I am truly humbled for the opportunity to serve as the president of the Florida Urologic Society (FUS), especially when I consider the large number of esteemed and influential urologists and FUS members throughout the state. This opportunity is not about me individually or only about the FUS Board of Directors. Rather, I see this time as an opportunity to further strengthen the unity of a body of physician surgeons and providers of urological healthcare to a wide-ranging population of patients during an ever-changing health care environment. Furthermore, it is an opportunity to strengthen relationships and networks with numerous urologists from highly respected, small and large community practices that make up the heart of the Florida Urologic Society and build upon the relationships and trust amongst numerous outstanding teaching centers throughout the State. At present, the Florida Urologic Society membership and annual meeting are more robust than most state societies and several other AUA sections. These facts alone suggest that we have opportunities different from many other organizations to impact urological health education and to certainly influence health policy. I can only hope to follow in the footsteps of many tremendous FUS presidents, officers and members who have preceded me and who still continue to invest time, thought, energy and leadership into a very worthwhile and valuable state society.

Our most recent 2015 FUS Annual Meeting held in Orlando was a very noteworthy success. No doubt we are indebted to the immediate Past President Dr. Paul Young and the most recent Scientific Chair Dr. Vipul Patel for a highly educational and impactful program. Those who have had the opportunity to plan a meeting understand the commitment and dedication required to make an event like the annual FUS meeting such a resounding success. There was tremendous value and balance to an academic program that captured the expertise of numerous speakers and panelists from throughout our state and featured an excellent number of very prominent and highly respected national urologists who provided insight and cutting edge information on numerous topics. Great job, everyone, and once again, the expected quality for future meetings has been raised even higher!

As most members are aware, the venue for the annual meeting alternates every other year from a central location (Orlando) to a different region of the state. In September 2016, our FUS meeting will be held at the very beautiful Ritz Carlton Resort on Amelia Island, Florida. We believe this will be a tremendous location for combining the very high educational value of the FUS meeting with the relaxing environment of the Northeast Florida Coast. I look forward to working with Dr. Christopher Gomez and Dr. Sanoj Punnen, both from the University of Miami, who will serve as Co-Chairs for the scientific program. We anticipate another well-rounded and meaningful educational and academic event with information that will carry over into our individual practices,

Continued on following page
regardless of our own specialty interests. Of course, our Society is absolutely blessed with numerous influential thought leaders in health policy and socioeconomics. In today’s medical environment, keeping abreast of healthcare changes at both state and federal levels remains of paramount importance and we plan to continue to offer updates to our membership whenever possible – including the socioeconomic forum at the annual meetings. Although the location will mean that some will have to travel farther than usual, it is our hope that the quality and value of the meeting, the relaxing family friendly venue, and the opportunity to further your relationships with other FUS members will drive your decision to participate in this annual event.

What I’ve come to understand and greatly appreciate through my participation with the FUS is that we all have different insight to the successes and current-day challenges of providing healthcare to patients and friends that have been entrusted to us. In large part, these differences are what make the FUS and the relationships I’ve been fortunate enough to develop through this society critical to my continued growth as a physician and as a urologic surgeon. Trying to better understand and capitalize on the amazing wealth of clinical, research, socioeconomic and health policy experiences of our FUS members has been an absolutely tremendous benefit for me personally and something that is readily available to those who would seek to take advantage of what our Society has to offer.

At some point in our lives, I would argue that most of us felt some altruistic pull into this much-honored profession. Although changes in healthcare are inevitable and very often uncomfortable, we are still able to impact a person or a family at their most intimate level. That fact alone drives me to persevere in today’s environment. Amidst these changes, my hope is that I can approach this opportunity to lead with an example that I have tried to emulate in different aspects of my life. I often reflect on the very basic, but piercingly true core values that I learned from day one of my training in the United States Air Force: “Integrity First. Service Before Self. Excellence in All We Do.” Living, practicing and leading by these core values keep us grounded, humble and focused towards the goals and opportunities at hand. It is an exciting time for the Florida Urologic Society and I am honored to be a part of this membership.

