



NEWSLETTER SOCIETY OF ACADEMIC UROLOGISTS

Advancing Excellence in Urologic Education, Training, and Leadership

President's Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

It is both a privilege and an honor to serve as President of the Society of Academic Urologists during this exciting time for our specialty. As an organization, the SAU remains steadfast in its mission: to foster academic urology through the advancement of urologic education and training, to support the professional development of faculty and program leaders, and to improve patient care through scholarship, innovation, and collaboration.

The initiatives outlined in this newsletter highlight the breadth of our collective efforts, from the upcoming Winter Meeting – focused on competency-based medical education and featuring a brand new abstract submission component – to the expansion of professional development resources, new webinar programming, an SAU Fellowship for unmatched students, and ongoing work to strengthen medical student and resident recruitment. Each of these endeavors reflects our shared commitment to preparing the next generation of urologists and ensuring the continued vitality of our field.

I am deeply grateful to our members, volunteers, and leaders for their unwavering dedication to academic urology. I look forward to engaging with many of you in the months ahead and to celebrating the remarkable progress of our community at the 2026 Winter Meeting. Please reach out if you wish to get more involved in our society!

With sincere appreciation,

Lee Richstone, MD, FACS, FRCS
President, Society of Academic Urologists



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Planning Ahead: Highlights for the 2026 Winter Meeting

Lara MacLachlan, MD and Wesley Mayer, MD
SAU Winter Meeting Chairs



The 2026 Winter Meeting of the Society of Academic Urologists (SAU), scheduled for February 6–7, promises to be one of our most dynamic and

interactive gatherings yet. This year's program has been carefully designed around the feedback of our members, ensuring that the sessions not only highlight cutting-edge innovations but also provide practical takeaways for program leaders, coordinators, and educators across the spectrum of academic urology.

A central theme of this year's meeting will be **Competency-Based Medical Education**

(CBME) and Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs). We are honored to welcome colleagues from Canadian urology, including both faculty and trainees, who will share lessons learned from their own transition to CBME. Their experiences—both successes and challenges—will provide valuable insights as our community anticipates similar shifts in the coming years.

In addition, the meeting will showcase a variety of interactive learning formats. Participants can look forward to lively crossfire debates, thought-provoking panel discussions, and hands-on roundtables tackling topics such as remediation strategies, GME finance, site visit preparation, and curricular innovation. Two afternoons will be



dedicated to deep-dive breakout sessions, allowing smaller groups to focus intensively on topics including simulation curriculum development, surgical autonomy, residency recruitment, and faculty engagement.

Industry partners will also play an important role, with new "Lunch & Learn" sessions designed

to highlight how evolving surgical technologies can be incorporated into education and how collaboration with industry can benefit both faculty and trainees. This year also marks the debut of an abstract submission

process, offering members an opportunity to present their innovations in academic urology, education, and leadership. Finally, grant recipients from ongoing SAU initiatives will share updates from their projects in simulation, coaching, gamification, and recruitment.

The 2026 Winter Meeting will bring together program leaders, faculty, coordinators, and residents with an interest in education for two days of practical innovation, networking, and shared growth. We look forward to welcoming you to this engaging event.



[▶ REGISTER NOW](#)

SPOTLIGHT

Association of Coordinators in Urologic Residency Education (ACURE)

Denise Mussehl, MS, C-TAGME; President, ACURE



The Association of Coordinators in Urologic Residency Education (ACURE) continues its vital role as a volunteer-led organization dedicated to supporting coordinators, programs, and trainees. With a membership that now exceeds 130 individuals, ACURE offers a vibrant and collegial community that welcomes newcomers and benefits from the wisdom of veteran coordinators with decades of experience.

ACURE functions as more than just a support group. It has developed subcommittees focusing on membership, mentorship, professional development, and communication, ensuring that coordinators at every stage of their careers have

resources and colleagues to turn to. The community thrives on the exchange of knowledge, with a rapid-response email listserv, a shared document drive of templates and guides, and a YouTube channel of recorded sessions that serve as a growing library of best practices.



One of ACURE's signature offerings is its **Professional Development Series**, which includes annual meetings (held virtually and in-person), monthly educational talks, and study sessions designed to help coordinators pursue and maintain TAGME certification. ACURE also provides timely updates on the recruitment and match process, application services, and Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requirements.

Membership is free, and participation is strongly encouraged. Coordinators are invited to connect with ACURE by reaching out to Susan Schulze (schulzes@upstate.edu) or [Click Here](#) to visit the ACURE website.



