Making the case: Why you should care about the SIU Congress

The time has come again to set our sights on the upcoming SIU Congress—our 37th—in magnificent Lisbon. From October 19 to 22, more than 2,500 urologists, trainees, nurses, and industry partners, representing over 100 countries, will converge upon Portugal’s capital city for the foremost international urology meeting of the year.

Here’s a little-known fact: Lisbon was a finalist for SIU 2014, which was ultimately awarded to Glasgow. But the enthusiasm of Portuguese urologists and the expert support of the local convention bureau swayed the SIU Board of Directors to grant Lisbon the 2017 meeting outright.

For those readers who have perhaps never attended an SIU Congress, or are still getting to know the SIU, suffice to say that we’re typically described by attendees as “the friendliest society”—and we truly are. We appreciate that our participants sometimes travel very long distances to be...
Dear Readers,

Leo Tolstoy wrote “spring is the time of plans and projects”, and this is certainly true for the SIU. We have been busy working on a number of initiatives that will continue to enhance and increase the important services we provide to our members and the urologic community at large. Some of our projects include:

- participation in urological congresses around the world;
- discovering and offering cutting-edge content for the SIU Academy based on user feedback;
- working to endorse SIU-endorsed events;
- and, of course, planning our upcoming congress that is taking place October 19–22 in Lisbon, Portugal!

If you have not yet registered for the SIU Congress, be sure to do so by September 1st in order to capitalize on reduced registration fees. If you are still debating whether to attend, I encourage you to take a moment to read the lead article in this newsletter, which lists the many benefits of attending the Congress for both new and seasoned urologists. You can also explore the Congress website to learn more: [www.siu-urology.org/congress-2017](http://www.siu-urology.org/congress-2017).

We hope this issue of the SIU Newsletter brings you information, insight, and perhaps even a little fun. We are always looking for thought-provoking articles, so if you have a burning issue or would like to share your research, findings, or experience with your colleagues, please consider contributing! All contributions and questions/comments regarding the current issue can be directed to [editor@siu-urology.org](mailto:editor@siu-urology.org).

Wonders and discoveries will never cease. This time, I was taught about a tradition in my own culture. I think this sort of cultural exchange is an interesting dimension of the SIU. Do you have similar experiences?

Dr. Patrick Coloby, current SIU President

Exchange activities among societies provide us with many experiences from which we can learn. You may have noticed, for example, that topics you had chosen for a lecture outside your country did not resonate with that specific audience. I have certainly experienced this. On one occasion during a plenary session, when the topic changed and my turn came to speak, a large part of audience in the venue started drifting away. This surprised me quite a bit.

In this column, I always try to introduce cultural differences I find interesting. Recently, I have experienced a lack of knowledge about my own country's culture. Yet, interestingly enough, I recently learned that Dr. Patrick Coloby, the current President of SIU, takes himself on a Shikoku Pilgrimage called “o-henro-san”. This pilgrimage is a Japanese custom from the Heian period (794–1192). Wayfarers make a pilgrimage to the holy grounds (temples) of Kobodaishi (774–835) in Shikoku. The entire distance covers 1,200km. Dr. Coloby has completed trips to 24 temples to date. During “o-henro-san”, he even dares to dress in traditional outfits. Considering his hectic schedule, I was astonished when he told me that he makes time for these pilgrimages. As the saying goes, “The darkest place is under the candlestick.” Though I was familiar with the term “o-henro-san”, I did not have much knowledge of this tradition, prompting me to explore this Japanese tradition for myself.

Wonders and discoveries will never cease. This time, I was taught about a tradition in my own culture. I think this sort of cultural exchange is an interesting dimension of the SIU. Do you have similar experiences?
Making the case: Why you should care about the SIU Congress  

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a part of the SIU Congress, and to thank them for their support we try to deliver the very best educational and networking experience.

We believe in giving participants real value for their time spent away from practice—this is why this year’s programme is condensed and optimized, offering a synthesized view of the topics that really matter to today’s urologist.