“...Although changes in healthcare are inevitable and very often uncomfortable, we are still able to impact a person or a family at their most intimate level...”
As the incoming chairman of the Nominating Committee, it is my pleasure to announce the new officers and other posts filled. The slate was approved by the FUS membership at our last annual business meeting. Once again, we have a very active membership and there were more people interested in positions than we had spaces to fill. I encourage anyone who wishes to participate in any of our committees, wishes to be an officer, or wishes to fill a post to contact me, so we may consider you for a position next year. And now to the approved slate:

Michael A. Binder Chair
Vincent G. Bird, MD Past President
Gregory A. Broderick, MD Member at Large
*Alan M. Nieder, MD Member at Large
Paul R. Young, MD Past President

The following members were approved to fill the vacancies at the FUS Annual Business Meeting on September 6, 2015, in Orlando.

OFFICERS
President: Wade J. Sexton, MD
President-Elect: Rolando Rivera, MD
Secretary-Treasurer: Rafael E. Carrion, MD
Immediate Past President: Paul R. Young, MD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Two-year terms)
Mark G. Bandyk, MD, MPH *Jamin Brahmbhatt, MD
*Paul L. Crispen, MD J. Nicole Eisenbrown, MD
Bruce R. Kava, MD *Nicolas A. Muruve, MD

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPRESENTATION
“With over 500 members, FUS is the largest state society in SESAUA”

The Southeastern Section of the AUA (SESAUA) allots state delegate representation based on the number of members in a state society. With over 500 members, FUS is the largest state society in SESAUA. We are fortunate to therefore appoint five delegates and five alternate delegates (for each delegate) to serve three-year terms, which begin and conclude at the close of the spring meeting of the SESAUA Board of Directors. Both delegates and alternate delegates are expected to attend that meeting, with delegates casting votes on various matters that set the direction of the SESAUA. (Alternate delegates step in to vote only in the absence of a delegate. In most cases, alternates ascend to the delegate position upon completion of their term.)

DELEGATES TO THE SESAU
Michael A. Dennis, Jr., MD Term expires 2018
Sijo J. Parekkattil, MD Term expires 2017
*Vipul Patel, MD Term expires 2019
Rolando Rivera, MD Term expires 2017
Paul R. Young, MD Term expires 2018

*Newly Elected on Sept. 6, 2015

The FUS is entitled to three delegates and three alternate delegates to the Florida Medical Association (FMA) based on our total membership and the percentage of members who also belong to the FMA.

FMA DELEGATES
Donald M. Bergner, MD
Edward D. King, MD
Eduardo Puente, MD

ALTERNATE DELEGATES TO THE FMA
Victoria Y. Bird, MD
Michael A. Poch, MD
Arash Rafiei, MD

FUS NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2015 – 2016
The composition of the FUS Nominating Committee is defined in our Bylaws. There are five voting members, consisting of two members-at-large and the three most recent past presidents. The most senior past president serves as the chair of the committee. The two members-at-large serve staggered two-year terms. For the 2015 – 2016 year, the members of our Nominating Committee will be:

Paul R. Young, MD 1st Past President
Vincent G. Bird, MD 2nd Past President
Michael A. Binder, MD 3rd Past President
Greg Broderick, MD Member-at-Large 2014 – 2016
Alan Nieder, MD Member-at-Large 2015 – 2017

APPOINTED POSITIONS
In addition to the elected positions outlined above, the FUS president appoints the Annual Scientific Program Chair and several standing committees, including: Bylaws, Legislative and Government Policy and Membership. If you have an interest in serving on any of these committees, please contact current FUS President Wade J. Sexton, MD.

