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message from the chair

Through groundbreaking research, acquisition of advanced technology, innovations in medical education and a commitment to providing the highest-quality patient care, Hackensack Meridian Hackensack University Medical Center’s Department of Urology has again advanced the field of urology in 2019.

In addition to continuing to deliver outstanding outcomes that exceed national quality standards and maintaining our national ranking as the No. 1 urology program in New Jersey according to U.S. News & World Report, our team has implemented many successful initiatives and achieved significant milestones, including:

Reshaping Education
From learning opportunities for high school students to advanced fellowship training for physicians, our urologists are committed to reshaping medical education. At every level, our team members offer innovative programming that places each student’s educational needs at the forefront.

Through our affiliation with Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University, our department is proud to offer a five-year urology residency program that allows tomorrow’s urologists to learn from supportive, experienced attending physicians from a variety of subspecialty areas. As part of a high-volume department in a renowned research hospital, our residents — as well as our urology fellows — have unprecedented research opportunities and access to some of today’s most advanced medical technology.

Worldwide Leaders in Single Port Robotic Surgery
In 2018, our department distinguished itself as an international leader in robotic urological surgery with the acquisition of the da Vinci® single port robotic surgical system. Since the acquisition of this new system, our surgeons have performed more than 200 complex prostate cancer, kidney cancer and urinary tract reconstructive surgeries through a single one-inch incision.

Collaborative Care and Research
In 2019, research and innovation continued to be at the core of our department’s success. Through various collaborative efforts with the Hackensack Meridian Health Center for Discovery & Innovation, John Theurer Cancer Center part of Hackensack University Medical Center and the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University, our team members are participating in transformative translational research on management of recurrent urinary tract infections, prostate cancer care and kidney cancer treatment, among other pioneering studies.

Hackensack University Medical Center’s urologists have also partnered with other renowned academic medical centers to share real-time data, generating award-winning research and advancing the field of urology.

Our urologists have shared their findings on single port robotic surgery in national and international presentations, peer-reviewed papers and invited submissions, earning recognition for Best Research Paper at the 2019 World Congress of Endourology in Abu Dhabi.

Expanded Access to Urology Care
Throughout 2019, our urology team has maintained a strong presence at Hackensack University Medical Center while working to strengthen the level of urological care offered at Hackensack Meridian Palisades Medical Center in North Bergen, New Jersey, and at Hackensack Meridian Mountainside Medical Center in Montclair, New Jersey.

As evidence of our commitment to providing expert urology care that extends even farther into New Jersey’s communities, David Chang, M.D. has joined our team and now offers expanded access to a full range of general adult urology care at Palisades Medical Center.

Our urology team is proud of its accomplishments in 2019 and remains committed to Hackensack University Medical Center’s mission of delivering outstanding care through research, innovation and the use of leading-edge technology.

Michael D. Stifelman, M.D.
Chair of Urology, Hackensack University Medical Center
Director, Robotic Surgery, Hackensack University Medical Center
Professor and Chairman of Urology, Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University
By the Numbers

No. 1 ranked urology department in the state of New Jersey by U.S. News & World Report

6 subspecialties with fellowship-trained urologists

3 Centers of Excellence for bladder, prostate and kidney cancer

16 Institutional Review Board-approved protocols

200+ single port surgeries performed in 2019

5,500+ advanced robotic procedures performed since 2014

100% of bladder cancer surgeries performed robotically

6 research grants totaling more than $1 million in 2018 - 2019

31 peer-reviewed publications and abstracts in 2019

2 Gold Seal of Approval® disease-specific recognitions by The Joint Commission for prostate and kidney cancer

CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING IN 23 CLINICAL AND RESEARCH TRIALS:

7 kidney cancer
5 bladder cancer
7 prostate cancer
2 urinary tract reconstruction
2 female urology

Our urology department won the esteemed, best paper award at the 2019 World Congress of Endourology Conference in Abu Dhabi.
Research and Innovation

At Hackensack University Medical Center’s Department of Urology, innovation is in our DNA. Our physicians are pioneers who continually work to advance the field of urology by using the latest technology and leading-edge research to develop new procedures and protocols that improve patient outcomes.

Research: At the Core of Our Success

Our urologists understand that research and collaboration are the key drivers for innovative urological techniques, testing and ongoing learning. Our dedicated, full-time research team includes a research nurse coordinator, database coordinators and students, allowing us to conduct prospective clinical outcome research that is presented at national and international conferences and is published in prestigious peer-reviewed journals.

To date, our urologists have presented and published more than 500 original abstracts and manuscripts. In 2019, our research engine led to a total of 31 publications and presentations, including several highlighted below:


*Won best paper award at the 2019 World Congress of Endourology Conference in Abu Dhabi.