If you are looking for:
• top-tier science;
• stimulating speakers;
• dynamic session formats;
• ample Q&A time;
• opportunities for relaxed networking;
• all at a very reasonable cost;
• then you’ve found the right meeting for you.

This year, we are highlighting three broad thematic tracks, where our Scientific Committee has developed some thought-provoking sessions designed to give you solid takeaway learning. Here are some of the salient features, as selected by Scientific Chair Dr Gopal Badlani.

Uro-Oncology at SIU

Evidence-based outcomes plenary: ProTect, PIVOT and SPCG-4 - placing new evidence into context and implications for patient care.

CRPC plenary session: world-renowned authorities Laurence Klotz, Martin Gleave, Christopher Evans, Boris Hadaschik, Peter Hammerer, Fred Saad, and Himisha Beltran lead a stellar panel on the very latest developments in castrate-resistant PCa.

The World Urologic Oncology Federation programme on Thursday will, as usual, provide first-class lectures from the world’s KOLs in oncology.

Following the WUOF Symposium, this year’s SIU-ICUD Consultation on Bladder Cancer will present its findings. This is an exciting time for bladder cancer developments, and this session will provide important takeaways for your practice.

On Friday, the joint SUO/ESUO plenary session will challenge our knowledge with topics like The Utility of Subsequent Prostate Biopsies for the Active Surveillance of Prostate Cancer when Genomics and MRI Are Negative, and Cytoreductive Nephrectomy in the Era of Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors: Is It the Standard?

Two can’t miss back-to-back Controversies in Oncology sessions, one focusing on the use of radiation for positive surgical margins in prostate cancer and the other on bladder cancer, will discuss among other topics the pros and cons of robotic cystectomy and new diagnostic techniques.

As part of the three-part Masterclass on kidney cancer, we will hear from experts such as Pilar Laguna, René Sotelo, Richard Gaston, Ashok Hemal, Rafael Sánchez Salas, and Robert Uzzo, among others.

Functional Urology at SIU

On Friday, Dr. Alan Wein leads an expert panel on Female Urology, focusing on the enigma of the underactive bladder, the concept of regenerative medicine and methods of application to treat SUI and bladder substitution, and the realities of the use of mesh for repair of sphincteric urinary incontinence and pelvic floor prolapse.

We are again joined by the International Continence Society for a joint session on how to deal with failed surgeries for SUI, understand the different aspects between lap and robotic repair of POP, and get a refresher on recent advances in male LUTS, pediatric urology and innovative techniques in the treatment of urinary incontinence and voiding dysfunction.

Friday’s Controversy session on mesh will tackle the current FDA warnings, the AUA/SUFU/ACOG guidelines for mesh use, and the algorithm for management of mesh complications.

Led by experts Robert Evans and Curtis Nickel, the instructional course on interstitial cystitis will deep-dive into accurately diagnosing IC/BPS and initiating a multimodal care plan. You will learn the role of neuromodulation and chemodenervation in the management of IC/BPS and pelvic floor dysfunction, as well as how to integrate alternative and complementary medicine options.

For the last word on Electrical Neuromodulation for LUTD, pencil in Friday’s instructional course led by Philip van Kerrebroeck, where you will review the history of neuromodulation and understand its background in functional LUTD.

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Learning Objectives:

At the end of this program, participants should be able to discuss:

- The concept of LUTS and the indications for surgery in LUTS patients.
- The current recommended surgical procedures for the different subsets of LUTS patients.
- The new endoscopic enucleation surgery, transurethral vapor enucleation and resection of the prostate (TVERP)/transurethral vapor enucleation of the prostate (TVEP), for BPH or BPO patients.

get the most out of this educational program Don’t forget to answer the pre-and post-test questions to test your knowledge of these new techniques: https://goo.gl/Ywdi70
SIU-IVUmed Collaboration:
Summary of Activities, 2016

