

# The Value of Student Interest Groups in Urology and the Role of the Program Coordinator

A Data-Driven Perspective on Education, Exposure, and Workforce Development

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# Disclosures

NONE

# Jefferson Enterprise



Janice Harper  
Sidney Kimmel Medical College  
Thomas Jefferson University



Ally Gould  
Jefferson Einstein Philadelphia

# Talking Points

- Early Exposure to Urology and SKMC experience
- Student Interest Group – JUS
- Mentorship and Match Success
- National Engagement

# Urology Workforce and Pipeline Challenges

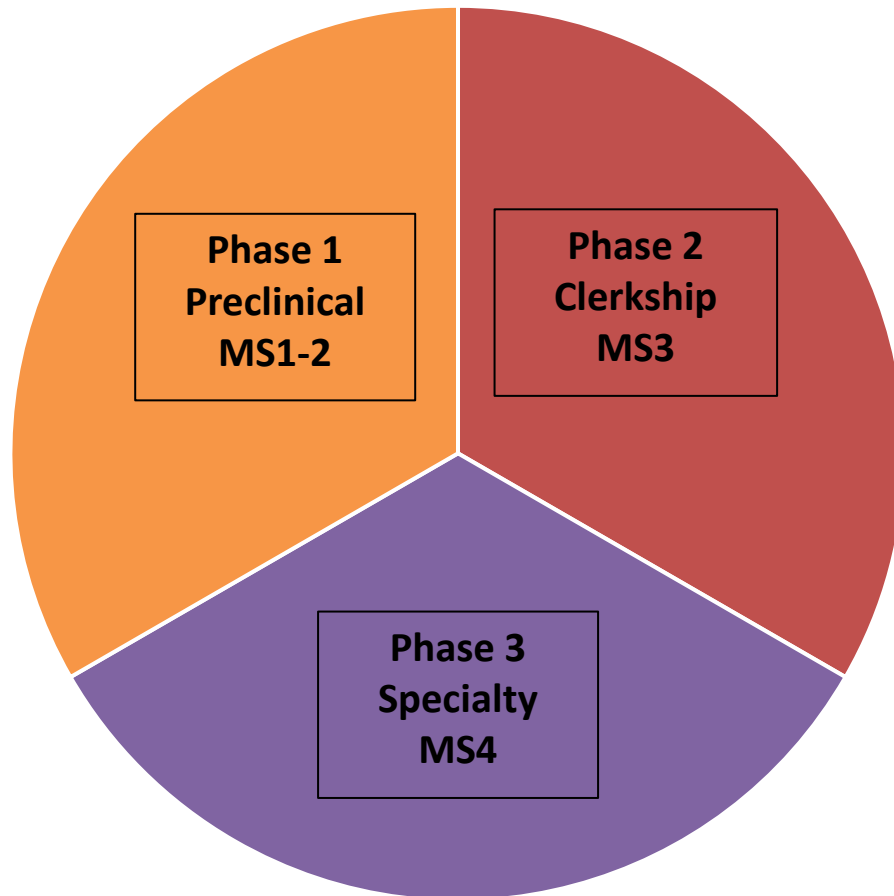
- Urology represents ~1–2% of U.S. physicians
  - Projected urologist shortage due to aging workforce
- Median age of practicing urologists  $\approx$  55 years
  - Limited exposure contributes to recruitment challenges

# Why Early Specialty Exposure Matters

- ~60–70% of medical students change career interests during medical school
  - Early exposure improves informed specialty choice and satisfaction
- Students exposed before clerkships are more likely to pursue surgery
  - Hands-on experiences improve confidence and interest

# SKMC Curriculum

JeffMD



# Preclinical Exposure

## Phase 1 – Urology

### *Lecture Series*

#### Urology Staff Involvement:

1. Hubosky: Clinical Medicine - *Metabolic Evaluation of Kidney Stones*
2. Lallas:
  - Clinical Medicine - *Case Vignette: Urologic Emergencies*
3. Shah
  - Clinical Medicine - *Non-prostate Lower Tract GU Malignancy*
4. DeCotiis: Clinical Medicine -
  - CM - *Clinical Implications of Lower Tract Genitourinary Birth Defects*
5. Chung:
  - Clinical Medicine - *Clinical Approach to the Transgender Patient*
  - Clinical Medicine - *Gender Identity and Healthcare - Patient Panel*
5. Murphy:
  - Clinical Medicine - *Voiding Dysfunction*
6. Trabulsi:
  - Pharmacology - *Uropharmacology*
7. GU Pathologist:
  - Pathology TBL - *GU Pathology*
8. Jimbo:
  - Clinical Medicine - *Male Infertility and Erectile Dysfunction*