[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

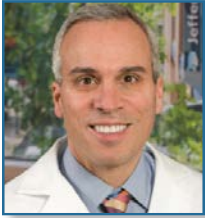
ACURE
Association of Coordinators in
Urologic Residency Education



COMMITTEE NEWS

Medical Student Interest and Resident Recruitment Committee (MSIRRC)

Costas D. Lallas, MD, FACS, SAU Member at Large



Recruiting outstanding medical students into urology remains one of the Society's most important priorities, and the Medical Student Interest & Resident Recruitment

Committee (MSIRRC) continues to lead the way. The most recent match results underscore the success of these efforts: in 2025, all 403 PGY1 slots were filled, with an impressive 89.8% match rate among U.S. seniors and 57.8% of applicants matching to their first or second choice.

Looking ahead, the Committee is preparing new strategies to expand outreach to students who may not traditionally pursue urology. This includes previously unmatched applicants, international medical graduates, and students from institutions without home urology programs. The committee is developing durable and accessible content that

can spark curiosity in the specialty and provide clear guidance on the path to urology.

Among the most anticipated projects is a pipeline webinar series for medical students. These sessions will cover practical topics such as away rotations, interview preparation, and the match process, while also highlighting subspecialty areas of urology. The MSIRRC is also collaborating with American Urological Association (AUA) committees to develop podcasts, mentorship opportunities, and outreach campaigns designed to meet students where they are.

This committee's work ensures that interest in urology remains strong and that the specialty continues to attract the best and brightest students.

Professional Development Committee Update

Jennifer Yates, MD; SAU Member at Large

The newly formed Professional Development Committee has set an ambitious agenda to foster mentorship, collaboration, and shared learning across the SAU. A centerpiece of this work is the creation of a **Member Forum**, a virtual space where members can connect outside of annual meetings to crowdsource solutions, share resources, and support one another.

Another initiative is the **Visiting Professor Program**, which will provide annual funding for one program to host the recipient of the SAU

Faculty Award as a visiting professor. This program will help spread best practices and connect outstanding educators with diverse institutions. In addition, the committee is curating a Resource Database, a centralized library of lectures, teaching tools, and professional development opportunities designed to strengthen academic programs across the country.

Together, these initiatives represent important steps toward building a stronger, more interconnected SAU community.



Advancing Simulation in Urologic Education: SAU SIMULATE Committee Update

Ahmed Ghazi, MD; SIMULATE Committee Chair



The newly established SAU SIMULATE Committee (Standardized Instructional Models for Urology Learning and Training Excellence) is embarking on an ambitious initiative to create a standardized, evidence-based simulation curriculum for urology residents. The aim of this work is to ensure that residents achieve competency in critical procedures before entering the operating room, enhancing both their learning experience and patient safety.

The committee's work begins with a **comprehensive needs assessment survey**, which has been circulated to academic urologists nationwide. This survey seeks to identify the most critical and challenging procedures that should be prioritized for simulation training. Unlike broad assessments, this survey specifically targets procedures that are not only essential for residency completion but also difficult to teach effectively in the operating room.

Once data are collected, the committee will employ a Delphi consensus process to refine the

list of procedures and then conduct **cognitive and hierarchical task analyses**. These steps break down complex procedures into essential maneuvers, which will then be incorporated into simulation models that can be practiced in short, focused sessions.

Pilot testing of these models will begin at three to five institutions before expanding more broadly. Future plans also include developing scalable production methods—such as kits that institutions can assemble locally—and establishing a centralized video database to benchmark and track trainee performance. By following Kern's six-step model for curriculum development, the SIMULATE Committee is committed to building a curriculum that is practical, evidence-based, and transformative for resident training. The committee is actively seeking broad engagement from SAU members to complete the survey and contribute as content experts in this critical work. Click below to participate in the survey and get involved!

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

SAVE THE DATE



WEBINAR SERIES

SAU Webinar Series – Fall/Winter 2025

Courtney Yong, MD & Alex Small, MD
SAU Communications Committee Members



The SAU Webinar Series, launched by the Communications & Engagement Committee, continues to bring timely and practical programming to members. This fall and winter, two sessions highlight the committee's commitment to addressing real-world challenges in urology education.

In September, Dr. Christopher Keel (University of South Alabama) presented *Starting a New Urology Residency Program: Soup to Nuts*, a detailed exploration of the opportunities and challenges inherent in building a program from the ground up. In November, Drs. Elizabeth Takacs, Kate Kraft, and Laura Torbeck will lead *Strategies for Urology Resident Remediation: A Hypothetical Case Discussion*, focusing on practical approaches to remediation and trainee success.

