I hope everyone is excited for the 2012 Florida Urological Society's Annual Meeting. This year's meeting will be held from August 30th to September 2nd at the incomparable Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek hotel located in Orlando just off Walt Disney World's property.

The scientific sessions arranged by Dr. David Thiel from the Mayo Clinic Jacksonville are going to be outstanding and include some of the brightest urologists that each of our academic institutions has to offer. Highlights include best practice lectures, the annual Segura Lecture: Prostate Cancer Screening: Controversies and New Technology, the resident debates and for the first time at the Florida Urological Annual Meeting a live surgical broadcast of a robotic surgery.

We will continue our successful allied health conference and encourage all urologists with allied health providers to consider sending them to this meeting as we believe it will be rewarding both to them and to your practice.

This year's meeting will also continue to have a socioeconomic session, which will focus on the current changes in our healthcare delivery system. Scheduled to speak will be James Corcoran, MD, our local Medicare carrier's Chief Medical Officer. We will also have Mr. Indest from The Health Law Firm giving a presentation on the Recovery Audit Contractors.

The Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek, which allows reciprocal privileges between the Hilton and Waldorf Astoria hotels, has a variety of premium services and amenities including a full service Waldorf Astoria spa, a Rees Jones 18-hole championship golf course, three pool areas and complimentary transportation to the Disney theme parks, which literally surround the resort. This is certainly a resort that the whole family will enjoy. The Florida Urological Society has been able to negotiate a room rate of $129 for this wonderful event making this a "can't miss" meeting.

As always, we will have our annual golf tournament on Saturday afternoon. The Saturday night banquet will be held at Typhoon Lagoon so bring the whole family and a bathing suit, as we will have the lazy river running throughout the meeting. The 2012 meeting promises to be an outstanding event held at an outstanding location that will please the whole family. I look forward to seeing you all over the Labor Day
Program Committee Report
David D. Thiel, MD

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Florida Urological Society is fast approaching. It will take place August 30 - September 2, 2012, at the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek in Orlando, Florida. As always, we will utilize the excellent academic physicians in our state to present an informative program in combination with invited faculty from outside our state. This year's program has been constructed based on responses from member surveys pertaining to desired meeting content.

The most experienced prostatectomist in the world, Dr. Vipul Patel of the Global Robotics Institute, will perform the first live surgery in our society's history. He will perform a live robotic prostatectomy that will be moderated by Dr. Julio Pow-Sang and Dr. Robert Carey. We will have a video-based session pertaining to the surgical management of benign prostatic hyperplasia. Dr. Mitchell Humphreys, Dr. Mahmood Hai, Dr. Rakesh Patel and Dr. Paul Young will demonstrate their favorite innovative techniques for surgical management of BPH and debate their outcomes.

Surgical innovation is what makes the field of urology stand above all others. We will feature a session focused on the most innovative developments in our field including new surgical robots, holmium laser radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer and new advances in surgical imaging. The session will be moderated by Dr. Raymond Leveillee and include Dr. Li-Ming Su from the University of Florida. We are honored to have Dr. Duke Herrell from Vanderbilt University participate in this session as well. A known surgical innovator, we look forward to his contribution to this session as well as to his separate lecture on advanced robotic urologic reconstruction.

Proton Beam Radiotherapy has taken north Florida and some parts of the nation by storm. Dr. Randal Henderson from the Shands Jacksonville Proton Therapy Institute will explain the role of proton beam therapy in clinically localized prostate cancer. Dr. Raymond Pak from Atlanta, Georgia, will give a much requested update on ureteroscopic instruments and techniques for stones, tumors, and strictures. A panel of the finest incontinence surgeons in Florida will discuss controversies surrounding female pelvic prolapse.

Another requested topic by our membership pertains to prostate cancer screening and improved prostate cancer diagnostics. Dr. Joel B. Nelson, the Frederic N. Schwentker professor of urology and chairman at the University of Pittsburgh, has agreed to discuss the issues at our meeting. He is an excellent speaker and a thought leader in prostate cancer. We are excited to welcome him as the Segura lecturer. Dr. Gregory Broderick and Dr. Lawrence Hakim will follow this lecture with their thoughts on erectile rehabilitation following prostatectomy.

As always the program will include "Best Practice" lectures from such experts as Dr. Bruce Kava and Dr. Philipp Dahm. The popular resident debates and pyelogram competition are also a fixture of our scientific program. New this year will also be a robotic skills competition for residents. We think this program will be very informational for all participants and look forward to seeing you there!
The fund balance for the FUS, as of June 30, 2012, is $436,121. The society account balance is $409,031, and is held in a JPMorgan Chase checking account that has been stable in otherwise uncertain financial conditions. As of June 30, 2012, society income was $138,735 for the year. Consistent with the year prior, about one third of this is from dues and contributions, and the other two thirds from the annual meeting. For the current year, nearly 90% of dues paying members have paid their dues. Our expenses this year through June 30, 2012 totaled $61,530, giving us an operating surplus totaling $77,205. The Florida Urological Society is well prepared for this year's annual meeting. We will continue with our tradition that includes a strong scientific program, an outstanding and informative socioeconomic program, as well as our traditional Florida urology residency program events. As many annual meeting attendees can attest to, the FUS annual meeting continues to be a superb venue for state-of-the-art discussions relating to urologic patient care, staying updated with national and state policies that influence our practice, interacting with industry, and meeting with colleagues. I again thank all our members, contributors and leadership for their support and efforts that have made our state society one of the best.