SIU and IVUmed work to build access to quality urological training and care throughout the world. Our combination of hands-on training, professional meetings, and online education help build skills among urologists and increase access to care in low-resource settings. We conduct surgical workshops focusing on various urological sub-specialties and send visiting professors to provide follow-up training. In 2016, we accomplished the following:

General and reconstructive urology training
Led by Rob Edelstein, MD
Trained 6 doctors and nurses and served 125 patients

Reconstructive urology training
Led by Sandesh Surana, MD
Trained 34 doctors and nurses and served 20 patients

AJMER, INDIA – February 13–20
General urology training
Led by Raju Thomas, MD
Trained 3 doctors and nurses and served 19 patients

NAIROBI, KENYA – February 2016
Pediatric urology training
Led by Rita Gobet, MD
Trained 35 doctors and served 15 patients

MT. HOPE, TRINIDAD – January 30-February 6, 2016
Pediatric urology training
Led by Pierre Williot, MD
Trained 36 doctors and nurses and served 19 patients

Reconstructive urology training
Led by Joel Gelman, MD
Trained 1 doctor and served 14 patients

KUMASI, GHANA – February 26-March 6, 2016
Pediatric urology training
Led by Rama Jayanthi, MD
Trained 28 doctors and nurses and served 50 patients

PIGNON, HAITI – March 4–15, 2016
Reconstructive urology training
Led by Henri Lanctin, MD
Trained 13 doctors and nurses and served 35 patients

HUE, VIETNAM – March 5–19, 2016
General and endourology training
Led by Lance Hampton, MD
Trained 3 doctors and nurses and served 22 patients

DAKAR, SENEGAL – March 26–April 3, 2016
Reconstructive urology training
Led by Kurt McCammon, MD
Trained 40 doctors and nurses and served 11 patients

DAKAR, SENEGAL – April 19–28, 2016
Pediatric urology training
Led by Francis Schneck, MD
Trained 21 doctors and nurses and served 33 patients

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA – May 1–11, 2016
Pediatric urology training
Led by Siam Oottamasathien, MD
Trained 5 doctors and nurses and served 16 patients

KIGALI, RWANDA – September 9–18, 2016
Pediatric urology training
Led by Rama Jayanthi, MD
Trained 9 doctors and nurses and served 20 patients

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA – October 1–8, 2016
Pediatric urology training
Led by Francis Schneck, MD
Trained 36 doctors and nurses and served 75 patients

SAN FERNANDO, TRINIDAD
Reconstructive urology training
Led by Kurt McCammon, MD
Trained 20 doctors and served 15 patients

Total personnel trained 290
Total patients served 489

www.siu-urology.org
Shaping the Future:
How the group membership model is helping SIU meet its mission

Since its inception in 1907, the SIU has significantly expanded and diversified its membership. Our mission to facilitate international cooperation in pursuit of the highest standards of urological care has led us to explore various models of membership that allow us to work with a truly global cohort. Diversification of membership models is an important aspect of remaining relevant and accessible to both existing and potential members.

In 2015, the SIU introduced the group membership initiative in order to provide greater opportunity for collaboration as well as access to the SIU’s many resources and services. That year alone, the SIU formed new collaborations with the Chinese, Indonesian, Kenyan, Malaysian, and South African Societies. These partnerships provided a growth of 33% in membership.

Since its 2015 launch, we’ve seen continued interest and growth in this membership tier. In 2016, group members grew to include the Haitian, Jamaican, Ecuadorian, Panamanian, and Iranian societies. With these societies, SIU saw an additional growth of 8% to the number of members added.

As we diversified our membership streams, we knew it was critical to ensure that the value proposition for this new tier was worthwhile. We established a suite of group membership benefits that we believe provide good value to its members and their sub-organizations. Some of these benefits include:

- A significant reduction to membership dues as well as reduced Congress registration fees
- Online access to the SIU’s official journal, World Journal of Urology
- Full content access to the SIU’s powerful eLearning portal, SIU Academy
- Access to live online sessions to claim free CME credits through SIU@U
- Exclusive opportunities for collaboration between the SIU and National Society / Association members

Additionally, we offer access to SIU’s educational activities, which provide members with the opportunity to attend, participate in and contribute to exclusive programs such as eGrand Rounds, clinical case studies, educational videos, eSeries, endorsed events, and Bench-to-Bedside (B2B).