# Preclinical Exposure

## SKMC Urology

- Summer Research Fellowship – unfunded (5<sup>th</sup> year running)
- Between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years of medical school
- 8 weeks – 1 student:
  - Focused research
  - Goal: one project, 2 academic products

# Preclinical Exposure

## SKMC Urology

- Mini Clinical Immersion (4<sup>th</sup> year running)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year of medical school during winter break
- 2 weeks - 4 students:
  - Simulation training
    - Scrubbing in the OR
    - Suturing
  - Clinic (2 students\_
  - OR (2 students)

Comment > [Urology](#). 2023 Mar;173:230-231. doi: 10.1016/j.urology.2022.11.041.

Epub 2022 Dec 23.

## Early Urology Exposure Increases Success in the Residency Match: An Institutional Experience

Yash B Shah<sup>1</sup>, Connor McPartland<sup>1</sup>, Kerith R Wang<sup>1</sup>, Rishabh K Simhal<sup>1</sup>, Alana Murphy<sup>1</sup>, Patrick Shenot<sup>1</sup>, Leonard Gomella<sup>1</sup>, Costas D Lallas<sup>2</sup>

- Early (preclinical )exposure to Urology in the medical school experience can enhance the pipeline into the specialty
- There are multiple opportunities for preclinical medical students to be exposed to Urology

# Role of Interest Groups

- >80% of U.S. medical schools report specialty interest groups
  - Interest groups correlate with increased specialty match rates
- Interest groups improve understanding beyond stereotypes
  - Urology combines medicine, surgery, oncology, gynecology, radiology, and technology

# SKMC

## Jefferson Urology Society

- Student-run interest group recognized and funded by the University.
- Student officers
- Requirements:
  - ❖ Faculty Sponsor: Costas Lallas
  - ❖ Annual programming/events

# Jefferson Urology Society Annual Programs

- **Introduction to Urology**

- ❖ Annually: October – November
- ❖ Format: Lecture
- ❖ Presenters: Students and Residents; faculty sponsor
- ❖ Audience: Mostly MS1-2 (20-30)
- ❖ Content: Introduction to the specialty of Urology including images, videos, and testimonial. Students are encouraged to ask questions. Courses by year (Curriculum Phases I, II, III ) are introduced to students.

# JeffMD Phase 3 Graduation Requirements - Urology Path

1. Inpatient Medicine Sub-i - MED401 - 4 weeks
2. Gateway to Internship
3. Scholarly Inquiry
4. Outpatient experience (75% in outpatient clinic) - 4 weeks
  - URO452 - Outpatient Urology
  - MED450 - Outpatient Nephrology
  - MED495 - Oncology
5. Critical care - 2 weeks
  - SURG485 - SICU
  - ANES486 - Cardiac Surgical ICU
  - MED458 - Coronary Care Unit
  - MED469 - Medicine CC
6. Advanced Basic Science - 2 weeks
  - JMD485 - Anatomy and path - pelvis/perineum
  - JMD484 - Anatomy and path - abdomen
  - JMD474 - Advanced Diagnostics
  - JMD465 - Clinically Actionable Molecular Pathology