PARTICIPATION IN THE FLORIDA UROLOGICAL SOCIETY
The success of our society is based on participation by you, our members. If you would like to nominate a member of our society for a position, or if you would like to be considered for a position yourself, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

We would like to thank all of our members who have expressed interest in getting more involved in the FUS. The number of vacancies varies each year, with fewer vacancies this past year than usual. Nevertheless, your interest is appreciated and we hope to see you at next year’s FUS Annual Meeting.
Secretary/Treasurer’s Report
Rafael E. Carrion, MD

I am very honored to serve as the Florida Urological Society (FUS) Secretary/Treasurer, alongside Dr. Wade Sexton (current FUS President) and Dr. Rolando Rivera (current FUS President-Elect). The opportunity to continue to work for my colleagues and our professional society is one that I accept humbly, and will fulfill with diligence and tenacity.

The FUS 67th Annual Meeting hosted by Dr. Paul Young (now past president) and chaired by Dr. Vip Patel was a great success. The academic caliber of the scientific program, speakers and venue were second-to-none. I commend all those who participated in the scientific program for their dedication and outstanding work. The robust attendance and positive feedback also directly reflects on this excellent recent program. Our membership has and will continue to experience this level of excellence in our meetings, which certainly distinguishes us from many other annual state meetings. We will continue to seek their guidance, along with the past and current leadership, to assist us in our endeavors as we progress through this year.

The FUS has a very strong membership, not only in numbers but also in the quality of dedicated and caring professionals in our state. However, we still have outstanding potential for growth. We would like to involve many more of our peers that are not members and re-engage many of our colleagues that may have not been active in past years. As well, we need to involve the younger urologists in our state, some of which have trained in other sections and may not be familiar with the significant opportunities that the FUS has to offer, not only professionally but personally as well. I am certain that we have many resources in Florida yet to develop, and I am hopeful that through partnership with our members across the state, we will do so. We are very close to having the number of members that will allow us to add another representative to the Southeastern Section Board, expanding our ability to promote and voice the needs and concerns of all of us in our state to the next level.

Financially, the FUS is sound and growing. We are interested in continuing to expand our resources in a responsible fashion, which will further allow us to fulfill our mission and provide continued educational resources and information, and certainly maintain the same level of excellence in our future meetings. Hence, this aspect is managed with extreme caution, transparency, and integrity to optimize a robust financial future.

Lastly, we encourage you to remain engaged and we welcome suggestions to further our mission. Thank you for the continued support to the FUS. We look forward to further interactions throughout the year and expect to see many of you in Amelia Island.

Message From the Immediate Past President
Paul R. Young, MD

The 67th Annual Meeting of the Florida Urological Society came and went very quickly. A year ago it was just taking shape. An incredible amount of work by many people is needed to make a meeting like ours come to fruition.

Dr. Vip Patel spent many hours creating the program and contacting speakers. As all of you know, there are always last minute cancellations and other unexpected events that happen as the program is taking shape. Dr. Patel handled all these distractions with ease and grace. His vision of providing an inclusive program in all areas of urology with special emphasis on genomics came off without a flaw. I have a much clearer idea of how to use these new genetic tests because of the fabulous lectures I heard during the meeting and during the Saturday afternoon optional sessions. The era of precision/individualized medicine is rapidly materializing. The Society thanks Dr. Patel for an outstanding scientific program.

I would like to thank all the speakers for their hard work preparing their talks and their willingness to share their expertise.

Thanks also go to the residents for presenting cases and debates in a very scholarly and entertaining manner.

The socioeconomic session is an integral part of our meeting. More and more, all of us, regardless of practice setting, have to deal with ever increasing regulatory demands. Every year I learn something new that I probably didn’t want to know, but need to know. I’m looking forward to following the political career of Dr. Neal Dunn after hearing him speak at this year’s FUS meeting. I really like the prospect of having a physician who had an active career in urology being in government instead of a career politician.

Finally I’d like to recognize and thank the Weiser group for all their efforts in organizing the meeting. Pam, Janel and Kelly Ann did an awesome job making the meeting run smoothly and making my job easier.

I hope everyone enjoyed Loews Portofino Bay and all it had to offer. Next year’s meeting in Amelia Island should also be spectacular. It is a great property in a unique setting.