The latest group members to confirm their intention to join the SIU include Saudi Arabia, Greece, and the United Arab Emirates, who would become first-time members in 2017. Currently, we are in conversation with 42 prospective societies with group membership proposals in order to continue to expand our global partnerships.

Group Membership Regions

- **Africa & Middle East**: 57%
- **Americas**: 21%
- **Asia**: 15%
- **Europe**: 7%
1. **What was the vision behind the creation of the SIU Academy?**
   SIU’s leadership was quick to recognize that technology was shaping how physicians were learning and embracing new tools, especially with younger doctors. Significant changes in the medical and pharmaceutical industry had been evolving for several years, with the rise of physician guidelines and travel restrictions making it much harder for doctors to travel. The Academy was created to fill an unmet need by offering accurate and relevant medical education using an innovative, globally accessible platform and a powerful search engine.

2. **What is the decision-making process behind determining what content is included in the Academy?**
   Well, it depends. Being an international society, our goal is to be able to provide educational content for members that is relevant to them based on where they come from, where they practice, their realities, etc. We conduct needs assessments in all our feedback forms by asking our users what they are interested in and what they need. There is no point in creating content that has no relevance to anyone or that only serves the needs of a handful of groups. Everything that is made available on the portal is reviewed and approved by at least two committee members to ensure the quality, relevance and accuracy of the material. The events that we endorse are also approved by our committee members.

3. **The Academy collaborates with other associations. Why is that? What does the collaboration process look like?**
   The SIU’s mission is to enable urologists in all nations, through international cooperation in education and research, to apply the highest standards of urological care. We can’t really achieve that if we are not open to cooperate with other associations. By hosting content from other societies, we are able to bring urologists from across the globe together. The process is pretty straightforward. An association interested in having their meeting endorsed by the SIU will need to submit a completed application. Once committee members give their approval, we provide guidelines and technical specs and we start promoting. After the event takes place and we receive the videos, we review them to make sure they meet our standards of quality before they are released on the portal.

4. **How do you measure the effectiveness and usage of the Academy? What aspects of the Academy are seeing the most traffic?**
   Every month we look at the traffic on the portal and identify the content that had the most visits. I would say oncology and stone disease are at the top. In terms of types of content, educational and surgical videos are always very popular. However, we notice that when we promote a program either via an eBlast or social media, there is an increase in the visits on this content and related material.

5. **What do you think makes urologists use the portal?**
   I think our users appreciate a number of things:
   - We are very active and it is important that we make new content available on a monthly basis.
   - We thrive to make content available that is relevant to our members across the globe.
   - It is a 1-stop-shop where they can get various types of content relevant to their practice and needs.
   - We offer CME credits that users from over 40 countries can claim.
   - They can access content from wherever they are thanks to our mobile application.

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6. **How many people are actually collaborating in the background?**

   We have a great team behind the Academy. It starts with our platform provider, who assigned us an amazing team. Then there are the Governance Committee and the Committee for CME programs, composed of members of the Board of the Directors, and 14 sub-committees responsible for developing and reviewing content. That represents about 55 experts. And none of this would be possible without our medical content manager, our two medical writers and editors, and our SIU Academy coordinator. In total, I work with approximately 65 people to make the portal what it is.

7. **You are very passionate about the Society and most specifically SIU Academy. Can you tell us why?**

   Growing up I thought I would be a doctor but life brought me on a different path. When I started to work with the SIU, I realized I was finally home. I wholeheartedly stand by the mission and values the SIU represents. Being from West Africa, the chance to take part in projects that help improve medical care in developing countries is very close to my heart, and I feel lucky and privileged to be able to contribute to this effort. These amazing urologists we collaborate with are the ones saving lives and improving quality of life for the patients, but I am privileged to be working for a society that helps them achieve this!

