November 2026

FREDERICK P. WHIDDON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Urology News



From the chair

Christopher E. Keel, D.O., FACS



Friends and colleagues,

This has been a year of growth for USA Health Urology. Since March, four fellowship-trained urologists have joined our faculty: Dr. Dimple Chanamolu (endourology), Dr. Nicholas Deebel (men's health and male reproductive medicine), Dr. Troy Sofinowski (endourology), and now Dr. Tarek Lawen, who trained in urologic oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center. We are also recruiting another endourologist and urologic oncologist.

We are also growing where we care for patients. We will soon move our outpatient operations to Providence Hospital, with plans for a significant footprint there, and many of our outpatient procedures will move to a recently announced ambulatory surgery center. We are working with Dr. Brian Persing, the new director of the Mitchell Cancer Institute, to build integrated pathways for our cancer patients.

Our goal is simple: Patients on the Gulf Coast should not have to leave the Gulf Coast to get the best urologic care.

Clinical growth pays for clinical care. It does not fully pay for what makes up an academic department: training residents, running clinical trials, doing research, and bringing new technology to Mobile. Philanthropy fills that gap. As the giving season begins and you make your year-end plans, I hope you will consider a gift to the Department of Urology. Your support helps us train the next generation of urologists and bring new treatments to patients here at home.

Meanwhile, if you'd like to refer a patient to Dr. Lawen or any of our faculty, please call 251-660-5930.

Thank you for your continued support. From all of us in the Department of Urology, happy holidays to you and your family.



Save the Date

Gulf Coast Urology Symposium

June 26, 2027
The Battle House Hotel
Mobile, AL

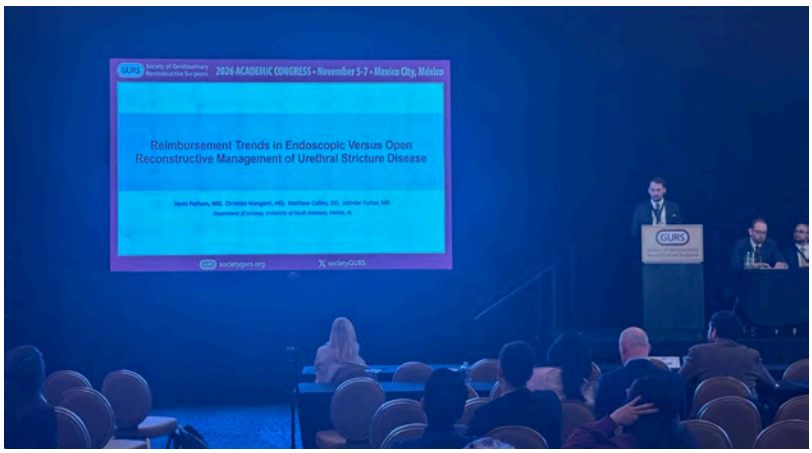


The visiting professor will be Matthew Nielsen, M.D., MS, FACS, the John Sloan Rhodes and John Flint Rhodes Distinguished Professor and Chair of Urology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Join us to network with colleagues and celebrate our first urology residency graduation.

Social media

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jag_uro



Urology resident Kevin Parham, M.D., was among the presenters at the 2026 Academic Congress of the Society of Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgeons in Mexico City.

Residents present research at GURS annual meeting

USA Health urology residents gave eight research presentations at the annual meeting of the Society of Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgeons, held Nov. 5-7 in Mexico City.

Among the presentations was a video demonstrating a novel technology to endoscopically repair bladder neck contractures and a podium presentation on a downturn in physician reimbursement for common treatments for urethral strictures.

"This was an awesome experience made possible by our department's support and the support of our fellow residents," said Christian Manganti, M.D., a third-year resident and an author on several of the presentations.

One of the posters, titled "Neighborhood Deprivation, Symptom Severity and Treatment of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia," won the best poster award. The research sought to determine whether neighborhood deprivation predicts symptom severity in men with an enlarged prostate.

Another poster, "Evaluating Artificial Intelligence Chatbots in Urologic Counseling: Accuracy and Adherence to Erectile Dysfunction Guidelines," won second place. The research concluded that AI chatbots can augment – but should not replace – physician counseling. Clinician oversight remains essential, especially in surgical decision-making, the study said.

Residency program to hold first graduation

The Department of Urology will host its inaugural graduation ceremony on June 26, 2027, to honor the achievements of its first graduating resident, Hannah Moreland, M.D.

The ceremony, to be held at the Battle House Hotel, will coincide with the inaugural Gulf Coast Urology Symposium.

Following graduation, Moreland will be relocating to Providence, Rhode Island, where she will begin a one-year fellowship in male reproductive medicine and surgery at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital.

"We are so proud of Dr. Moreland for not only being our first graduate but also matching in a very competitive specialty for her fellowship," said Lorie G. Fleck, M.D., residency program director and associate professor of urology at the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine.

"This graduation is also milestone for the University of South Alabama," Fleck added. "With the support of USA Health and the Whiddon College of Medicine, we are continuing to train excellent physicians who can help fulfill the shortage of urologists nationwide."

USA Health's five-year ACGME-accredited program consists of a preliminary/intern year followed by four years of dedicated urologic specialty training. Residents rotate through USA Health hospitals, including University Hospital, Children's & Women's Hospital and Providence Hospital, as well as the Mitchell Cancer Institute and outpatient clinics.

Residents receive training in general urology, robot-assisted surgery, male reconstructive urology, pediatric urology, female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery (FPMRS), trauma and urologic oncology.

Support our residency

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

Urology Residency Education Endowment

Refer a patient to University Urology

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

Photos and Highlights



Resident Marjorie Jones, M.D., right, poses with medical students and therapy dog Finn.



Residents Kevin Parham, M.D., and Christian Manganti, M.D., attend the GURS 2026 Academic Congress in Mexico City.



Urology residents are treated to comfort food at Waffle House, courtesy of attending urologist Jatinder Kumar, M.D.



Resident Marjorie Jones, M.D., poses with Urology Chair Christopher Keel, D.O.



Resident Kevin Parham, M.D., speaks at the GURS 2026 Academic Congress in Mexico City.



Residents Hannah Moreland, M.D., and Marjorie Jones, M.D., pose with friends at the Greater Gulf State Fair.

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Faculty spotlight

Tarek Lawen, M.D., MSc.

USA Health University Urology recently welcomed Tarek I. Lawen, M.D., MSc., the fourth fellowship-trained urologist to join the practice this year. Lawen completed his urology residency at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and his urologic oncology fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.



Lawen brings a strong research record and a clear commitment to multidisciplinary cancer care. He will care for patients with bladder, prostate, kidney, and other urologic cancers, and will play a central role in teaching urology residents.

His role will complement the department's existing expertise while expanding access to advanced robotic surgery and specialized cancer care. The Mitchell Cancer Institute will be an important part of Lawen's multidisciplinary approach to care. He will work closely with medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, radiologists, pathologists and other specialists to develop individualized treatment plans for patients. To refer a patient to Lawen, please call 251-660-5930.