Teaching Around the World

As world leaders in urology care, Hackensack University Medical Center urologists routinely travel to provide instruction on the latest urological surgical techniques and treatments to colleagues in the U.S. and around the world. In 2019, our surgeons performed and demonstrated robotic and minimally invasive surgery in:

- Abu Dhabi
- France
- Spain
Collaboration and Cooperation

Our researchers are collaborating with the Hackensack Meridian Health Center for Discovery & Innovation (CDI) and the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University on transformative translational research as well as partnering with other institutions, including Cleveland Clinic, New York University, Mount Sinai and Temple University, on multi-institutional research initiatives. Specific areas of collaboration include:

- Development of Institutional Review Board protocols for prostate, kidney and bladder cancer, urinary reconstruction, and recurrent urinary tract infection (UTI), among others.
- Use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy for kidney cancer to improve negative margin results and increase cure rates.
- Use of a bioregenerative matrix for post-prostatectomy nerve preservation and regeneration to improve erectile function and healing.
- Development of a new prostasome blood test in conjunction with CDI scientist Olivier Loudig, Ph.D., to more accurately diagnose prostate cancer.
- Better identification and management of recurrent UTI through research on bacterial resistance patterns.

Additionally, our multi-institutional and multidisciplinary databases have led to award-winning research that has had a global impact on the standard of urological care.

Innovative Urological Care

Hackensack University Medical Center’s urologists are advancing and improving urological care using some of the world’s most innovative medical technologies and procedures, including:

- The da Vinci SP® single port robotic system, which allows surgeons to perform complex surgical procedures through a one-inch incision.
- Crowd-sourcing technology that combines video analytics, expert feedback and peer review to help our surgeons refine their skills to improve surgical performance.
- A 3D preoperative imaging lab that allows for intraoperative 3D imaging overlay during surgeries performed with the da Vinci robotic system.
- Holmium laser kidney stone treatment that effectively pulverizes and fragments kidney stones in less time.
- Shockwave lithotripsy for kidney stones, which uses X-rays and ultrasound to locate stones, and sound waves to break up stones so they can pass through the urinary tract.
- Single-use digital flexible ureteroscope technology that eliminates the inconsistent performance and maintenance concerns associated with reusable scopes. Our hospital is the first in New Jersey, and one of the only hospitals worldwide, to use this single-use scope.
- MRI/ultrasound fusion biopsy technology to identify suspicious prostate tissue and guide needles to the precise area that requires biopsy.
- Outpatient percutaneous nephrolithotomy, which is a procedure that can be done on an outpatient basis to remove kidney stones through a small incision in the back.

Funding for Urological Advancements

Hackensack Department of Urology receives public and private funding to promote urological research and innovation. 2018-2019 funding totaled more than $1 million and includes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$105,000</td>
<td>Intuitive</td>
<td>Urology research/education</td>
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<td>$65,000</td>
<td>Boston Scientific</td>
<td>Urology Fellowship Fund</td>
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<td>CLARIX-CS008</td>
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<td>CONMED</td>
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<td>Grateful Patients Fund</td>
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Quality in Urologic Cancer Care - Kidney, Bladder and Prostate

Hackensack University Medical Center is a Urologic Center of Excellence for Prostate, Kidney and Bladder Cancer. The expertise of our highly specialized surgeons combined with our focus on research and access to the latest technology allows us to deliver best-in-class surgical outcomes for urological cancers.

Kidney Cancer

Hackensack University Medical Center is home to internationally recognized kidney cancer surgeons who have pioneered advanced robotic surgical techniques, including selective clamping, the retroperitoneal approach, 3D intraoperative imaging, near-infrared fluorescence imaging and single port surgery. These techniques allow us to treat kidney tumors in the safest and least invasive way while sparing healthy kidney tissue and maximizing kidney function. In addition to our urological surgeons, our kidney cancer team includes radiation oncologists and medical oncologists who offer a full range of leading-edge kidney cancer treatments, including targeted therapy, immunotherapy, chemotherapy, and palliative radiation therapy. Working alongside pathologists, radiologists, and other healthcare specialists, our team will develop a customized treatment plan for each patient, combining treatments and therapies as needed to provide comprehensive care.

Together, our specialists have published more than 50 papers on kidney cancer management that document some of the best outcomes in the field. Hackensack University Medical Center has also earned the Gold Seal of Approval® from The Joint Commission for kidney cancer care.

BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>590</th>
<th>The number of robotic kidney surgery procedures performed in 2018 - 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.3 days</td>
<td>Average length of stay, compared to the 2019 expected length of stay of 3.33 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Mortality rate, compared to the 2019 expected mortality rate of 0.43 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Percentage of kidney cancer surgeries performed using minimally invasive techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>Readmission rate, compared to the 2019 expected readmission rate of 4.8 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Percentage of kidney cancer surgeries performed using kidney-sparing techniques</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bladder Cancer

At Hackensack, 100 percent of bladder cancer surgeries — including lymph node removal, partial and total bladder removal, and bladder reconstruction — are performed robotically. In addition to developing new robotic surgical techniques, our bladder cancer specialists have also developed protocols to educate patients and prepare them for surgery, improve patient safety and promote a faster recovery. Our Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocol, for example, helps patients learn to urinate in a new way and cope with common symptoms that occur as their bodies adjust to their reconstructed bladder.