8. **What kind of feedback have you received about this service? How does the feedback inform and integrate into decisions about the future of the Academy?**

   The feedback is very positive. It is amazing to see users tell us how happy they are with what we offer or how it has positively impacted their practice. The feedback is also useful when the time comes to make changes to the platform or develop new content, as we try and proceed prioritizing the most critical needs. The Academy represents a dialogue between the SIU and its members and it’s important for us to listen to them in order to meet their needs.

9. **What are the most important things you have learned in the past four years?**

   Collaboration and gratitude. Collaboration because no one can do it all by themselves and it takes an amazing team to create amazing things. Gratitude for the experts from SIU’s committees who give their time and share their expertise to allow us to push the SIU Academy a little further every time we make something new available. Meeting the deadlines is sometimes challenging but being a dynamic society with devoted individuals, we are fortunate in a way that we are more flexible.

10. **What’s in store for SIU Academy’s future?**

    Well our goal is to remain THE urological eLearning platform for urologists across the globe. We are also working towards offering more CME accredited programs. We continuously work with our provider to improve the technology and the features offered to our users to enhance their experience each time they login.

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The first Bench to Bedside (B2B) meeting with a focus on Prostate Cancer took place on September 3, 2016, in Istanbul in collaboration with the SIU and the Istanbul Medipol University. The unique scientific program of this translational medicine meeting combined interdisciplinary concepts and philosophy, differentiating it from several meetings of this type that are frequently held nowadays. Researchers and clinicians took part in mechanism and biology, engineering, molecular imaging and interdisciplinary team sessions. Sessions on various topics such as prostate cancer stem cell liquid biopsy, circulating tumor cells, focal therapies, and clinical cases contributed to make this day a great success and a highly interactive experience for attendees.

This marked the first SIU B2B scientific event, bringing together over 250 attendees from 11 countries, both urologists and researchers from different specialties all working on prostate cancer.

The meeting opened with speeches from Prof. Jean de la Rosette and Prof. Sabahattin Aydin. Prof. de la Rosette educated attendees on SIU’s history and activities and addressed the importance of spreading the highest standards of scientific and technologic advancements globally both for urologists and patients. Dr. Dilek Telci from Yeditepe University talked about the molecular mechanism underlying cancer cell hierarchy and heterogeneity within prostate tumors. Resistance to currently-used clinical therapies, discovering unique cancer stem cell biomarkers, and developing new stem cell directed drugs were highlighted in the lecture. As we still don’t have the answers to common cancers such as lung, ovary, breast, colorectal and prostate cancers, pleiotropic associations and many common pathways were addressed by computer scientist Emre Karakoc.
Dr. Mustafa Isin, from Istanbul University, mentioned that the wide spectrums of biomarkers are under development and promise to revolutionize the care of prostate cancer patients. Dr. Isin presented a lecture on the prominent research topic regarding liquid biopsy in precision medicine for prostate cancer, exosomes and liquid biopsy. Circulating tumor cells are one of the most promising prospects under investigation in clinical trials, especially in the setting of metastatic prostate cancer, for their ability to predict response to novel therapies and patient survival. Yasemin Yozgat, from Istanbul Medipol University Cancer Research Center, focused on circulating tumor cells’ widespread use and ability to guide prostate cancer management.

Dr. Esra Cagavi, from Istanbul Medipol University, reviewed Nobel-winning reprogramming technology and its mechanism in normal physiology and in cancer. Similarities between reprogrammed stem cells and cancer cells or cancer stem cells were compared and possible opportunities and challenges in this newly growing field were discussed.

The first talk of the second session was given by Dr. Oktay Akca, highlighting different clinical behaviors of prostate cancer from the urologist perspective. Dr. Akca mentioned that prostate cancer has various types of presentations, either clinical or pathological, and decision for the treatment can be challenging in physicians’ and patients’ minds due to the side effects of treatment modalities and possible unnecessary treatments for indolent cancers.

