

## UCI *ZOOM* Grandest Rounds: A Unique 2020 Educational Experience



Educating our resident physicians and providing a service to the urological community are the two major goals of our weekly Urology grand rounds. Traditionally, the grand rounds meeting is an in-person experience during which residents and UCI faculty come together in the Urology conference room to provide lectures, present difficult cases, and discuss patient quality improvement issues.

UCI Grand Rounds are different from most departments in that the Grand Rounds sessions are planned a year in advance. Each month is dedicated to one of the 12 major areas in Urology (e.g. October is dedicated to prostate cancer while December is focused on kidney stones) and all of the lectures for that month and the case presentations are focused on that topic.

Unfortunately, due to cost and time, it is rare to have a non-UCI outside expert speaker. In 2015, UCI Department of Urology initiated the first telemedicine grand rounds in Urology in which world-renowned speakers from the U.S.A. and Canada used initially SKYPE and then ZOOM, to provide the weekly audience in our conference room with state-of-the-art outstanding lectures. The speaker at his or her home institution could view the assembled grand rounds' audience in the UCI conference room while controlling their own slides at their home computer; meanwhile the UCI audience could see the slides on one large monitor and see the presenter on a smaller second monitor at the front of the room. This provided for as close to an "in-person" experience as possible and allowed for lively discussion after each lecture. Ever since that inaugural year, our grand rounds has continued to use this format with upwards of 30-40 outstanding guest speakers per year to address the designated topic of the month.

When the COVID crisis hit in late February 2020, we were able to rapidly transform our Grand Rounds to a digital ZOOM format. Once that was done, the next thought was why not open Grand Rounds to any urologist who would like to “attend”. Thanks to Jenny Tom, we were able to work with our IT people and our people in Continuing Medical Education (CME) to create a universal grand rounds experience by which urologists all over the country could sign-in and obtain necessary CME credit for attendance; we were also able to make the sessions available on a global basis.

What has resulted has been nothing short of amazing. We now have urologists from 29 states and 21 countries *attending* our Grand Rounds every Monday from 5PM-7PM. It is common to have more than 100 attendees for each session. The comments we received on the evaluations that the attendees provided have convinced us of the value of this free educational experience. Indeed, their comments have stimulated us to further enhance our grand rounds by introducing semi-live surgical presentations as well as initiating a series on life’s lessons in academic Urology presented by the most renowned professors in Urology. We are gratified in what has occurred and look forward to continuing this program well after COVID when we can once again return to the conference room, but still “share” our grand rounds’ classroom across the United States and the globe.

The following comments from our attendees are reflective of the impact of our ground rounds on their education and practice:

*“First lecture was amazing. Wish I had that information when I was taking call.”*

*“Excellent lecture for both patient & physician safety. Residents PLEASE take this information to heart.”*

*“All of the speaker's outstanding teacher awards make sense after watching this lecture.”*

*“Really excellent talk - very clinically useful and well presented.”*

*“Very thought-provoking and informative lecture on radiation safety.”*

*“Great state of the art talk.”*

*“I will consider biopsying more small renal masses prior to treatment planning.”*

*“Whole new look regarding the use of renal biopsy.”*

*“This is the best 'novel therapies', in this case immunotherapy, lecture I have ever heard. It took you from the basic science to the clinical applications with a well-designed plan. The talk allowed me to get a grasp on a complex and important topic.”*

*“It is great to hear a perspective on the subject matter from a person with one of the largest experiences with treatment of prostate cancer.”*