7. Electives - 28 weeks, including P/F
  - URO401 (405,406,407) - Urology subinternship at TJUH or affiliate
  - URO498 - Urology externship at away site #1
  - URO498 - Urology externship at away site #2
  - URO498 - Urology externship at away site #3
  - RAD 401 - Diagnostic radiology
  - RAD 406 - Cross sectional imaging (2 or 4 weeks)
  - RAD407 - Interventional Radiology (2 or 4 weeks)
  - SURG 485 - Surgical Intensive Care
  - SURG480 - Trauma/Surg CC
  - SURG452 - General surgery Elective
  - PATH401 - General pathology (2 or 4 weeks)
  - MED441 - Nephrology
  - MED450 - Outpatient Nephrology
  - MED469 - Critical Care Medicine
  - MED458 - Coronary Care Unit
  - MED495 - Oncology
  - OBGY408 - Gynecologic oncology
  - PED486 - Pediatric Urology (2 weeks)
  - SURG449 - Gross General Surgery
  - SURG452 - General Surgery Elective
  - SURG454 - Experience in Clinical Transplantation
  - SURG485 - SICU
  - URO425 - Urology research month (Pass/Fail)(2 or 4 weeks)
  - URO430 - Virtual Urology (Pass/Fail)

# Jefferson Urology Society Annual Programs

- **Post-match Panel**

- ❖ Annually: 1-2 weeks after Match Day
- ❖ Format: Panel
- ❖ Presenters: 4th year students who have just gone through match
- ❖ Audience: MS1-2, MS3 (10-20)
- ❖ Content: Senior students talk about the match process, how they structured their year leading up to the match, including away rotations; NBME Step 2; both on-campus and visiting class schedule; interviews; match list

# Jefferson Urology Society Annual Programs

- **Robotic Demonstration**

- ❖ Annually: April-May

- ❖ Format: Hands-on

- ❖ Presenters: Faculty sponsor, Fellow, Residents

- ❖ Audience: MS1-4 (40-50)

- ❖ Content: Hands-on practical of the daVinci Robotic Surgical System. Both the actual system with practice instruments and the SimNow Surgical Simulator are utilized.

# Robotic Demonstration



# Skill-Building Outcomes

- Simulation and skills workshops improve procedural confidence
  - Early technical exposure reduces anxiety entering ORs

Review

> [Curr Urol Rep. 2025 May 7;26\(1\):39. doi: 10.1007/s11934-025-01269-1.](#)

# **Urology Interest Groups and Surgical Skills Sessions – Increasing Medical Student Interest in Urology**

Dagmawi Misgano <sup># 1</sup>, Kevin L Ma <sup># 1</sup>, Belinda Li <sup>2</sup>

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 40332674 DOI: [10.1007/s11934-025-01269-1](#)

- Mandatory preclinical and clinical exposure to Urology in medical school is associated with higher numbers of students entering the field.
- Student-led efforts such as interest groups and surgical skills sessions can have similar impact, while also creating opportunity for mentorship, professional development, and clinical exposure.

# Mentorship

- Research
  - Between 1st and 2nd year
  - Over the course of the year: evenings, nights, weekends
  - Gap year: funded and unfunded
- Shadowing
  - Shadowing doubles likelihood of specialty pursuit
  - Direct patient exposure improves career decision-making
  - SKMC preclinical students will freely email faculty asking for opportunities. Responsiveness

- Drolet et al., 2014
- AUA, 2023

## Faculty Development: How Do We Encourage Faculty to Become Better Teachers and Mentors?

Alana M. Murphy<sup>1</sup> · Patrick J. Shenot<sup>1</sup> · Costas D. Lallas<sup>1</sup>

- Mentorship can promote self-confidence in the ability to choose a career, drive academic productivity, and even inspire a career in academic medicine.
- By staying current with the issues surrounding mentorship, an individual can be fulfilled and successful in training and guiding doctors into the new era of medicine.

# Mentorship and Match Success

- Mentorship linked to higher residency match success
  - Students with mentors report higher career satisfaction
- Programs with active student engagement report stronger applicant pools
  - Faculty mentorship increases scholarly output
- Urology consistently ranks as a highly competitive specialty
  - Early preparation improves applicant readiness

- AUA, 2024
- National Resident Matching Program, 2023
- Drolet et al., 2014
- AUA, 2023

# TJU/SKMC

## UROLOGY MATCH - LAST 18 YEARS

YEAR	APPLIED	MATCHED
2008	5	4
2009	4	4
* 2010	8	8
2011	3	3
* 2012	11	10
2013	4	3**
2014	8	7
2015	5	5
2016	6	6
2017	7	6
2018	3	3
* 2019	9	9
2020	8	7
2021	10	9
2022	5	5
2023	6	6
2024	2	2
2025	3	2
2026	3	3

\* Highest number nationally

\*\* 3<sup>rd</sup> taken at TJUH 2014

# SKMC Comparative Match Rates

2023 US  
Seniors...



2024 US  
Seniors...



2022  
US Seniors...



2025  
US Seniors...



unmatched  
2021 US  
Seniors...



