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## Editorial

## News from leading international academic urology departments



Globalization has impacted upon every aspect of our lives. The digital revolution sophisticated transportation systems, and cultural understanding, have all facilitated sharing ideas and improving lives. This maturation of our world has also caused positive changes in medicine. Initially, dissemination of thoughts and ideas were dominated by a few western focused publications. Over the past decade there has been a rapid evolution that has revealed the plethora of important ideas and practices from around the globe.

The *Asian Journal of Urology (AJU)* is an influential new world avenue for sharing important ideas and breakthroughs. Relative to other urologic journals, it is in its infancy, however *AJU* has already made an important contribution to our knowledge and treatment of urologic pathology. It provides a critical venue for sharing knowledge and thinking with our colleagues. I have been impressed with the editors' commitment to improve upon traditional scientific journalistic practices in searching for novel educational processes and presentation of material.

This issue represents an inaugural venture whereby the *AJU* seeks to highlight academic urology departments around the globe, giving unique insights into resources and practices specific to an area. This is a unique opportunity for readers to obtain a flavor of a local urologic culture. We at The Smith Institute for Urology of the Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine in New York are honored to be the first center selected to present our work.

Every center is known for specific expertise. At The Arthur Smith Institute for Urology, we have vast experience in minimally invasive procedures to treat all urologic diseases. We boast a long history of cultivating urologic advances, including our pioneering efforts in keyhole kidney stone surgery, laparoscopic kidney surgery, prostate cancer treatment, managing pelvic pain, robotic surgery, and telemedicine.

This issue samples contributions over a wide spectrum of topics from our institution and the following are a few highlights. Gupta and associates [1] show the efficacy of

using ultrasound of the bulbocavernosus muscle as an improvement over testosterone in diagnosing hypogonadism. Patel and colleagues [2] report the largest association of a chronic cough as a paraneoplastic symptom of large renal masses. There is a paucity of literature on real long-term complications of hypospadias repair in adults and Howe et al. [3] present their experience with 220 children followed up to 35 years as well as significant long-term issues. Vasudevan and coworkers [4] review the role of genetics in urolithiasis. Palmerola and associates [5] demonstrate that angioembolization of A-V fistulas as well as pseudoaneurysms has no significant effect on renal function. Vira and associates [6] examine multiparametric MRI as a predictor of extraprostatic extension and demonstrate some flaws in this new technology. Other topics addressed include the cost of care in metastatic hormone resistant prostate cancer [7], methods to decrease complications in elderly individuals undergoing urologic surgery [8], quality of life in patients with chronic pelvic pain [9], role for robotic surgery in the pediatric urology [10] and the indications of prostate MRI in clinical practice [11].

We pride ourselves on being the area's go-to health system for second opinions on cancer diagnoses and treatments, and strive to use the least invasive methods necessary for treating disease. Our success is evidenced as we treat the most patients with urologic cancer in the New York Metropolitan area.

Our tripartite mission is to provide outstanding education to students and patients, initiate innovative research to advance medical knowledge and provide the most effective treatments in the most compassionate manner to all of our patients.

It is our sincere hope that the articles presented within give a flavor of focus in our Department. We hope these papers provide insight and stimulate future investigation. We welcome collaborations with our international colleagues and again wish to extend our gratitude to *AJU* for selecting our institution as the inaugural highlighted program.

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