referral center for Southern California under Dr. Khoury’s guidance. It is hoped that the center will become renowned nationally and internationally for its expertise in the medical and surgical management of complex pediatric urology anomalies, reconstructive challenges for incontinence, genital anomalies, renal transplantation, and oncology.

For appointments and referrals, please call:
Tony E. Khoury, M.D.
Office: 714.456.3838

Adolescents and Adults with Pediatric Urological Issues

The care for children with major urological problems such as bladder and cloacal exstrophy, proximal hypospadias, prune belly syndrome, or posterior urethral valves does not end when they reach puberty. Many of the concerns are life long and require ongoing medical and psychosocial care. Occasionally these young adults may require reconstructive surgery to adjust or correct problems that evolve following the pubertal growth spurt and associated body habitus changes. To that end a new multidisciplinary service will be established under Dr. Khoury’s guidance for patients graduating from the pediatric urology clinic to provide care and counseling for this growing population.

Over the next few months several multidisciplinary teams will be formed to provide comprehensive care for the many children in Orange County with genitourinary problems.

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Disorders of Sexual Differentiation (DSD) Clinic
Whether it be a severe form of hypospadias or a virilized female, these children and their families contend with difficult management decisions. In order to help the families and children understand the issues related to DSD and help them make the most appropriate informed choice, a multidisciplinary service including UC Irvine specialists from genetics, endocrinology, psychology, psychiatry, gynecology, social work and urology is sure to provide an expert opinion in a caring, reassuring environment for the optimum management.

The ultimate goal is to achieve the best medical and quality-of-life outcomes for the patients and their families.

Bladder Exstrophy Care
Bladder and cloacal exstrophy are formidable congenital anomalies that demand a high level of technical skill combined with years of experience in caring for these children. It was at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto that Dr. Robert Jeffs initially described his groundbreaking techniques for repairing bladder exstrophy, before eventually moving to Johns Hopkins. In his 20-year tenure at the Hospital for Sick Children, Dr. Khoury looked after a large exstrophy population from infancy through adulthood. With this unmatched experience, UC Irvine Pediatric Urology is positioned to make a significant difference in the lives of children born with this rare complex defect.

Perinatal Urology
Genitourinary anomalies are one of the more common problems discovered prenatally (in 1% of routine maternal-fetal ultrasounds). Understandably, this creates considerable angst for the expectant parents.

Our UC Irvine Pediatric Urology team will provide pre- and postnatal diagnosis as well as treatment and management of infants with disorders of the genitourinary tract. Counseling regarding the diagnosis, prognosis and the role of interventional techniques in utero for the identification and management of these challenges will be provided in a comfortable, understanding setting for the entire family.

Minimally Invasive Surgery
UC Irvine Urology is internationally renowned for leading innovation in the field of minimally invasive surgery. We are committed to providing family-centered care in a compassionate and respectful environment. Children will benefit from a plan of care that will be designed based on their individual needs and family situation.

Using laparoscopic, robotic-assisted and endoscopic surgical procedures, a variety of kidney disorders, vesicoureteral reflux and urinary incontinence can be corrected with minimal discomfort to the child.

Pediatric Lower Urinary Tract (P-LUT) Dysfunction and Neurourology
The pediatric voiding dysfunction symptom score developed in Toronto is now the international standard objective measure for the evaluation of children with incontinence. In a child-friendly environment, several noninvasive techniques are used to aid the family in managing toilet-training issues. Children with complex neurological anomalies such as myelodysplasia and related spinal disorders will benefit from advanced diagnostic and interventional techniques to correct or minimize the impact of these disorders on the child’s quality of life.

For the benefit of all of the children of Orange County, a new day has arrived at UC Irvine Medical Center.

Dr. Esequiel Rodriguez has specific interests in laparoscopy, robotic surgery, and pediatric urology. He will serve an important role in our program in educating our residents while providing outstanding urologic care to the pediatric population of Orange County. In addition, Dr. Rodriguez has an appointment in the PRIME-LC program at UC Irvine and will provide much needed educational opportunities in healthcare to the Hispanic community. Dr. Rodriguez is fluent in Spanish.

Dr. Rodriguez completed his undergraduate studies at the University of California at Berkeley where he graduated with honors in General Scholarship. He received his medical degree from Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Rodriguez completed his urology residency at UC Irvine Medical Center under Dr. Ralph Clayman. He completed a one-year fellowship in robotic surgery under the tutelage of Dr. Thomas Ahlering. Dr. Rodriguez has published manuscripts and book chapters in robotic surgery in urology and has presented his work at national and international conferences.