In addition to our expert surgeons, our bladder cancer team includes skilled medical oncologists and radiation oncologists who work alongside highly trained pathologists, radiologists and other medical specialists to provide each patient with comprehensive, personalized care using the latest therapies — including some of the most promising chemotherapy, immunotherapy and radiation treatments.
Prostate Cancer

Hackensack University Medical Center urologists are pioneers in prostate cancer care and are internationally recognized leaders in robotic prostate cancer surgery. Additionally, our surgeons are among a select few worldwide using the da Vinci SP® single port robotic system to perform complex prostate cancer surgeries through a one-inch incision.

Our prostate cancer team includes urological surgeons, radiation oncologists and medical oncologists who provide patients with a full range of treatment options, including surgery, focal therapy/ablation therapy, hormone therapy, chemotherapy, vaccine treatment, and radiation therapy.

As the highest-volume prostate cancer institute in New Jersey, Hackensack University Medical Center has earned the Gold Seal of Approval from The Joint Commission for prostate cancer care.

Advanced Imaging

Employing the latest imaging technology, the urologists at Hackensack University Medical Center can accurately diagnose common and complex urological conditions and provide the most effective care, using leading-edge technology and minimally invasive approaches whenever possible.

Image-Based Surgical Planning

Our urologists have access to image-based technology that uses 3D models rendered from CT scans to assist in preoperative and intraoperative planning for kidney cancer surgery. This preoperative planning allows our surgeons to assess each patient’s unique anatomy and promotes effective, efficient removal of kidney tumors while preserving healthy surrounding tissue. Our surgeons can also access the 3D images remotely as well as intraoperatively through the da Vinci robotic surgical system console.

MRI/Usktrasound Fusion Biopsy

Hackensack University Medical Center is one of only two centers in New Jersey that uses state-of-the art MRI/ultrasound fusion technology to perform prostate biopsies. This advanced system helps our urologists obtain high-quality tissue samples that allow for accurate prostate cancer diagnosis and staging. Our urologists have been using this technology since 2014, making us one of the most experienced centers in the region. Additionally, our urologists have presented research at national and international conferences on the use of MRI/ultrasound fusion biopsy in prostate cancer diagnosis.

Near-Infrared Fluorescence Imaging

Our urological surgeons are pioneers in the use of intraoperative near-infrared fluorescence imaging. Through the use of injectable molecular markers, this advanced technology allows our surgeons to see, in real time, blood flow, vasculature, and other surgical landmarks that are invisible to the naked human eye. When combined with the improved visualization of robotic surgery, near-infrared imaging promotes increased surgical precision and leads to more favorable treatment outcomes.
Single Port - The Future of Minimally Invasive Surgery

In November 2018, Hackensack recently achieved another milestone in its 20-year history of minimally invasive surgery excellence when it became one of the first hospitals in the world — and the first hospital in New Jersey — to acquire and use the da Vinci SP single port robotic surgery system.

One of only 10 sites in the U.S. selected to launch the da Vinci SP, Hackensack University Medical Center has pioneered the use of this advanced minimally invasive surgical technology for complex urological procedures.

About the da Vinci SP

The single port system includes three multi-jointed, wristed surgical instruments, a steerable 3D high-definition camera and an assistant accessory port into the patient abdomen through one small incision. The single arm allows 360-degree, multi-quadrant access. This design provides access through limited surgical fields and permits new and different surgical routes that have not been feasible before.

Key advantages to single port robotic surgery include the ability to access difficult-to-reach areas of the body with minimal trauma to surrounding tissues (which potentially reduces the risk of complications), shorter recovery time, and overall improved patient outcomes and cosmetic results.
Encouraging Surgical Results
Our urologists and patients have realized extraordinary benefits from single port robotic technology during its first year of use. In the past year, the urologists at Hackensack University Medical Center have completed more than 200 single port surgeries — including partial nephrectomy, prostatectomy and urinary reconstruction — making up one of the most extensive surgical series worldwide. Results have been encouraging and suggest a decrease in length-of-stay and pain medication requirements.

Our team has shared these findings through peer-reviewed papers and invited submissions, including:

- Robotic Upper Urinary Tract Reconstruction, Translational Andrology and Urology, 2019
- Singleport compared to multiport robot-assisted laparoscopic nephrectomies and urinary tract reconstruction surgeries, Journal of Endourology, 2019
- Robotic-Assisted Urologic Surgery, Translational Andrology and Urology, accepted for publication in 2020

Our team’s national and international presentations on single port surgery include:

- Postgraduate course: Single Port Surgery, American Urologic Association, Chicago 2019
- Plenary session: Single Port Ureteral Surgery, World Congress of Endourology, Abu Dhabi 2019

Mutahar Ahmed, M.D., FACS, Michael D. Stifelman, M.D., Gregory G. Lovallo, M.D., FACS, Ravi Munver, M.D., FACS
Reshaping Education

Hackensack University Medical Center’s Department of Urology is fulfilling its mission to reshape the future of medical education by providing a continuum of best-in-class learning opportunities at all levels, beginning in high school and continuing through postgraduate fellowships. Our innovative medical and residency programs place each student’s educational needs at the forefront, while our undergraduate and high school programs get young people excited about science, research and bioengineering.