An increasing understanding of the mechanisms of survival in prostate cancer cells with castrate levels of serum testosterone has led to development of next generation androgen receptor inhibitors; however progression is inevitable despite these new agents. During the second session, one of the enjoyable sessions of B2B, researchers discussed precision oncology and novel targeted therapies. Nathan Lack, from Koc University, presented novel therapies targeting the androgen axis and alternative pathways. Murat Cevher, from Bilkent University, moved a step deeper to androgen receptors, and Mustafa Guzel talked about novel drug discovery and efficacious androgen receptor antagonists.

Morning sessions of the B2B meeting were on biology and mechanism, mostly including researchers’ participation while the interdisciplinary and imaging sessions in the afternoon were mainly attended by clinicians. Selcuk Guven, from Istanbul Medipol University, discussed the prostate cancer heterogeneity from different perspectives of bench to bedside and addressed the necessity of interdisciplinary approach beyond the multidisciplinary approach.

World leading authors Prof. Jean de la Rosette, Prof. Pilar Laguna and Dr. Martijn de Bruin (AMC University), who brought biological research, biomedical engineering and clinical practice together in their own department and set the example for ideal translational medicine, gave lectures addressing adequate disease characterization providing 3D mapping and visualization of the tumor. In this section, needle based optical coherence tomography was presented by Prof. Laguna real Time 3D histopathology was presented by Dr. de Bruin, and the multiparametric ultrasound was presented by Prof. de la Rosette.

The multiparametric MRI rapidly settled our clinical practice and its value beyond prostate cancer was discussed by Dr. Cengiz Erol, from Istanbul Medipol University. Topics in molecular imaging were discussed, such as Molecular Targeting Agents, discussed by Prof. Cuneyt Turkmen (Istanbul University), and Experimental and near term future, discussed by Prof. Meltem Caglar Tuncali (Hacettepe University). Along with the participants’ comments, the highly interactive session continued with the keynote lecture delivered by Prof. Jean de la Rosette regarding a clinical reflection on the previously discussed issues regarding image guided focal therapy and the integration of these achievements into clinical urological practice. Towards the end of the meeting, which explored the latest cutting-edge research in prostate cancer from many disciplines, an interdisciplinary team panel took place. The prostate cancer cases, meticulously selected by urologic oncologist Prof. Tarik Esen (Koc University), recognized the philosophy of the B2B meeting. In the final talk of the meeting, Prof. Selami Albayrak emphasized that all these efforts become a whole with patient care.

For sure, multi-faceted collaboration among researchers, clinicians, and the industry is fundamental in clinical studies in order to translate laboratory findings into clinically applicable therapeutics. B2B was one of the early meetings where we experienced translational medicine in urology. The mission of the SIU—enabling urologists in all nations to apply the highest standards of urologic care to their patients—became apparent during B2B. The event webcast will be streamed on SIU Academy soon.
What’s New at SIU Academy

SIU Academy Awards for Outstanding Content in 2016

And the winners are…

Outstanding ePoster: Medium- and Long-Term Outcomes of Ventral Buccal Mucosal Graft Urethroplasty with Spongio Flap Technique
By Nariman Ahmadi, Australia

Outstanding eSeries: Imaging in Renal Mass - Diagnostic and Local Staging
Cochrane Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
By Pilar Laguna, The Netherlands
For the second year in a row.

Outstanding Expert Reviews: Surgical Management of Pelvic Fracture Urethral Injuries
By Benjamin Breyer, United States and Arabind Panda, India

Outstanding Educational Video: Redo-vesico-urethral Anastomosis
By Anthony R. Mundy, United Kingdom

Outstanding Expert Reviews: Surgical Management of Pelvic Fracture Urethral Injuries
By Benjamin Breyer, United States and Arabind Panda, India

Outstanding Webcast: Access and JJ Stent for Flexible URS (from the Surgical Grand Rounds in Endourology)
By Joyce Baard, The Netherlands

The winners will receive their awards during the 37th Congress of the SIU in Lisbon, in October.

