Welcome to the Urology Residency Training Program at the Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center. Here you will encounter a quality educational environment that includes direct patient responsibility and a large and varied patient base. You will also benefit from the supervision of our board certified physician faculty.

Kaiser Permanente is one of the nation's largest and most highly regarded managed care delivery organizations. One in four Californians is a Kaiser Foundation Health Plan member. As a member of our residency program, you will learn to practice cost-effective yet caring medicine, an approach indispensable to providing quality health care in all future medical settings.

Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center (LAMC) serves as a referral center for more than three million Kaiser Permanente members throughout Southern California. It is a major tertiary care facility for services including cardiac catheterization, cardiac surgery, hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis, bone marrow transplantation, radiation oncology, neurosurgery, and specialized urologic surgery. The medical center also maintains an active teaching program in most surgical subspecialty services.

The Program

The Urology training program at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles is a fully accredited, six-year residency program. Two applicants are selected each year. All applicants are automatically accepted into our General Surgery program for their PGY-1 year.

The residents will spend one year on general surgery, one year on research, and four years on clinical urology. The Los Angeles Medical Center is a major referral center for nine other Kaiser Permanente medical centers in Southern California, resulting in a large volume and variety of complex urologic cases.

The proximity of resident and staff offices fosters a close working relationship between residents and staff members, and the residents feel that staff members are always available to answer questions. Staff members take a personal interest in the residents, and departmental social gatherings are common. There is minimal hierarchy as the residents are treated as junior staff, and given autonomy early on in terms of surgery and run their own clinics.
Kaiser Permanente urology residents have traditionally scored extremely well on in-service exams as well as board certification. The volume of surgical cases is invariably high as measured by the USOL.

**Organization**

The Urology Department consists of nine full-time staff members in six clinical services:

**Neurourology and Reconstructive Surgery**
Polina Reyblat, MD
Chris Tenggardjaja, MD

**Pediatric Urology**
Richard Hurwitz, MD, FAAP
Monica Metzdorf, MD

**Endourology/Stone Disease & General Urology**
Mark Lassoff, MD, MBA, MPH
James Murphy, MD
Gary Chien, MD

**Urologic Oncology**
Jon Kaswick, MD
David Finley, MD

**Robotic Urologic Oncology/Minimally Invasive Surgery**
David Finley, MD
Gary Chien, MD

**Male Infertility and Infectious Diseases**
Charles E. Shapiro, MD, FACS

**Research and Evaluation**
Steven J. Jacobsen, MD, PhD

**Neurourology and Reconstructive Surgery**

Junior and chief residents work with Drs. Reyblat and Tenggardjaja on the Neurourology and Female Urology Service at the LAMC. Residents learn the most advanced techniques for the diagnosis of urinary incontinence, voiding dysfunction, chronic pelvic pain, and male sexual dysfunction. In addition, the service has special expertise in managing patients with chronic neurologic disorders such as multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, and myelomeningocele. At the end of training, residents are expected to be familiar with urodynamic equipment and can perform and interpret various studies in evaluation of incontinence.

A wide variety of surgical procedures for the treatment of urinary incontinence and voiding dysfunction are performed in this service, including abdominal and vaginal suspensions, sling procedures, collagen injection, reconstructive surgery with bowel segments, and prosthetic surgery. Additionally, residents have a generous exposure to the diagnosis, workup, and treatment of male sexual dysfunction. The service is also the regional referral center for all cases of penile curvature and Peyronie’s disease as well as various types of urethral stricture disease. The resident is expected to be able to perform all these tests, interpret them, and use them to reach a diagnosis.

Medical management, including pharmacological agents (oral and intraurethral and intracavernous injection) is offered here. Microvascular surgery for selected cases of vasoulogenic impotence and various types of penile implants are also performed. The service is also the regional referral center for all cases of penile curvature and Peyronie’s disease as well as various types of urethral structure disease, so the resident will be exposed to a large volume and wide variety of cases.

The educational goals of the Neurourology and Reconstructive Surgery Service include:

- Understanding the basics of neurourology: neuroanatomy and neurophysiology of voiding and male sexual function.
- Understanding the fundamentals of urodynamics.
- Diagnosing and managing the various types of urinary incontinence, voiding dysfunction and male sexual dysfunction.

**Pediatric Urology**

As the regional pediatric urology referral center, the service receives many complex referrals from the other 12 Kaiser Permanente Medical Centers in Southern California. Dr.
Hurwitz and Dr. Metzdorf have a broad interest in all aspects of Pediatric Urology.

The Pediatric Urology Service includes a busy clinic practice and an active OR schedule. In the office, the residents will see a large volume of both routine and complex cases, including antenatal hydronephrosis, vesicoureteral reflux, hypospadias, cryptorchidism, and voiding dysfunction. Once or twice per month the multidisciplinary myelomeningocele clinic meets in the pediatric urology offices, allowing the service to coordinate the orthopedic, urologic, physical medicine, pediatric, nutritional, and social service needs of these children with multiple problems. In the operating room, Dr. Hurwitz and Metzdorf have a broad experience repairing all of the congenital anomalies. Optimal exposure, delicate handling of tissues and meticulous technique are emphasized.