Future sessions will continue to support educators at all levels, from junior faculty to program directors, covering topics across both residency and fellowship training.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



The graphic features a dark blue background with light blue wavy lines. On the left is the SAU logo, a circular emblem with the text 'SOCIETY OF ACADEMIC UROLOGISTS' and 'SAU' in the center, with '2016' at the bottom. To the right of the logo, the title 'Strategies for Urology Resident Remediation: A Hypothetical Case Discussion' is written in large white font. Below the title, the date 'November 19, 2025' is written in a light blue font, and the time '8:00 pm - 9:00 pm EST' is written in white font.

Society of Academic Urology Awards

Gina M. Badalato, MD; SAU Secretary



The SAU is proud to announce the establishment of the **inaugural SAU Awards Program**, a new initiative created to recognize excellence

and leadership in academic urology. The awards highlight the achievements of faculty, residency program coordinators, and residents who have made exceptional contributions to urologic education and training.

The awards include the **Faculty Teaching Award**, honoring faculty who demonstrate sustained excellence in teaching and mentoring; the

Program Coordinator Recognition Award, which acknowledges coordinators who provide outstanding service and innovation; and the **Resident Leadership Award**, recognizing residents who exemplify professionalism, leadership, and dedication to academic urology.

The program was developed by a dedicated committee including Dr. Lindsay Hampson (UCSF), Denise Mussehl, M.S., C-TAGME (University of Wisconsin), and Dr. Siddharth Ghanta (Columbia University Medical Center, PGY3). Honorees will be recognized at the upcoming SAU Annual Meeting.

FACULTY TEACHING AWARD • PROGRAM COORDINATOR RECOGNITION AWARD • RESIDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

SAU Section of Education Editor – Gold Journal of Urology

The Society of Academic Urology is pleased to announce an open call for applications for the role of SAU Editor – Section of Education in the Gold Journal of Urology. We invite interested and qualified members to submit a Statement of Interest and Curriculum Vitae (CV) for consideration.

The SAU Section of Education Editor will serve as a contributing editor for the Gold Journal of Urology, is responsible for curating, soliciting, reviewing, and editing high-quality educational content that aligns with the mission and strategic priorities of the SAU. This individual will work closely with the editorial team of the Gold Journal and represent the SAU's educational voice within the journal. They will liaison closely with the SAU board of directors at the annual meeting in person and virtually throughout the year.

Interested candidates should submit application by 11/19/2025.

[DETAILS HERE](#)

**HURRY
APPLY TODAY!**

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

THE STRENGTH OF THE SAU LIES IN THE COMMITMENT AND ENGAGEMENT OF ITS MEMBERS.

There are numerous opportunities to become more involved in the life of the Society:

Join a Committee or **Volunteer** to be a Program Chair

SAU committees welcome faculty, coordinators, and residents who are eager to contribute ideas and expertise.



Participate in Research and Surveys

Help shape the future of academic urology by responding to surveys and contributing data to collaborative projects such as the SIMULATE initiative.

Share Your Innovations

Submit abstracts, contribute to webinars, and present at meetings to disseminate best practices.

If you are interested in becoming more involved, please reach out to SAU leadership or committee chairs. Your participation is vital to ensuring the Society's ongoing success.

STAY CONNECTED

The Society of Academic Urologists (SAU) is dedicated to advancing excellence in urologic education, training, and leadership. Stay engaged with our community, explore resources, and learn more about upcoming programs and opportunities.

WEBSITE:

www.sauweb.org

EMAIL:

info@sauweb.org

FOLLOW US ON X (FORMERLY TWITTER):

[@SAUrology](https://twitter.com/SAUrology)



Board of Directors 2025-2026

President

Lee Richstone, MD, FACS, FRCS

President-Elect

Simone Thavaseelan, MD

Secretary

Gina M Badalato, MD

Treasurer

Mathew Don Sorensen, MD, MS, FACS

Past President

Moben Mirza, MD, FACS

Executive Secretary

Kirsten Lynn Greene, MD, MS

Member at Large

Sarah F. Faris, MD

Member at Large

Sarah F. Faris, MD

Member at Large

Christopher E. Keel, DO, FACS

Member at Large

Costas D. Lallas, MD, FACS

Member at Large

Jennifer Yates, MD

AUA Representative

Jay Dilip Raman, MD, FACS, FRCS

RRC Representative

Kate H. Kraft, MD, MHPE

Representative to the ABU

Gregory A. Broderick, MD

AAMC Representative

Mark L. Jordan, MD, FACS, FRCS(C)

Representative to the OPDA

Erica Traxel, MD

We encourage all members to share updates, achievements, and innovations with the SAU community. Together, we can continue to strengthen academic urology and support the next generation of leaders in our field.

Proudly Managed by