My year as President of the Florida Urologic Society was a highlight of my career. I consider it a privilege and an honor to have served as president. Thank you all who helped me during my time as president. I look forward to seeing everyone I have gotten to know through my involvement with the FUS. I hope to continue making new connections in the years to come.

See you in 2016 with Dr. Wade Sexton at the helm of the Florida Urological Society.
Panama City physician Dr. Neal Dunn has entered the 2016 race for Florida’s 2nd Congressional District seat, which is currently represented by Gwen Graham, D-Tallahassee. Dr. Dunn filed as a Republican candidate in early August, designating “Friends of Neal Dunn” as the principal campaign committee for the race and launching an official campaign website (www.nealdunn.com). Dr. Dunn will challenge Tallahassee attorney Mary Thomas in the Republican primary next August. Dr. Dunn served 10 years as a U.S. Army surgeon before spending 25 years as a surgeon in Panama City. He is the founding president of the Advanced Urology Institute, a practice with 45 doctors and more than 400 employees in North Florida, and he founded Panama City Urology Center & the Bay Regional Cancer Center.

A number of current and former members of the Florida House and Senate have endorsed Dr. Dunn in recent weeks, including: Reps. Dennis Baxley (Ocala), Jay Trumbull (Panama City) and Elizabeth Porter (Lake City), as well as former Speaker Allan Bense, former Senate President Don Gaetz and former Speaker Will Weatherford. (Panama City News Herald, August 3, 2015; Tallahassee Democrat, August 10, 2015; SaintPetersBlog, October 8, 2015)

Florida moves to keep more medical residents in state, but thousands more are needed by 2025

Hospitals statewide have added 422 residency slots this year, bringing the total number to about 4,400, according to the Teaching Hospital Council of Florida. A recent study found Florida will be short nearly 7,000 physician specialists over the next decade — and will need to create more than 13,500 new residency positions to address the deficit. Florida had 19 medical residents per 100,000 citizens in 2011 — the ninth-lowest rate in the country, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges. The national average was 36.6. New York had 82.2.

The concern over graduate medical education in Florida has caught the attention of state lawmakers. In 2013, Gov. Rick Scott and the Legislature dedicated $80 million in recurring state and federal funds to growing residency programs. Earlier this year, they created a program that gives hospitals a $100,000 bonus for each new residency position in certain specialties. The investment from the state enabled All Children’s Hospital Johns Hopkins Medicine in St. Petersburg to add almost 10 residency positions this year. The hospital has about 70 residents between its two programs, hospital executives said. Separately, the for-profit hospital chain HCA last week announced a partnership with the University of Central Florida that will create another 550 slots in hospitals across northern Florida.

Hospitals and their university partners still have a long way to go. In particular, they’ll need to boost the number of residency positions in psychiatry, general surgery, rheumatology and thoracic surgery—four of the specialties expected to have the largest deficits in 2025. What’s more, they’ll have to focus on creating new slots in southwest Florida, north central Florida and the central Panhandle, where the shortage will be the most acute. Whether the Legislature will further increase funding to address the problem is unclear. Senate Health Policy Chairman Aaron Bean, R-Fernandina Beach, said he believes the federal government should direct more federal dollars for residency programs to Florida. (Tampa Bay Times, October 17, 2015)

Court rules against damage caps for medical malpractice

A Florida court recently ruled that caps on certain damages in medical malpractice lawsuits do not apply in personal injury cases. The Legislature in 2003 established $500,000 limits on non-economic damages for such cases. Last year, the state Supreme Court ruled they don’t apply in medical malpractice cases involving wrongful death. The 4th District Court of Appeal extended that decision last week to personal injury cases. Attorney Crane Johnstone of Fort Lauderdale’s Schlesinger Law Offices says the ruling could open the door statewide to more personal injury medical malpractice lawsuits. The appeals court’s decision reinstates a $4.7 million damage award to Susan Kalitan, who sued North Broward Hospital District and other entities over complications from carpal tunnel syndrome surgery. (The Associated Press, July 5, 2015)