Opportunities for High School Students

Hackensack University Medical Center has partnered with Liberty Science Center’s award-winning “Live From Surgery” program to give New Jersey high school students a front-row seat to watch live robotic surgery procedures and interact with medical experts.

Opportunities for College Students

Hackensack University Medical Center offers college summer projects through a partnership with the Georgian Court - Hackensack Meridian Health School of Nursing and the Stevens Institute. These special projects provide bioengineering students the opportunity to develop stents. Nursing students at Georgian Court also have the opportunity to do pre-graduate work at Hackensack University Medical Center.

Opportunities for Medical Students

Hackensack University Medical Center Medical students at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University have the opportunity to pursue a research elective and subspecialty internship as part of a two-phase, two-course program consisting of:

- An elective during the surgical year with a one-month subspecialty internship
- A six-month clinical research elective program, culminating in every student generating and publishing an abstract in a peer-reviewed journal

Urology Residency

Through its affiliation with Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University, Hackensack University Medical Center’s Department of Urology offers a 5-year residency program consisting of 6 months of general surgical training and 4 ½ years of clinical urology training.

Throughout the program, residents have access to one-on-one mentoring by supportive, experienced attending physicians across a variety of subspecialty areas. Our residents also benefit from a collaborative learning environment that allows them to not only learn from world-class attending urologists at a high-volume department in a renowned research hospital but also from senior residents and interdisciplinary health care providers.

Our residency program also offers unique research opportunities and access to several ongoing prospective databases on outcomes from urological oncology surgeries that can provide data-driven answers to a variety of academic questions. Residents also have access to some of the region’s most advanced technology, such as five dedicated robotic surgical systems, including the only da Vinci SP® robot in New Jersey, and advanced robotic surgery simulators that use C-SATS crowdsourcing assessments to help residents improve their surgical skills.

Urology Fellowships

Hackensack University Medical Center offers two fellowships to train the next generation of urology specialists, including:

- A one-year The Dottie Purcell Endourology Fellowship, which combines clinical and research activities in endourology, laparoscopy and robotic surgery and is the first accredited fellowship of its kind in New Jersey — and one of the first in the United States
- A one-year Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship, which provides advanced training in female urology and urogynecology

Training Tomorrow’s Health Care Leaders

At Hackensack University Medical Center and Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University, we do more than provide high-quality medical training delivered by world-class physicians. We also shape the future of medical education and bring to the forefront today’s complex health care issues, such as social determinants of health and the Quadruple Aim.

The Quadruple Aim, which is an expansion of the Triple Aim framework for the delivery of high-value health care, focuses on four goals:

1. Improving population health
2. Enhancing the patient-care experience
3. Reducing health care costs
4. Attaining joy in work

At all levels, our students, residents and fellows learn how to become more than just outstanding physicians; they also learn how to become health care leaders who can meet all four Quadruple Aim objectives. Our students are equipped with skills that allow them to identify and assess health care needs on a large scale and develop care models, protocols and policies that enhance the scope of practice and promote the effective use of resources, all while providing excellent patient care in an optimal work environment.
Nursing

The nursing team at Hackensack University Medical Center’s Department of Urology is essential to the outstanding patient experience we provide every day. Nurses in the Department of Urology are specially trained in a range of roles, including:

- **Nurse practitioners.** Our nurse practitioners are certified by the Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates and provide routine urology care.

- **Urology nurses.** Our urology nurses are trained in all aspects of urological care, including prevention, treatment and patient education. We have created a urologic specialty floor staffed by nurses that receive special training and certification that allows them to provide expert inpatient and postsurgical care.

- **Surgical nurses.** Our surgical nurses have specialized training that allows them to effectively assist our surgeons during all types of surgeries, including advanced procedures performed using the latest robotic technology.

- **Ostomy nurses.** Our ostomy nurses are specially trained to meet the unique needs of patients with an ostomy.

Across the spectrum of urology care at Hackensack University Medical Center, our expert nurses are empowered to partner with our physicians in all patient care matters and to pursue professional growth and education. The accomplishments of our nursing team include:

**Magnet Recognition Program® Designation**
The nurses at Hackensack University Medical Center have received their sixth consecutive Magnet® designation, the highest national honor for nursing excellence. In 2019, two members of our nursing staff were invited to attend the Magnet national conference in Orlando, Florida.

**Hospital-Wide Recognition**
Our nurses have received several hospital-wide recognitions for quality and safety. Our urology nursing team was recently recognized for its efforts to enhance the patient experience, receiving the highest ranking at Hackensack University Medical Center on the 2019 Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey.

**Clinical Leadership**
Our clinical ladder provides our nurses with the opportunity to pursue additional leadership training and professional education as well as serve on a variety of councils and committees. The urology nursing team includes four Magnet Level 3 certified nurses, the highest level of certification available.

**Professional Growth and Education**
Our nurses have access to a variety of opportunities for professional growth and education, including:

- **Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates (SUNA) membership.** Many of our nurses are members of SUNA, a professional organization that offers continuing education and development opportunities.