News From the Florida Medical Association
Neal Dunn, MD

It is my pleasure this year to serve as a delegate to the FMA from the FUS as well as serve as the chairman of the FMA's Council on Legislation. It has been a very busy year. The 60-day legislative session began and ended earlier than usual this year to give legislators time to draw boundaries for new legislative and congressional districts. Legislators are now in full campaign mode as we head into the August primary and November general election. The FMA is working hard to elect pro-medicine candidates to the Florida House and Senate.

The FMA's 2012 Annual Meeting was held in mid-July in Boca Raton. This year, the FUS sent three delegates to attend the FMA Annual Meeting: myself, Dr. Edward D. King and Dr. Alan K. Miller. In addition, I serve on the FMA's Specialty Society Section (SSS) that met on Friday, July 27th. The purpose of the SSS is to provide representation of all specialty organizations within the Florida Medical Association and maintain liaison with and serve in an advisory capacity to all recognized specialty groups, the Board of Governors and the House of Delegates. The SSS also provides a mechanism for specialty societies to collectively participate in the deliberations of the House of Delegates, to establish a system for effective and efficient mutual communications between FMA and the specialty societies and to provide for input and participation in FMA activities by the specialty societies and their representatives. As a group, the SSS will closely evaluate and discuss all of the proposed resolutions for consideration by the respective Reference Committees and FMA House of Delegates.

On Sunday, July 29th, the FMA's Scope of Practice Task Force invited all specialty societies to attend and address the Task Force on scope of practice issues. I had the honor of serving as a member of this Task Force. The purpose of this Task Force is to develop specific recommendations for the FMA Board of Governors to consider on scope of practice issues prior to the beginning of the 2013 legislative session. The FMA Scope of Practice Task Force analyzes national trends,
reviews the legislative and political landscapes in Florida, and seeks input from all interested parties. I look forward to sharing the discussions brought before the Task Force with the FUS.

FUS State Affairs Update
Ross E. Weber, WJ Welser State Affairs Manager

FUS joins unprecedented coalition to support USPSTF reform
The FUS recently joined the eight Sections of the AUA and 23 state and sub-specialty societies on a letter in support of HR 5998, the USPSTF Transparency and Accountability Act. The legislation, in part, amends the Affordable Care Act to strike language granting the USPSTF authority to determine whether public programs may cover vital preventative services, including PSA testing.

Related: Urologists secure state opposition to PCa screening recommendation

Non-profit incites drug addicts’ sterilization
Over the course of several weeks in April and May 2012, an RV driven by Bonnie Harris served as a tour bus of sorts, making stops throughout the Sunshine State. Harris was not promoting an album or traveling with the circus, nor was she surveying open fields to set up a tent revival. Harris was preaching a motivating message, however. As she drove from Charlotte to Montgomery and on to Tallahassee and Tampa, every side of her 30-foot motor home announced: "GET BIRTH CONTROL or GET STERILIZED GET $300 CASH."

Scott wants cancer care better orchestrated (Gainesville Sun)
Gov. Rick Scott is warning nonprofit cancer research centers in Florida: If you franchise your brands to private entities, you'll risk losing state research funding.

FL one of 13 states trimming Medicaid (Kaiser Health News)
Florida has company in wanting to cut Medicaid expense; it awaits federal permission to cap the number of doctor visits per month and other coverage.

Q&A With Don Gaetz (Florida Current)
Although incoming Senate President Don Gaetz opposes the Affordable Care Act, the longtime nursing home executive wants to see what parts of it would benefit a state with steadily rising populations of elderly and poor residents.

Success begets success: Urologists achieve legislative victories
From Annapolis to Olympia and from Pierre to Atlanta, urologists laid the groundwork to create a positive practice environment and protect patients for years to come. Hundreds of physicians contributed in various forms to influence the legislative process in their states. Each investment of time, whether it was two minutes sending a message via the AACU
Action Center, or two hours in a personal meeting with elected officials, achieved considerable returns.

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Are Your Vendors Industry Partners?
The Florida Urological Society is now offering industry partnerships. We are currently seeking industry partners who share our commitment to growth and excellence in the field of urology in the state of Florida. The purpose of the membership will be to openly discuss the goals of the state society and identify initiatives that are closely aligned with those of our industry partners. This knowledge will enable us to work in tandem throughout the year on projects to improve the quality of patient care. This partnership also allows for many marketing opportunities for additional exposure throughout the meeting.

If you have vendors you do regular business with, ask them to become a partner. Thank you for your help!

Mark Your Calendars!

65th Annual Meeting
Florida Urological Society
August 29 - September 1, 2013
Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina
Tampa, Florida