For appointments and referrals, please call:
Esequiel Rodriguez Jr., M.D.
Office: 714.456.7005
Program in Medical Education for the Latino Community (PRIME-LC), a National Model

Dr. Esequiel Rodriguez was successful in securing ½ FTE for his work in the PRIME-LC efforts. This is a crucial mission of the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine designed to educate highly qualified physicians to serve the diverse populations of California. PRIME-LC is one of the signature programs and a national model for meeting the healthcare needs as Latinos become the largest population group in California. In response to an increasing need for highly qualified, culturally sensitive and linguistically competent physician-leaders, PRIME-LC graduates will impact healthcare access and outcomes in the local communities through a variety of mechanisms with which to influence tomorrow's health systems. Along with the M.D. degree, a master's degree prepares clinician leaders to become advocates and activists in the underserved Latino communities with opportunities to develop expertise in academic medicine, telemedicine, public health, healthcare disparities, research, public policy and other related fields. PRIME-LC also provides strong emphasis on graduate level training in the culture, society, language, history and beliefs of the Latin American people and US Latinos.

The innovative PRIME-LC program will be housed in the new medical education building located on the UC Irvine campus.

Orange County High School Students Have Career Day Learning Opportunity at the Astellas Surgical Education Center

Beginning in June 2008, over the next 2-3 years, Dr. Ralph Clayman and Dr. Elspeth McDougall will provide approximately 53 career day sessions, one for each high school in Orange County. During each session, the students will be provided with lectures on the future of medicine and medical technology, videotaped medical procedures, and hands-on demonstrations with the surgical simulators and the da Vinci® Robotic Surgical System. The Astellas Surgical Education Center is an ideal facility for providing students with career exploration opportunities in medicine.

For more information, please contact Rosanne Santos. Office: 714.456.8176

Significant Facts about the Department of Urology

1) Rated among the top 20 programs in the United States by U.S. News & World Report.

2) Among the top 50 urology programs rated by the U.S. News & World Report, we achieved the lowest mortality rate.

3) We are among the leaders in laparoscopic surgery (minimally invasive surgery) in Orange County when it comes to less invasive surgery for cancer (prostate, kidney, bladder, and testis), kidney stones, or urinary tract obstruction.

4) Our robotic technology and robotic surgery place us among the top programs in the United States. This year, we performed the first surgery in California on the latest da Vinci® S HD™Robotic Surgical System, equipped with high definition display.

5) Our outstanding team consists of nine full-time faculty, four part-time faculty, and four PhDs.
The Department of Urology was pleased to host Dr. Harry Herr as the 2007 John W. Posey Visiting Professor, December 20-22, 2007. Dr. Herr provided lectures over the three days on topics related to his area of expertise in reconstructive urologic cancer surgery for our department and surrounding community urologists. In addition, Dr. Herr taught a dedicated, hands-on surgery laboratory session for our eight residents to instruct them in the techniques of urinary diversion surgery.

Dr. Ian M. Thompson accepted an invitation to be our visiting professor March 6-8, 2008. The Urology Department faculty, fellows, residents, medical students and community urologists enjoyed Dr. Thompson’s lectures over the three days on the prevention, detection and treatment of prostate cancer. In addition, Dr. Thompson taught a hands-on cadaveric laboratory session for the eight urology residents on the surgical techniques of RPLND (retroperitoneal lymph node dissection) for the treatment of testicular cancer.
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Ralph V. Clayman, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Urology
Dr. Clayman is world renowned for his clinical and laboratory work in minimally invasive surgery. He specializes in the treatment of kidney stones, kidney cancer, strictures of the ureter and all other aspects of renal and ureteral diseases.

For appointments and referrals, please call: 714.456.3418

Thomas E. Ahlering, M.D.
Professor and Vice Chairman
Department of Urology
Dr. Ahlering is well known for laparoscopic radical prostatectomy using the da Vinci® Robotic Surgical System. He specializes in treatments for cancer of the prostate, bladder, kidney, and testis. He did his postgraduate fellowship training in Urological Oncology at University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

For appointments and referrals, please call: 714.456.6068

Atreya Dash, M.D.
Assistant Clinical Professor
Department of Urology
Dr. Dash completed a fellowship in urologic oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. He has experience in all areas of urologic oncology including the advanced surgical treatment of prostate, renal, testis and bladder cancers. His patient treatment modalities include minimally invasive surgical technologies such as laparoscopy to improve the care and convalescence of patients with urologic cancers.

