

SPECIAL TALK

UROPAC UPDATE

Lawrence W. Jones, M.D.

2011 UROPAC Legislative Priorities

The fight for healthcare reform continues. As the 112th Congress and the Administration begin implementation of provisions in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), UROPAC, the only political action committee dedicated to promoting and protecting the interests of urology and urologic patients, will need to ensure that the interests of the profession and its ability to provide high quality care to patients are protected.

We will advocate strongly for revisions to some of the more troubling provisions included in the ACA, such as the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), and address some of the significant issues which were missing from the bill, such as the sustainable growth rate (SGR) and medical liability reform.

UROPAC, composed of leaders from both the AUA and the AACU, has identified the top legislative concerns facing urology today and divided them into three categories:

1. Priorities where urology is the lead
2. Core priorities of organized medicine where urology works with coalition partners
3. Areas which require monitoring

Urology as lead:

1. Protection of the In-Office Ancillary Exception to the Stark Physician Self-Referral Law (IOAE)
 1. Promotion of the PROSTATE Act
 2. Promotion of the bill to create a Commission on Urotrauma
 3. Regulatory Issues specific to Urology (e.g., practice expense, restrictions on ultrasound)

Urology working with coalition partners:

1. Permanent fix to the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR)
2. Repeal/Modification of the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB)
3. General Regulatory Issues, such as the elimination of consultation codes and the RUC
4. Quality Measure Development and Implementation
5. Medical Liability Reform

Urology will continue to monitor:

1. Health Information Technology/Meaningful Use
2. New Payment Systems, such as ACOs, Bundling, and Value-Based Purchasing

The UROPAC leadership is committed to advocate for our profession at both the federal and state level. We will work with all member of Congress to ensure that our interests and those of our patients are protected. Moving forward in this new Congressional cycle, UROPAC will pay close attention to these issues and support those Members of Congress that support them.

Christopher Welty, MD
University of Washington
Ajmer, India: December 25-29, 2010
Mentor: Dr. Gopal Badlani

Dr. Christopher Welty traveled to Ajmer, India with mentor Dr. Gopal Balani to collaborate with his Indian hosts in the provision of urological care to patients in need. Dr. Welty worked with other medical volunteers at a free urology camp organized by the local Indian organization Jeev Sewa Sansthan (“Service to the Living”). Over 120 patients were treated during the 5 day camp.

About his experience, Dr. Welty stated: “In 5 days, I did nearly as many TURPs as I have to this point in my residency. As an added bonus, I was supervised by an expert in the procedure, Dr. Badlani. I was also able to assist Dr. Badlani with several complex vesicovaginal fistula repairs and it was great to learn from his technique. We did half a dozen open kidney stone removals. This is a procedure that has been all but eliminated in the US due to the advent of ureteroscopy and laser stone fragmentation, technology that is not widely available in India. I was impressed with the skill and speed with which our Indian colleagues performed this surgery and all procedures through the flank with a suction that worked when it wanted to and less than ideal lighting. In total, this was a very educational 5-day surgical experience

“My trip to Ajmer has been one of the highlights of my residency to this point. In 5 days, I learned a great deal about urologic surgery, my own abilities and limitations, managing complex problems in a resource limited environment, and the impact an organized group of dedicated volunteers can have. I also met some of the most impressive, kind, and generous people I think I will ever meet. It was an excellent introduction to international volunteer work, something I hope to continue in my future career.”



SPECIAL TALK

AUA Foundation Update.

Sushil S. Lacy, M.D.

AUA President

**Faculty member at the University of Nebraska
Medical Center, Clinical Professor of Urology,
Private Practice in Lincoln, NE**

SPECIAL TALK

Medicare, Urology and You.

George W. Drach, M.D.

**WSAUA Past President; Professor Emeritus of
Surgery/Urology and Founding Chief of Urology,
University of Arizona; Emeritus Faculty Member,
University of Pennsylvania**