2008-25  
SKMC Seniors  
Urology Match Rate



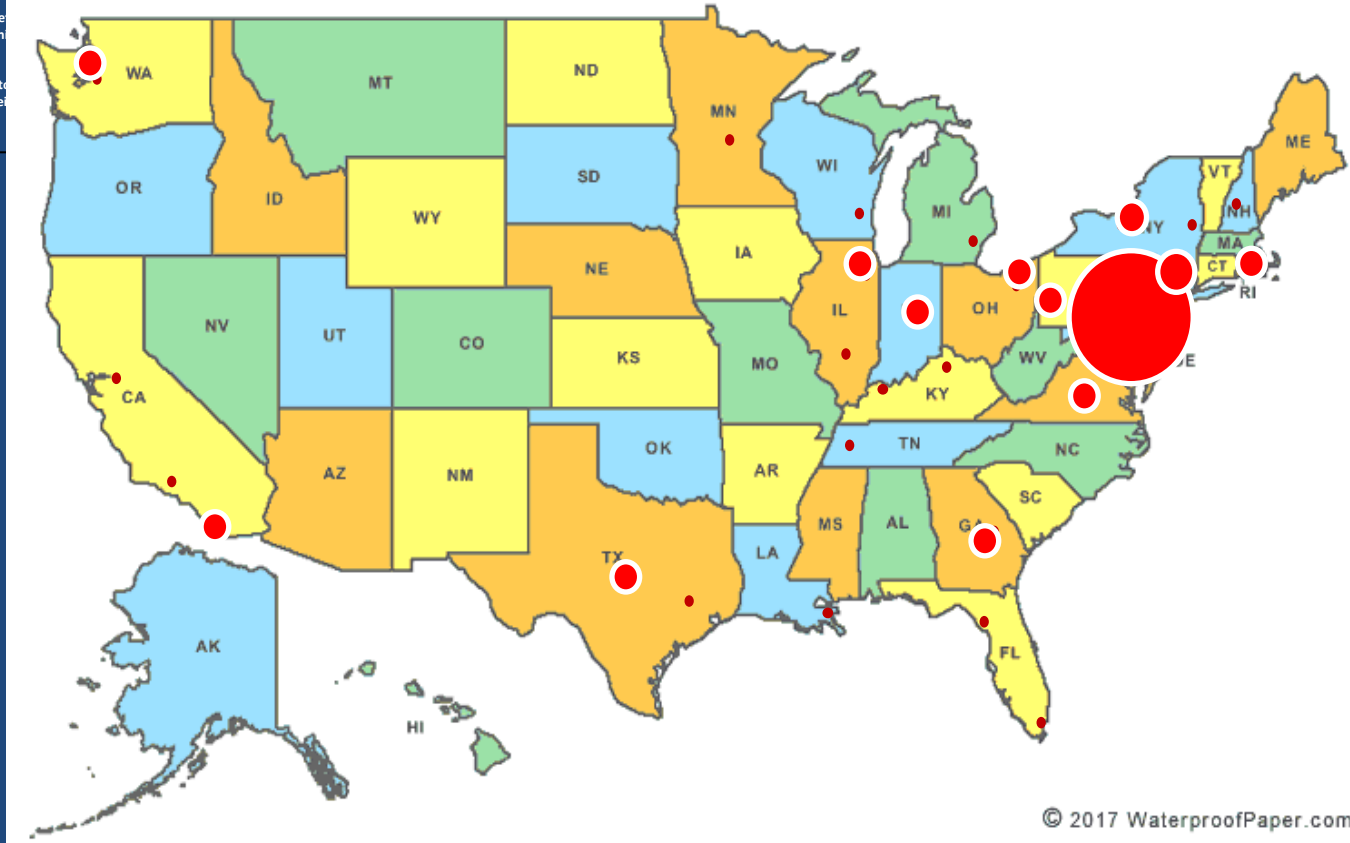
# SKMC Students

## UROLOGY MATCH: 2012-25

2025  
Hochberg, Aaron – Je  
Shah, Yash – HUP, Ph

2024  
Givner, Daniel – Bost  
Wang, Kerith - Einste

2017



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# Mentorship and Research Productivity