For appointments and referrals, please call: 714.456.7005

Regina M. Hovey, M.D.
Associate Clinical Professor
Director, Urology Residency Program
Dr. Hovey specializes in female urology, urinary incontinence, neurourology, and lower urinary tract reconstruction. She did her postgraduate fellowship training in Female Urology, Neurourology and Reconstructive Urology at University of California, Davis.

For appointments and referrals, please call: 714.456.7128

Tony E. Khoury, M.D.
Professor and Chief of Pediatric Urology
Dr. Khoury is world renowned for his expertise in the medical and surgical management of complex pediatric urology anomalies, including reconstructive surgery for incontinence, genital anomalies, renal transplantation and oncology. He did his postgraduate fellowship training in Pediatric Urology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

For appointments and referrals, please call: 714.456.3838

Jerry B. Miller, M.D.
Clinical Professor
Dr. Miller specializes in general practice urology and supervises residents-in-training in the general urology clinic.

For appointments and referrals, please call: 714.456.7005

Elspeth M. McDougall, M.D., FRCSC
Professor of Urology and Associate Dean, Clinical Science Education
Dr. McDougall specializes in minimally invasive surgery for the treatment of kidney stones, kidney cancer and strictures of the ureter. She did her postgraduate fellowship training in Endourology and Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy at Washington University Medical School, Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, MO.

For appointments and referrals, please call: 714.456.7005

David K. Ornstein, M.D.
Assistant Professor and Director, Urological Oncology
Dr. Ornstein completed a fellowship in urologic oncology at the National Cancer Institute. He now treats patients with all types of urologic cancers. He has extensive experience with open, laparoscopic, and robotic surgery, and is particularly interested in potency and continence-sparing radical prostatectomy using the da Vinci® Robotic Surgical System.

For appointments and referrals, please call: 714.456.5378

Esequeial Rodriguez, M.D.
Assistant Clinical Professor
Dr. Rodriguez has specific interests in pediatric and robotic surgery. He has an appointment in the PRIME-LC program at UC Irvine and will provide much-needed educational opportunities in healthcare to the Hispanic community. He completed a fellowship in robotic surgery at UC Irvine under the tutelage of Dr. Thomas Ahlering.

For appointments and referrals, please call: 714.456.7005

Leland Ronningen, M.D.
Associate Clinical Professor
Dr. Ronningen is particularly interested in benign diseases of the prostate and practices general urology.

For appointments and referrals, please call: 714.456.7127

Nader Sadoughi, M.D., FACS
Clinical Professor
Dr. Sadoughi's interest and expertise are in urologic oncologic surgery and neuromuscular dysfunction of the lower urinary tract for urinary incontinence. He is actively involved in teaching urology residents at the VA Long Beach Healthcare System, where he sees patients. He did his postgraduate fellowship training in minimally invasive surgery.

For appointments and referrals, please call: 562.826.5434

Anne R. Simoneau, M.D.
Assistant Professor and Director, Urological Oncology
Dr. Simoneau has clinical trials in prostate cancer prevention and is working in the laboratory on bladder cancer prevention. She did her postgraduate fellowship training in Clinical Urological Oncology at University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

For prostate cancer prevention, please call: 714.456.3330

Aaron Spitz, M.D.
Assistant Clinical Professor
Male Reproductive Medicine and Surgery
Dr. Spitz has expertise in the treatment of male infertility and sexual dysfunction. He did his fellowship training at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX.

For appointments and referrals, please call: 714.456.7005
Driving Directions to UC Irvine Medical Center --
From I-5 take the Chapman Avenue exit. Drive westbound on Chapman. Turn left (south) onto The City Drive South. Proceed to Dawn Way. Turn left. The UC Irvine Medical Center visitor parking structure is on the left side. Upon exiting the parking structure after parking, continue down the broad walkway until you see Miss Kelly’s Coffee Cart on your right side. On your left side is the entry to the Pavilion III urology offices. If you are lost, please call 714.456.7005.

Visit the Department of Urology on the Web at -- www.ucihs.uci.edu/urology

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