- **Scholarship fund.** Each year, four nurses are selected to receive an all-expenses-paid trip to a national professional development conference.

- **Quarterly educational meetings.** Our physicians conduct quarterly education meetings designed specifically for our nurses.

- **Live surgical feeds.** Our nurses have the opportunity to view live feeds of surgical procedures performed by our urologists.
Living Donor Nephrectomy for Kidney Transplant

The kidney transplant team at Hackensack University Medical Center is among the most experienced in the country at performing laparoscopic living donor nephrectomies. We employ advanced matching protocols and living donation techniques used at only a few of the world’s leading transplant centers.

Performing donor nephrectomies since 2000, our surgeons have 20 years of experience that allows them to successfully complete even the most complex and technically advanced procedures that are often not performed at other regional and national institutions. We perform donor nephrectomies on adult patients of all ages and sizes who have conditions such as complex vasculature, including a circumaortic renal vein. Additionally, our teams perform both right and left donor nephrectomies, which allows us to deliver better outcomes and preserve optimal donor kidney function.

Our innovative approach to living donor nephrectomies means that fewer willing living donors are turned away. As a result, we have been able to grow our living donation program, performing a record number of lifesaving kidney transplant surgeries at our institution in 2019. Our team also has a 0 percent conversion rate for donor nephrectomies, meaning that all procedures that were started laparoscopically were completed laparoscopically, without the need to convert to open surgery.

Transfusion-Free Transplant Services
Hackensack University Medical Center is one of the only transplant centers in the region that collaborates with the hospital’s specialized Bloodless Medicine Program to provide transfusion-free, safe kidney donation and transplantation surgery for patients whose personal preferences or religious beliefs prevent them from accepting blood or blood products.

Ravi Munver, M.D., FACS, Gerald Portman, M.D., Michael Degen, M.D., Lorenzo Digiorgio, M.D., Maria Dejesus, R.N.
A Living Donor “Chain Reaction”

After a work-related accident that required back surgery, flight attendant Susan Wilson ended up in an operating room outside of the Hackensack Meridian Health network, where surgeons made a near-fatal mistake: While operating on Susan’s back, doctors accidentally severed her left ureter, a short tube that runs along the spine, carrying urine from the kidney to the bladder. As a result, Susan needed a nephrostomy tube, a catheter that routed urine from her kidney into an external drainage bag.

Hoping to restore her normal urinary function, Susan made an appointment with Hackensack University Medical Center urologist Michael Stifelman, M.D. He proposed an intricate procedure to remove Susan’s left kidney and re-implant it on the right side of her body, where the truncated tube would be able to reach her bladder. He told Susan that she could live with one kidney.

Susan had another idea. “You can live with one kidney? So I said, ‘You know what? I’m just going to donate,’” she said.

A Successful Surgery

Susan’s generosity sparked a chain reaction of altruistic proportions. Michael J. Goldstein, M.D., FACS, Hackensack chief of organ transplantation, director of kidney and pancreas transplantation, and director of pediatric abdominal transplantation, hatched a plan to help multiple people with Susan’s lone kidney, and she seized the opportunity.

However, Dr. Goldstein’s plan hinged on Susan’s successful kidney removal and re-implantation surgery, a complex procedure that required the expertise of Dr. Stifelman and Ravi Munver, M.D., vice chairman and chief of Minimally Invasive & Robotic Urologic Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center’s Department of Urology.

Due to their combined skills and experience — and despite the previous urological complications Susan had faced — Dr. Stifelman and Dr. Munver were able to successfully and safely perform Susan’s procedure while preserving her healthy kidney for donation.

Grateful Recipients

The recipient of Susan’s kidney was Jung Park of Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, who was experiencing late-stage kidney failure.

“My husband wanted to give me a kidney, but he couldn’t because he has a different blood type,” Jung said of her husband, Jin Park. “So I was put on the [waiting] list.” Although Jung’s husband couldn’t donate a kidney to his wife, he promised to donate it to someone else in exchange for a kidney from a different, compatible donor. That donor was Susan. Together, Susan and Jin saved not only Jung’s life, but also that of Bibi Uddin, a single mother from New York who received Jin’s kidney.

Bibi was spending three hours a day doing dialysis three days a week due to complications related to systemic lupus. In between sessions, she was often too exhausted to parent her twin boys. In October 2018, less than three months after joining the waiting list for a transplant, Bibi received Jin’s kidney at Hackensack University Medical Center.

An ‘Amazing Story’

Although some people prefer anonymity, both Jung and Bibi wanted to personally thank their donors. When Susan and Jin consented, each pair had a tearful meeting in the hospital.

Months later, all four are not only happy but healthy. Although her back still bothers her, Susan said her heart is full after her experience with organ donation and her a successful surgery to restore her urinary function. Bibi, meanwhile, said her relationship with her boys is the best it has been. And the Parks? They’re planning to host their newfound friends soon for a reunion.