You can now access all the educational activities available on SIU Academy from your iPhone/iPad and Android devices wherever you are!
I obtained a doctorate in medicine in 1992 at the faculty of medicine of Niamey. In 2000, I obtained a diploma in Urology whilst in Morocco. In 2001, I held the position of Assistant in Urology at the Faculty of Medicine of Niamey. In 2005, I became Maître Assistant of CAMES and in 2012, Maître conference Agrégé of Urology CAMES.

It is a great pleasure to be an SIU member for many reasons. In this time of globalization, it is very important to be known elsewhere in the world, to have the latest information relating to our practice, and to have a reliable support network of colleagues all over the world. As Chief of Urology in Niger, a poor country where we face many developmental challenges, I take pride in being a member of the SIU and having my voice heard.

SIU is the most important urological society that I know of. SIU has members all over the world, so it is my dream to become a full member. SIU offers many activities; a few include scientific meetings, and the annual congress. I want to thank Professor Serigne Magueye Gueye for his great support to help realize our dream, as well to Dr. Sanda Ganda, the former Chief of Urology in Niger.

I received my Medical Degree from the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain) in 2002 and my Urology specialization in 2008. My training was completed at the Galdakao Hospital (Vizcaya), the Azienda Ospedaliera San Luigi di Orbassano (Turin), and the MSKCC (New York). I became a Fellow of FEBU in 2011 and obtained my PhD in 2013 on the functional, systemic and quality-of-life-effects of PCNL.

Currently, I head the Endourology Unit in the University Hospital Complex of Santiago de Compostela. I am also Associate Professor in the School of Medicine at the University of Santiago de Compostela, where I am now directing two doctoral theses on urinary stone management. I am editor of “Practical Handbook on Supine Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy” and have contributed 30 chapters in urological books and 49 papers in periodical journals. I am a member of the EAU, the Spanish National Association of Urology and, since 2016, a member of the Galician Royal Academy of Medicine and Surgery.

I became an SIU member because it is the most open society for young urologists, allowing us to play an active role in the organization beyond being mere listeners or attendees. It gives us the opportunity to be part of the faculty in our respective areas of expertise, no matter our age or urological school of origin. Finally, the SIU emphasizes education in their Congresses, and through their innovative use of information and communication technology (e.g. the SIU Academy platform).

In summary, I joined SIU because it is “open to the future of urology”, which could easily be a nice new motto to complete the well known “bringing urologists together”.

I obtained my medical degree at the University of Paris in Descartes, France. I received my urological training at the Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris. I also held a fellowship in urologic oncology at Weill Cornell Medical College, New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, under the supervision of Prs Shahrokh Shariat and Douglas Scherr. I am currently an Assistant Professor at the Department of Urology at Cochin Hospital, Paris Descartes University, France. My main areas of scientific interest include outcomes and translational research in urothelial carcinoma of the upper and lower tract. I am the current Chairman of the Young Academic Urologists of European Association of Urology (EAU) Urothelial Carcinoma group, a board member of the EAU section of Onco-Urology (ESOU), a board member of the French Guidelines in Bladder Cancer, and a board member of the French Health Technology Assessment Agency (Haute Autorité de Santé). I am an active reviewer for several urology journals.

I chose to join the SIU because of what it stands for beyond the realm of urology. Firstly, it is “international” in the sense that it is a society without borders, not confined to any country or continent. Secondly, the SIU is an excellent social association and not just restricted to urology or research. Lastly, my first SIU meeting was in Vancouver in 2013. I was so happy and honored to be part of the International Consultation on Urologic Diseases (ICUD) on Upper Tract Urothelial Carcinoma. It was a wonderful experience and I loved the city, the congress, and the ICUD. I’m happy to join the SIU as a member and to be on board for new experiences. See you in Lisbon in October!
I am currently a pediatric urologist at the University of Washington and Seattle Children’s Hospital. Half of my practice is in Seattle and half is in Eastern Washington; the latter is much more rural than the Western side of the state, and delivering the same high quality of health care in this setting can be a challenge for many reasons. My research interests center on optimizing delivery of urologic care in rural regions, on the urologic impact of public health initiatives, and on medical education at all levels. In particular, I am interested in teaching surgeons and patients how to communicate, particularly in the areas of shared decision-making and in the delivery of health care to patients whose preferred language of care might be different from that of the provider.

