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Seminars Article
COVID-19 Seminars Issue 2 – Introduction

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Received 26 May 2021; accepted 28 May 2021

The COVID-19 public health emergency disrupted clinical activities across disciplines as resources were redirected to the serial surges of COVID-19 patients that confronted our health systems. The current Seminars issue of *Urologic Oncology: Seminars and Original Investigations* is the second in a 2-part series that reviews the direct and indirect impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on the field of urologic oncology. The issue that preceded this focused on delays in surgical and decision-making around surgery and systemic therapy in the setting of the pandemic. This second issue highlights the changes that were made in resident and fellow education and in the process for fellowship interviews necessitated by the pandemic as well as clinical and surveillance paradigms relevant to urology and urologic oncology practice.

As surgical programs shut down to preserve personal protective equipment for health care workers at the front line of managing COVID-19 patients, many focused on the impact to urologic cancer patients. Decisions around the management of suspected upper urinary tract cancers were particularly challenging and required a thoughtful approach given the bimodal distribution of risk between low-grade and high-grade upper tract urothelial cancer.

Yet there was a recognition in the urologic oncology community that the pandemic was also imposing a disruption to surgical training at a point when many of our residents and fellows are hoping to harness operating room experiences that propel their transition to independent practice. Virtual formats for education and also for fellowship interviews can have tremendous benefits including the flexibility from where you access the meeting or interview and the ability to engage people across the country more broadly. Virtual education and interview platforms have potential to shrink this large land mass that physically separates us.

One important conclusion from the manuscripts in this issue is that the COVID-19 public health emergency, as devastating as it has been, also illuminated opportunities to improve education for SUO urologic oncology fellows and residents interested in urologic oncology as a career. We collectively have an incredible fount of knowledge to transfer to residents and fellows interested in urologic oncology, and using technology to break down the silos in which we all practice our didactics will raise the collective bar for educating the next generation of urologic cancer experts.

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.urolonc.2021.05.035>

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