“It’s an amazing story,” Dr. Goldstein said. “I’ve done nearly 2,000 transplants in my career, and only once before have I seen this kind of chain reaction started by a donor with an injured kidney in need of help herself. It’s extremely rare.”
Expanded Access to Expert Urology Care

As part of a new initiative to provide residents of Bergen and Hudson counties with access to the region’s best urology care, Hackensack University Medical Center’s Department of Urology is now offering a full range of general adult urology services at Hackensack Meridian Health’s Palisades Medical Center. David T. Chang, M.D., a urologist with more than 20 years of experience, is now providing compassionate and professional urology care for patients at Palisades.

Dr. Chang will provide a full range of general adult urological care, and his partnership with the Department of Urology will provide patients at Palisades who have more complex urological care needs with access to the full spectrum of advanced treatments available at Hackensack University Medical Center, such as the latest robotic surgical technology and leading-edge clinical trials. This collaboration with subspecialty urologists at Hackensack University Medical Center will reduce the need for Palisades patients to travel outside the community for urological care.

“I am excited to combine my experience and training with the expertise and resources of Hackensack University Medical Center’s Department of Urology to deliver the region’s best urology care to patients at Palisades,” said Dr. Chang. “My goal is to boost the access and quality of urological care for residents in communities throughout Bergen and Hudson counties, so they can receive the expert care they need close to home.”

Urology Services at Palisades
■ Urologic cancers, such as kidney, bladder and prostate
■ Urinary incontinence
■ Prostate conditions, such as elevated PSA and prostate enlargement
■ Kidney stones
■ Vasectomy
■ Urinary tract infections
■ Male sexual dysfunction and infertility
■ Blood in the urine
■ Low testosterone

Meet Dr. David Chang

David Chang, M.D., is an attending surgeon in the Department of Urology at Palisades Medical Center. He is also an assistant professor of urology at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University and a diplomate of the American Board of Urology. Dr. Chang has more than 20 years of experience as a practicing urologist and urological surgeon. His foundational training includes:

Bachelor’s Degree: Harvard University, Biochemistry, cum laude
Medical Degree: Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
General Surgery Internship: Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center

Urology Residency: Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center

In addition to providing best-in-class, evidence-based, personalized urology care for his patients, Dr. Chang is dedicated to developing new treatments for urological conditions through participation in groundbreaking research. Dr. Chang’s research has been presented in prestigious peer-reviewed publications and at national and international conferences.

Contact Information

Dr. Chang is currently accepting new patients. His office is located at:

7650 River Road
Suite 300
North Bergen, New Jersey 07047

To make an appointment or refer a patient, please call 201-520-1919.
Fundraising

2nd Annual Urology Research and Education Dinner

On November 6, 2019, Hackensack University Medical Center’s Department of Urology hosted its second annual Urology Research and Education Dinner at Edgewood Country Club in River Vale, New Jersey. The event was held to raise critical funds to advance urological education and clinical research at Hackensack University Medical Center.

During the event, urology fellowship benefactor Dottie Purcell was recognized for her contributions to the future of urological care. The event was co-chaired by grateful patients Leo T. Ehrline III and Gerard S. LaRocca, who helped to raise more than $155,000 to support advancements in urological education and clinical research, doubling funds raised during last year’s inaugural event.

In addition to a formal sit-down dinner, a silent auction and an awards ceremony, the event featured presentations from Hackensack University Medical Center urology experts and Hackensack Meridian Health CDI research department on a range of topics:

- **Urinary Tract Infection and Antibiotics: An Evolving Paradigm**, Debra Fromer, M.D., chief of female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery
- **Myths and Truths About Male Infertility**, David Shin, M.D., chief of the Center for Sexual Health and Fertility
- **Circulating Prostate Nanoparticles: Have We Found Accurate Indicators of Prostate Cancer for Routine Screening?** Olivier Loudig, Ph.D., associate member of the Hackensack Meridian Health Center for Discovery & Innovation
- **Single Port Robotic Surgery: The Next Frontier**, Michael Stifelman, M.D., chair of urology and director of robotic surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center and chair of urology at Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University

Attendees also had a chance to get an up-close look at one of the Department of Urology’s dedicated robotic surgical systems — the Intuitive Surgical da Vinci Xi® — which was on display during the event.

Grateful Patient Establishes Legacy of Giving

Four years ago, when Dottie Purcell of Oakhurst, New Jersey — a then-75-year-old mother of three and grandmother of four — first met Michael Stifelman, M.D., now the chair of urology and director of robotic surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center and chair of urology at Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University, she knew right away that she would receive outstanding care from an experienced surgeon who specializes in providing the urological treatment she needed.

Since that first meeting, the exceptional care Dottie received from the department has inspired her to take an active role in advancing the field of urology through charitable giving explicitly directed to Hackensack University Medical Center’s Department of Urology.

**A Way to Give Back**

“On my local urologist’s recommendation, I went to see Dr. Stifelman. He was mellow, laid-back and extraordinarily reassuring,” Dottie said.