I became an SIU member in order to take advantage of the incredible wealth of knowledge that comes from having involved and responsive members on every continent. Quite simply, some of the challenges that I face have already been identified and managed well by someone else, so it behooves me to take advantage of their experience! Equally importantly, the SIU community is one in which the free exchange of ideas is encouraged and valued; this community is not only collegial but is downright friendly. I have been so pleased to discover this community, and the respectful sharing of ideas and genuine concern for other members has been especially rewarding. I look forward to seeing many of you at SIU 2017!

**Name:** Kathleen Kieran  
**Location:** Seattle, WA, United States  
**Position:** Associate Professor of Urology, University of Washington and Pediatric Urologist, Seattle Children’s Hospital

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**Name:** Martin Chukwudum Igokwe  
**Location:** Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria  
**Position:** Senior Registrar, Urology Unit, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital

I come from the South-eastern region of Nigeria and completed my medical training from Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria in 2008. I was the top pick in the recruitment for residents in 2011 in the same hospital and am presently in my final year of residency training in Urology, with special interest in Endo-Urology and Urologic oncology. I also currently hold the position of Chief Resident of the Urology division.

I decided to become an SIU member because the SIU offers numerous opportunities for knowledge and skill development for young aspiring urologists like me. I was also encouraged by my mentors, Prof. Badmus T.A and Prof. Salako A.A to become a member. I have had the opportunity to attend clinical attachments in two SIU training centers in Dakar and Cape Town, which further gave me insight on the numerous benefits for members made available by the SIU as an organization.

The SIU is different from other urological societies because they have consistently provided opportunities to train urologists from developing countries through annual scholarships. The SIU also provides the tools via the SIU Academy to enhance learning and improve practice of urology in Africa.

I look forward to becoming a full member of the SIU on completion of my training and maintaining a close relationship with this esteemed organization.

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**Name:** Ye Naing  
**Location:** Mingaladon, Yangon, Myanmar  
**Position:** Urology Trainee, Defence Services Medical Academy

My name is Dr. Ye Naing from Myanmar. I was born in Kyun-Gyi Village, Banmaw Township, Kachin state, Myanmar. I passed Matriculation (Basic Education – 10th standard) in 1998.

I attended Defence Services Medical Academy (DSMA) in 2000 and received a M.B, B.S (DSMA) in 2005. Then I went to Moscow, Russia with a scholarship program from our government and studied as a clinical fellow in Urology (2008-2009). Later, I returned to Myanmar and attended an M.Med.Sc (Surgery) course and received M.Med.Sc (Surgery) in December of 2012. I worked as a Surgical Specialist in General & Urology Surgical wards of Military Hospitals. I then passed the MRCS exam and obtained an MRCSed (UK) in 2014. Since 2014, I have been trained in Urology (Specialty) at the No.1 Military Hospital (700-Bedded), Pyin Oo Lwin, Myanmar. Now I am also attending a Dr.Med.Sc (Urology) course and I am a second year Urology trainee of Dr.Med.Sc (Urology). Our Urology Training course is also joining with THET program of RCSEd, Urology. The UK faculty comes to us regularly for assessments and skills workshops in Urology.

I am proud to be an SIU member because I like its novel mission to “enable urologists in all nations, through international cooperation in education and research, to apply the highest standards of urological care to their patients” very much. The SIU cares about the improvement of urologists all over the world and setting a high standard of urological care.

In addition, it’s plain to see that the society cares about developing countries like ours. The FSUI’s goals to grant educational scholarships to surgeons from the developing world, to provide teaching fellowships, and to advance medical education in urology in the developing world are clear signs that the Society prioritizes the advancement of developing nations.