The Section of Urology enjoyed a year of professional and staff stability and significant growth in clinical productivity and case diversity. Already established as a regional referral service in oncology and voiding dysfunction, the Section expanded its tertiary repertoire in the areas of reconstruction, male reproductive medicine, and obstructive uropathy. Improvements in surgical volumes, especially in the areas of stone disease and obstructive uropathy, and an increase in new patient appointments, reflect the Section’s commitment to timely, comprehensive service to the DHMC community.

Patient Care

Urology has completed a successful year in terms of improving care to our patients. Over the past year, we have continued to work on improving access to our patients. Kelley Hamill Lemay, NP joined Urology in February of 2005, and has worked with Dr. Ann Gormley to improve access for our female urology and voiding dysfunction patients. Dr. John Heaney and Dr. John Seigne, aided by Laura Stempkowski, NP, continue to expand the GU oncology program, providing comprehensive evaluation and treatment to a widening community of patients and physicians.

With two experienced laparoscopic surgeons, the Institution is uniquely positioned to remain on the forefront of this important and evolving approach to the treatment of GU malignancies. Collaborating with his colleagues in diagnostic radiology, Dr. Seigne has established a dedicated PSA/prostate biopsy clinic which will be adding another dedicated clinic this fall in the Norris Cotton Cancer Center. The laparoscopically-assisted live donor nephrectomy program continues to expand under the guidance of Dr. Seigne and represents an example of successful collaboration with the Section of Transplantation Surgery. Dr. Lori Lerner continues to provide a minimally invasive laser-based option for the treatment of BPH (benign prostatic hyperplasia). Employing holmium laser energy, obstructing prostatic tissue is either ablated or enucleated, resulting in decreased hospitalization and shortened convalescence.

Dr. Ajay Nangia has brought vasectomy procedures from the OR’s minor procedure room to our clinic’s new procedure room, which is allowing better access to this service every Friday.

William Bihrlle, MD
Section Chief
Associate Professor of Surgery

Kelley Hamill Lemay, NP

Urology Gross Revenue (in millions)

Urology Cases
Our operating block is increasing this fall to match our growing demand of surgical cases, which will improve our surgery wait times. As a Section, we continue to look at ways to improve access and care to our patients.

**Education**

The Urology RRC of the ACGME approved Dartmouth’s petition to train two residents per year, completing a transition begun by Drs. Heaney and Gormley four years ago. The approval recognizes the growth in clinical GU services at DHMC and the important addition of the Concord Hospital affiliation. Eight residents—two in the research year—allows greater flexibility in the educational block and guarantees a more uniform clinical experience for our trainees.

Hosting four DMS subinterns this summer, each of whom plans a career in urology, speaks to the beguiling nature of the specialty and the mentoring of a staff committed to education. Dr. Nangia, our student clerkship director, deserves credit for the growing local interest in our specialty.

Dr. Dan Herz, a pediatric urologist coming from Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York, joined Dr. Paul Merguerian in the Section of Pediatric Surgery, solidifying what has become a very strong aspect of the residency program.

**Faculty Activities**

Section faculty remain generously active in regional and national organized urology; we count no fewer than 10 officer and committee assignments in our various societies. Dr. Gormley, Vice President of the Society of Female Urology and Urodynamics, has been invited to sit on the AUA Residency Training Task Force; she continues as her Society’s editor for the Journal of Urology. Dr. Gormley and Dr. Lerner delivered the “Take Home Message” synopsis for urodynamics and BPH respectively, at this year’s annual AUA meeting. Dr. Lerner was named to represent the New England Section in the AUA Leadership Program. Climbing the organized infertility ladder, Dr. Nangia chairs the Ethics Committee of the American Andrology Association and is a new board member of the Society for the Study of Male Reproduction. Dr. Seigne recently delivered a state of the art presentation on penile cancer at the annual meeting of ASCO. He continues to represent New Hampshire on the NES - AUA Board of Directors and sits on the AUA Superficial Bladder Cancer Guidelines Panel.

**Research**

Dartmouth residents are authoring four podium and poster presentations at this year’s annual NES - American Urological Meeting. In collaboration with Dr. Bin Chen at Borwell Labs, Dr. Curtis Crane has demonstrated increased tumor vascular permeability following PDT in a rat prostate cancer model. His co-resident, Dr. Kwabana Pobi, under the direction of Dr. Merguerian, has defined the parameters for a successful hypospadias repair and presents the CHaD experience with (Deflux) in the treatment of pediatric vesicoureteral reflux. At the same meeting, recent graduate Dr. Tom Schwaab presented the DHMC experience with autologous dendritic cell vaccine in combination with immunomodulators in the treatment of metastatic RCC, work performed in conjunction with Dr. Seigne and Dr. Marc Ernstoff. Dr. Peter Steinberg, our rising research resident, is developing an efficient algorithm for the treatment of muscle invasive bladder cancer and expanding a database to assess the impact on diabetes and hyperglycemia on cystectomy outcomes.