After her initial treatment and a few years of follow-up, Dottie was so grateful for the care she received — and fascinated by the innovative technology and treatment approaches used — that she began looking for a way to give back.
“I come from a philanthropic family that stressed giving back, so that is what I knew,” Dottie said. “I decided that I wanted to focus my giving on responding to local needs, things that I can relate to.”

**Advancing Urological Care**

The Department of Urology was exactly the philanthropic cause Dottie was looking for. “I want whatever I give to go toward innovation in the field of urology, and specifically, to Dr. Stifelman and the urology group at Hackensack University Medical Center,” said Dottie. “I’m fascinated by what [Dr. Stifelman and his team] can do.”

During the past two years, Dottie has given more than $200,000 to the Department of Urology. Her generous contributions have been used to support the Urology Fellowship Fund, which provides future urologists with advanced training and research opportunities, as well as to fund important research that will shape tomorrow’s advancements in urology care.

As a long-time patient of the Department of Urology, Dottie, who is now 79 years young, has experienced the benefits of Hackensack University Medical Center’s innovative, high-quality urology care firsthand.

*I believe in Dr. Stifelman and his team, and I am passionate about the work they do,*” said Dottie. “*I’ve seen what they’ve done for me, and what they continue to do for the field of urology.*”

**A Tale of Two Friends Turned Grateful Patients**

When Gerard LaRocca, managing director and chief administrative officer at Barclays, and Leo Ehrline III, executive vice president and chief experience officer for Barclays Center and the Brooklyn Nets, met during the early stages of development of the Barclay’s Center in 2007, home to the Brooklyn Nets, they quickly became good friends that shared a passion for business, family, and sports. Little did they know that their respective health scares would further entwine their lives and later create an even closer bond between them.

**A Health Scare for Both Gerard & Leo**

After a few of Gerard’s friends turned sixty in January 2019, he decided to accompany them on a whim for a full body scan. When results showed a cancerous growth on his kidney, his world changed immediately. Gerard was given the names of two kidney surgeons at local hospitals to contact. After researching and calling the hospitals to make an appointment, he was very disappointed to learn that appointments were six to eight weeks out.

“It was very nerve-wracking. When someone tells you that you have cancer, you begin to think about your mortality and think you’re going to die. It was a horrible day for me,” said Gerard. After making the appointments as insurance, he called his good friend, Leo.

When Leo answered Gerard’s call, he immediately knew something wasn’t right. “He sounded upset and I asked him what was wrong,” recalled Leo. Gerard shared the results from his full body scan and his frustration that he couldn’t secure a timely appointment. “I remember I told him to give me two minutes;” said Leo. He immediately contacted Michael Seth Farber, M.D., team physician to the Brooklyn Nets. “Dr. Farber is my go-to physician, from sniffles to cancer, so there was no hesitation,” said Leo. To Gerard’s surprise, Dr. Farber made arrangements to see him that same day.

Gerard remembers his conversation with Dr. Farber, who is now his primary care physician, perfectly. “I had asked Dr. Farber who the best kidney doctor in New York was,” said Gerard. “He responded that the best kidney doctor in the world is in New Jersey.” Dr. Farber set Gerard up with an appointment to be seen by Michael Stifelman, M.D. as soon as possible. “Dr. Farber was both responsive and extending,” said Gerard. “He assured me that I would get great care at Hackensack University Medical Center.”
Gerard researched Dr. Stifelman’s credentials. “It was evident that Dr. Farber was putting me in touch with a rockstar. Dr. Stifelman is a world-renowned pioneer in robotic surgery and very heavy into research,” he shared. After his appointment, Gerard contacted Leo to let him know that he would be seeing Dr. Stifelman.

Coincidentally, Leo was also a patient of Dr. Stifelman. In September 2018, when Leo’s prostate-specific antigen (PSA) tests were showing high levels in a check-up with Dr. Farber, he referred Leo to Kevin Basralian, M.D., who continued to monitor him. When Dr. Basralian determined the levels were too high and ran further tests that showed Leo had prostate cancer, Dr. Basralian referred Leo to Dr. Stifelman.

“It was clear. In my first appointment with Dr. Stifelman, he was caring, thorough and direct,” recalled Leo. “Once you get over the initial shock that you have it, you just begin to think about taking it out, and that’s exactly what Dr. Stifelman did.” He performed surgery on Leo that November – on Leo’s birthday – and removed the cancer.

“I am not done taking care of the people I love yet. You need to fix me,” Gerard recalls saying to Dr. Stifelman upon their first appointment. Dr. Stifelman quickly put him at ease by reassuring Gerard that kidney cancer, when caught early, can be treated.

On the day of Gerard’s surgery in February 2019, Dr. Stifelman approached Gerard wearing a Brooklyn Nets shirt. “He assumed I was a fan, and he wore it for me,” said Gerard. “I am a Brooklyn Nets fan, but told him I grew up a Knicks fan!” They shared a laugh and headed into surgery, where Dr. Stifelman successfully performed a partial nephrectomy and removed the cancerous growth.