Surprise medical bills worse in Florida than most states, report says Florida consumers are getting hit with charges for medical services costing 500 percent to 800 percent more than Medicare pays for emergency visits, scans and other procedures, a group representing health insurers said. On certain emergency charges, for example, Florida ranks in the most expensive fifth of states, according to a report from America’s Health Insurance Plans. It’s an issue that has drawn national attention from groups like Consumers Union, but efforts to get a handle on surprise bills, particularly those related to emergency visits, fizzled in Florida’s legislature last spring. Lobbyists for medical providers and insurers could not agree on various versions of the bill. That means under the “balance billing” the legislation was designed to address, consumers often wind up getting stuck with the tab.

Highlights of AHIP’s report relating to Florida include:

- Potential charges for cervical/thoracic spinal injections averaged more than 800 percent of the Medicare fee for the same procedure.
- Some patients seeking emergency care faced potential excess charges averaging more than 700 percent of the Medicare fee.
- Ultrasonic guidance for biopsies incurred charges averaging more than 500 percent of the Medicare fee.
- Patients that underwent brain MRIs also saw potential charges averaging more than 500 percent of the Medicare fee.

(TampBayTimes.com, October 5, 2015)
Florida Urological Society
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Lawrence S. Hakim, MD, FACS  Weston Hills
Alan M. Nieder, MD  Miami Beach
Sijo J. Parekattil, MD  Clermont
Vipul R. Patel, MD, FACS  Celebration

Bylaws Committee Chair
Robert I. Carey, MD, PhD  Sarasota

Legislative/Government Policy Committee Co-Chairs
Michael A. Binder, MD  Gainesville
Scott B. Sellinger, MD  Tallahassee

Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee
Matthew M. Merrell, MD  Daytona Beach
(Alternative Representative)
Terrence C. Regan, MD  Palm Coast
(Representative)

Membership Committee Co-Chair
David D. Thiel, MD  Jacksonville

Nominating Committee
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Paul R. Young, MD  Ponte Vedra Beach
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(Co-Chair)
Sanoj Punnen, MD MAS  Miami
(Co-Chair)
Wade J. Sexton, MD  Tampa
(President)
Sijo J. Parekattil, MD  Clermont

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1950  * Arthur F. Turner, Jr., MD
1951  Alvin Mills, MD
1952  Lee Sharp, MD
1953  George H. Putnam, MD
1954  * Frank M. Woods, MD
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1958  W. Dotson Wells, MD
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2001  Zev Wajsman, MD
2002  * Rustin W. Brown, MD
2003  Martin K. Dineen, MD
2004  Ronald D. Castellanos, MD
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* Deceased

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FUS INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITIES

SEEKING PARTNERS COMMITTED TO GROWTH AND EXCELLENCE

Various forms of health care industry support are vital to the overall strength of the Florida Urological Society. Partnership packages are promotional opportunities and, unlike educational grants, appropriate to discuss with your sales representatives. Customized packages offer enhanced exposure at the FUS Annual Meeting, as well as additional marketing opportunities throughout the year. FUS seeks partners who share our commitment to growth and excellence in the field of urology in the state of Florida. We hope to work in tandem with health care industry colleagues to enhance current member programs and implement new projects that will lead to improved patient care through better physician education and mentoring. Please encourage reputable and valued health care industry companies to support FUS and invite representatives to contact Melissa Huiner (melissa@wjweiser.com) for more information.

If you have vendors you do regular business with, please invite them to become more involved with the FUS.

Thank you for doing your part!
Florida Urological Society
Two Woodfield Lake
1100 East Woodfield Road, Suite 350
Schaumburg, IL  60173-5116

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FUS 68TH ANNUAL MEETING
September 1 – September 4, 2016
Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island
Amelia Island, Florida

FUS 69TH ANNUAL MEETING
August 31 – September 3, 2017
JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes
Orlando, Florida