

Urology News



Urology faculty and residents work together to care for a pediatric trauma patient.

From the chair

Christopher E. Keel, D.O., FACS, AME

I hope this message finds you well. I'm pleased to share some exciting updates from our Department of Urology. With a shared commitment to excellence in patient care, education, and innovation, we've made significant strides that I believe will have a lasting impact on the future of urologic medicine in our region.



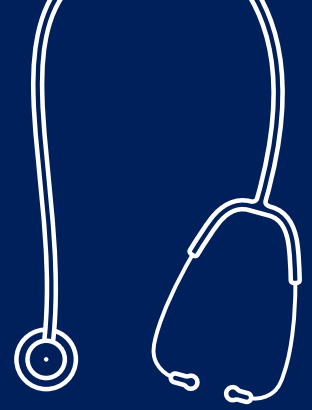
Most notably, we are now in year three after successfully launching our ACGME-accredited Urology Residency Program, a major milestone for our institution and a testament to the dedication of our faculty and leadership. This program is designed to train the next generation of urologists with a focus on comprehensive clinical exposure, surgical excellence, and academic rigor.

In addition, we have received approval to begin a fellowship in Robotics and Endourology, which will further elevate our capacity for advanced surgical care and subspecialty training. These developments represent our broader vision of becoming a regional hub for urologic education, innovation, and referral care.

Looking ahead, our department is actively expanding its clinical and research footprint. We welcome referrals for complex urologic care, including robotic surgery, advanced endourology, men's health, oncology, and reconstructive urology. We also encourage collaborative participation in ongoing and upcoming research trials aimed at improving outcomes and advancing the science of urology.

To our long-time colleagues: Thank you for your support and shared mission over the years. And to our newer partners: We look forward to building strong and enduring collaborations in the years ahead.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like to discuss patient referrals, research opportunities, or ways to engage with our growing programs.



Achievements

Fleck elected American Board of Urology trustee

USA Health urologist Lorie G. Fleck, M.D., FACS, FPMRS, was elected a trustee of the American Board of Urology. She was nominated for the six-year term by the American Association of Clinical Urologists (AACU), one of six urologic societies that nominate trustees to the ABU. Fleck, an associate professor of urology, serves as director of the urology residency program at the Whiddon College of Medicine/USA Health.

Events

Regional J Club meeting
Tuesday, Aug. 19

5:30 p.m.

Location TBA

(Check your email for an invitation.)

Social media

 @universityurology

 @jag_uro

 jag_uro

National recognition: Keel named Young Urologist of the Year

Christopher Keel, D.O., FACS, AME, chair of urology, was one of nine urologists to be named 2025 Young Urologist of the Year Award winners by the American Urological Association (AUA). Winners were selected by their colleagues who serve on the Young Urologists Committee and endorsed by their respective AUA sections to receive the honor. Keel received his award during the 2025 AUA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.

Current clinical trials

The ABLE 32 study is a phase 3 randomized, controlled trial of Nadofaragene vs. observation for the treatment of intermediate-risk non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. Inclusion criteria include newly diagnosed or recurrent intermediate risk (IR) NMIBC at screening as defined by AUASUO Guidelines (2020).

A transurethral resection of a bladder tumor (TURBT) is required for diagnostic pathology. A TURBT done within 60 days prior to randomization may be used. The diagnostic pathology must include muscularis propria with no evidence of muscle invasion for trial inclusion. This study compares Nadofaragene quarterly instillations with the SOC in adults with an increased risk that NMIBC may return or worsen.

Marcia Miller is the urology clinical trials coordinator at the USA Health Mitchell Cancer Institute and can be reached at marciamiller@health.southalabama.edu.

National webinar series focuses on urology workforce

Urology Chair Christopher Keel, D.O., FACS, AME, representing the Society of Academic Urology, and Jay Raman, M.D., of Penn State Health, representing the American Urological Association, recently co-led a high-impact national webinar series focused on the evolving challenges of the urology workforce.

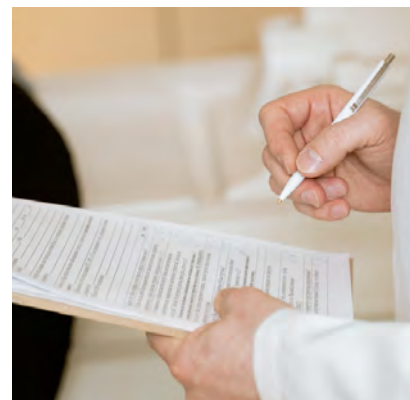
This timely series brought together thought leaders from across the country to examine innovative solutions, including the creation of new residency programs. The discussions emphasized how academic-community partnerships can not only expand training capacity but also elevate the standard of care in underserved areas, strengthen local healthcare infrastructure, and inspire the next generation of urologists to serve where they're most needed.

Support our residency

Support the education of our urology residents with your tax-deductible donation.



**Urology Residency
Education Endowment**



Upcoming clinical trials

- An expanded access use of Recombinant Bacillus Calmette-Guerin in NMIBC is pending startup at the Mitchell Cancer Institute. It is indicated for any bladder cancer approved for Tice BCG use.
- The BT8009 or Bicycle trial is pending with startup potentially in September. This study is a randomized open label study comparing BT8009 as monotherapy or in combination with Pembro in participants with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer.
- The Tar 210 study is pending with startup potentially in September and is indicated for high-risk urothelial cancer.

Refer a patient to University Urology

Contact Lisa Wheat at Lwheat@health.southalabama.edu or call 251-660-5930.

Photos and Highlights



Christian Manganti, M.D., PGY-1, works with Hannah Moreland, M.D., PGY-3, on a transperineal prostate biopsy.



Hannah Moreland, M.D., PGY-3, and Kevin Parham, M.D., PGY-2, work with Urology Chair Christopher Keel, D.O., center.



Kevin Parham, M.D., PGY-2, and Hannah Moreland, M.D., PGY-3, present at the annual meeting of the American Urological Association on April 26-29 in Las Vegas.



Lorie Fleck, M.D., center, poses with Whiddon College of Medicine alumni at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of the AUA.



The team enjoys a dinner at Dauphin's restaurant in downtown Mobile.



Kristie Blanchard-Burch, M.D., and Lorie Fleck, M.D., cool off at a water-fight fundraiser.

Department of Urology
2451 University Hospital Dr., Mastin Bldg. Room 614
Mobile, AL 36617



Resident spotlight

Marjorie Jones, M.D., PGY-1

A native of Birmingham, Marjorie Jones, M.D., graduated magna cum laude from Pepperdine University with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics. Before pursuing a career in medicine, Jones taught middle school math in Los Angeles.

She earned her medical degree from the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine, where she was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. In 2024, Jones completed a year of general surgery residency at USA Health before joining the Department of Urology.

She stays active in research and looks forward to a career in female urology and urogynecology. Outside of medicine, Jones loves spending time with family and friends, and exploring Mobile. She enjoys miniature watercolor paintings, window shopping, discovering new music, and golf.