From Grateful Patients to Co-Chairs

When Dr. Stifelman approached Gerard and Leo to co-chair the 2nd Annual Urology Research and Education Dinner, it was a no brainer for the two friends turned grateful patients. “We were so pleased to help in any way we could,” said Leo. “We went through our rolodexes and said, ‘let’s raise some money.’” The care that both men, and their families received was influential in their participation as co-chairs for the event.

Gerard and Leo agree that the entire care team made their wives, Sandra and Kathy, feel part of the process. The emotional support their spouses received was greatly appreciated. “There is the physical side to cancer that we were undergoing,” said Leo. “But the emotional guidance our wives received was just as important. Dr. Stifelman made our families feel comfortable and we are so grateful.”

“I was happy to help the department that helped me,” said Gerard. “During my ordeal, I met so many wonderful, caring and capable nurses and physicians. I don’t hesitate recommending Hackensack University Medical Center’s Department of Urology. I am not only a grateful patient, but I intend to be a strong ambassador for Hackensack University Medical Center.”

Together, Leo and Gerard have referred many friends and family members to Hackensack University Medical Center’s Department of Urology. “I have recommended Dr. Stifelman and his care team to everyone in need of a urology physician,” Leo shared. “I feel like a poster child with the potential to save someone’s life, especially when I refer someone, if something is detected, and it’s taken care of right away.”

Gerard and Leo knew right away that he was the right physician to take care of them. “We both knew that Dr. Stifelman was the best to make us better,” said Leo. “We had our hands held by Dr. Stifelman every step of the way. Now, Gerard and I each share that bond for the rest of our lives.”

Learn More

To learn more about how you can support Hackensack University Medical Center’s Department of Urology through generous charitable giving, please contact Courtney Klein at courtney.klein@hackensackmeridian.org or 201-250-2986. To make a gift online, visit hackensackumcfoundation.org/urology.
2019 Accomplishments

APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS:
Ravi Munver, M.D., appointed to Board of NY Section of American Urologic Association
Best Poster Award, World Congress of Endourology, Abu Dhabi, 2019

CONFERENCE FACULTY:
AUA 2019 Chicago, course: “Firefly and Upper Tract Reconstruction”
AUA 2019 Chicago, podium presentation: “Radiation-Induced Distal Ureteral Stricture”
AUA 2019 Chicago, podium presentation: “Surgical Technology 7 Stimulation: Instrumentation & Technology I”
AUA 2019 Chicago, podium presentation: “Adherence to the AUA Penile Prosthesis Antibiotic Prophylaxis Guidelines in Diabetic Patients Is Associated With Significantly Higher Risks of Device Infection”
AUA 2019 Chicago, podium presentation: “Availability of Male and Female Fertility and Sexual Health Information on National Cancer Institute Designated Cancer Center Websites”
WCE 2019 Abu Dhabi, moderator, movie session: “Single Port Surgery is Coming Back”

NARUS 2019 Las Vegas, lecture: “History of Robotic Surgery - Overcoming the Sceptics”
NARUS 2019 Las Vegas, lecture: “Ureteral Graft/Ileal Ureter/Ureteroenteric Stricture Post Cystectomy”
NARUS 2019 Las Vegas, lecture: “How to Pitch for a PA”
NARUS 2019 Las Vegas, lecture: “Kidney Hilum: Selective Clamp”
NARUS 2019 Las Vegas, live surgeon, lecturer
CILR 2019 Barcelona, live surgeon, lecturer

INVITED TALKS/LECTURES:
Visiting professor and surgeon: Challenges in Laparoscopy and Surgeon “Buccal Mucosa Ureteroplasty,” Barcelona, July 2019
Co-director and lecturer, NARUS, “Robotic Urinary Reconstruction”
Visiting Professor at New York Medical College, December 2017, Valhalla, New York: “Controversies and Recent Advances”
Lecturer, Prostate Cancer and Urologic Symposium: “Robotic Cystectomy – Lessons Learned,” November 2019

ABSTRACTS/VIDEO PRESENTATIONS:

***** “Relationships Between Erectile Dysfunction, Prostate Cancer Treatment Type and Inflatable Penile Prosthesis (IPP) Implantation,” Sadeghi-Nejad H, AUA Chicago.
19-7654-P “Multi-institutional Experience With Robotic Ureteral Reconstruction of Long-Segment (>4 cm) Proximal and Middle Ureteral Strictures,” Stifelman M, Patel N, AUA Chicago.


MP14-14  “The Dirty Prostate” – Background Peripheral Zone Apparent Diffusion Coefficient Does Not Appear to Differ Between False and True Negatives on Prostatic mpMRI,” Stifelman M, Wajswol E, Koster H, Basralian K, WCE Abu Dhabi.


PUBLICATIONS:

Urology, 2019
“Examining Genitalia: Chaperone or Go It Alone?” Watson RA

Journal of Endourology, 2019

European Urology Supplements, 2019

Sexual Medicine Reviews, 2019

Journal Sexual Medicine, 2019

British Journal of Urology, 2019
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As a referring physician, we consider you part of our team, and we value open and seamless communication with you. We are available to answer any questions you may have for more information or to make an appointment, please call 551-996-8090.