- Students involved in research average 1–3 publications before residency
  - Interest groups facilitate early research access
    - (Hsi et al., 2020)

# Mentoring

## Research and Academic Productivity

	Manuscripts	Abstracts/ Presentations	Book Chapters	Alternative Media
*Number of SKMC students (last 12 years)	95	145	3	2

\*Represents academic products of SKMC students who worked with TJUH Urology staff, residents, and fellows.

# Student Interest Group Benefits

- Diversity

- Women comprise ~25% of residents, <15% of practicing urologists
- Underrepresented minorities remain under 10%
- Targeted outreach increases URM and female applicant interest
- Early exposure reduces perceived barriers

- Institution

- Interest groups strengthen academic department visibility
- Enhance recruitment and teaching missions

- Community Health

- Student-led outreach improves awareness of urologic conditions
- Screenings and education support population health

- AUA, 2024
- Urology Workforce Report, 2022

# Student Interest Group Benefits

- National Engagement
  - Students involved attend AUA and regional meetings earlier
  - Conference attendance correlates with academic interest
- Leadership
  - Student leadership linked to stronger residency applications
  - Interest groups develop teamwork and organization skills
- Career
  - Early specialty alignment linked to lower burnout
  - Mentorship predicts long-term academic engagement










- AUA, 2024
- Drolet et al., 2014

# National MSIG

Original articles

Impact of a urological medical student interest group on education and career development



Eduardo Zinoni Silva Pato <sup>a,\*</sup> , Luiz Carlos Neves de Oliveira <sup>a</sup> , Jose de Bessa Jr. <sup>b</sup> ,  
Gabriel Kayano Freudenthal <sup>c</sup> , Guilherme Pimenta Roncete <sup>c</sup> , Luiza Rafih Abud <sup>c</sup> ,  
Victor Hondo Silva de Moraes <sup>c</sup> , William Carlos Nahas <sup>a</sup> , Cristiano Mendes Gomes <sup>a</sup> 

<sup>a</sup> Division of Urology, Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

<sup>b</sup> Department of Surgery, Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana, Feira de Santana BA, Brazil

<sup>c</sup> Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

- Medical education often provides limited exposure to urology, despite the growing prevalence of urological conditions.
- To address this gap, the Urological Medical Student Interest Group (UMSIG) was established in 2006.
- Scheduled activities throughout the year:
  - practical clinical experiences
  - case discussions
  - access to surgical observation not otherwise available through standard coursework
  - participation in scientific research

Reported motivations for participating in UMSIG.

Motivation ( <i>n</i> = 111)	<i>n</i> (%)
To learn more about urology	86 (77.5)
To pursue a surgical residency (undecided at the time)	63 (56.8)
Based on recommendations from former participants	63 (56.8)
To undertake a urology residency	48 (43.2)
To gain practical experience treating urological patients	40 (36.0)
To gain exposure to surgical procedures	37 (33.3)
To participate in scientific research	18 (16.2)

Influence of UMSIG participation on physicians' professional choices.

Group	Influence	<i>n</i> (%)
Non-urologists ( <i>n</i> = 75)	No influence	36 (48.0)
	Reinforced inclination toward surgical field	34 (45.3)
	Reinforced inclination toward non-surgical field	5 (6.7)
Urologists ( <i>n</i> = 14)	Significant influence: reinforced inclination toward urology	11 (78.6)
	Small influence: reinforced inclination toward urology	2 (14.3)
	No influence	1 (7.1)

# Conclusions

- Program coordinators are integral to the recruitment of students into Urology
- Preclinical exposure in urology increases the pipeline into the specialty
- Interest groups have significant positive effect on medical students and faculty alike
- A National Urology Interest Group may be a sustainable resource to all students, particularly those without a home institution

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