The educational goals of the Pediatric Urology Service include:
- Understanding the normal embryology of the genitourinary system.
- Understanding the theories of pathoembryology that are believed to account for the various congenital malformations of the genitourinary system.
- Learning pattern recognition of urinary tract malformations on imaging studies.
- Understanding the evaluation and treatment options of the more frequently encountered conditions.
- Learning how to perform and record a thorough examination of the external genitalia for hypospadias, undescended testes, acute scrotal conditions, hernia/hydroceles, and varicoceles.

Understanding the surgical approaches and techniques available to correct the various genitourinary congenital abnormalities as well as becoming expert in assisting and performing these operations.

**Endourology/Stone Disease & General Urology**

The Endourology/Stone Disease & General Urology Service is a high-volume rotation with many tertiary referrals. The resident physician will work intimately with Dr. Murphy, Dr. Lassoff and Dr. Chien, the regional stone specialists. The resident will have exposure to many cases requiring ESWL, PCN, and rigid and flexible uroscopy. The resident physician will become proficient in using the various stone baskets as well as laser lithotripsy. The resident will also learn the indications for surgical intervention for stone disease, the various endoscopic techniques, and the metabolic studies needed to determine the etiology of urolithiasis.

The educational goals of the Stone/Endourology Service include:
- Understanding the pathophysiology and diagnosis of urolithiasis and urinary obstruction.
- Learning the indications and appropriate surgical procedures for all aspects of stone disease.
- Being exposed to all the current endourological techniques and becoming facile with each procedure.
- Learning to manage patients medically to prevent recurrent stone formation.

As part of the general urology aspect of this service, the resident will learn to diagnose and treat common urologic conditions such as BPH, carcinoma of the bladder and prostate and scrotal conditions. The resident will also learn the techniques of transrectal ultrasound with biopsy of the prostate as well as renal ultrasound. In the cystoscopy suite, the resident will be exposed to TUIP, TURP, and electrovaporization of the prostate. The resident physician will also learn to perform various general urologic surgeries, including outpatient scrotal surgeries and circumcisions.

**Urologic Oncology**

The Urology Oncologic Service at LAMC is a multispecialty service including Urology, Radiation Oncology, and General Surgery, and it is the regional referral center for all the Kaiser Permanente Medical Centers in Southern California. Drs. Kaswick, Finley, and Chien manage a large volume and wide variety of routine and complex Urologic Oncology cases. Their main interest is nerve-sparing cancer surgery for testicular tumors and prostate cancer. Drs. Kaswick and Finley perform all types of urinary diversion after radical cystectomy, and have vast experience with complex reconstruction of the urinary tract. A wide variety of renal tumors are managed at the Urologic Oncology Center, including nephron-sparing surgery and radical nephrectomy with extraction of IVC thrombus.

The educational goals of the Urologic Oncology Service include:
- Learning the various surgical techniques, including the role of laparoscopic surgery in the treatment of urologic cancers.
- Becoming familiar with the multi-disciplinary approach to the treatment of GU malignancies.
- Learning indications and prognostic factors, and utilizing preoperative and postoperative nomograms as predictors for cancer recurrence in patients with prostate cancer.
Urologic Oncology is a very rich field for clinical research. Residents will be involved in updating the database.

- on various oncologic diseases and collecting data for clinical publications.

Emphasis will be placed on thorough clinical and pathological evaluation of all urologic cancers. Residents will be involved in performing literature reviews and statistical analysis, and initiating clinical projects pertaining to Urologic Oncology.

Robotic Urologic Oncology/Minimally Invasive Surgery

Drs. David Finley and Gary Chien perform robotic urologic oncology surgeries. Kaiser Permanente Southern California has one of the largest volume robotic surgery programs in the world, and Kaiser residents are exposed to a breadth of robotic surgeries on this service. As residents become facile with these surgeries, they are encouraged to be the lead surgeon on the robot console.

Male Infertility and Infectious Diseases

The Male Infertility and Infectious Disease Service, directed by Dr. Shapiro, perform microsurgery for male infertility, including vasectomy reversal, vasoepididymostomy, and varicocele repair. In association with Dr. Shapiro, the resident will spend time in the Urology Clinic seeing patients with a wide spectrum of urologic diseases in addition to patients referred specifically for evaluation of possible male factor infertility. The resident will learn diagnosis and treatment techniques for these patients and gain operative experience in general open and endoscopic urologic procedures, as well as microscopic surgical techniques for correction of male factor infertility.

Research and Evaluation

The resident physician will work closely with Dr. Steven Jacobsen during their PGY-2 and PGY-4 years, learning the basics of epidemiological research, including principles of designing, executing, and finally preparing a manuscript for a research project. In this process, the resident physician gain experience in critically evaluating journal articles/scientific studies.

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