AUA Board of Directors February 2018 Meeting
Combined Executive Summary

Purpose: This report is to be used by members of the AUA Board of Directors for their general reference and for reporting to AUA Sections.

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Finance

Financial Statements and Budget. The Board approved the November 30, 2017 unaudited internal Combined Financial Statements for the American Urological Association, Inc. (AUA), AUA Education & Research, Inc. (AUAER) and Urology Care Foundation, Inc. (UCF). The statements showed a Net Deficit from Operations of $290,000. This operating deficit, which was significantly smaller than the number projected in the mid-year reforecasted budget, reflects AUA’s diverse programming and planned investments in Data, Public Policy and Advocacy, and Information Technology. The Board reaffirmed AUA’s sound financial position, but continued to stress the need for enhanced focus on program prioritization in order to maximize value to members and ensure the continued financial strength of the organization for future generations. The AUA Board is also assessing outcomes from its 2012 strategic planning process and evaluating all AUA programs to ensure member benefit and enhanced mission alignment.

Investments. As of December 31, 2017, the combined AUAER and UCF portfolio was over $190 million including Board- and donor-restricted investments (approximately $130 million) to be used for specific mission programs including Research Scholars, Professional Awards and other projects, plus operating reserves.

Education

AUA Support for ABU Lifelong Learning Construct. In September 2017, the American Board of Urology (ABU) announced changes to its maintenance of certification (MOC) program that included eliminating the “high stakes exam” previously required and emphasizing the importance of Diplomates engaging in “Lifelong Learning”. The Education Council identified the need for a Lifelong Learning work group (comprised of the five at-large members of the Council) and conducted a review of AUAUniversity content against ABU’s Lifelong Learning subcategories. In the coming months, the work group will identify any gaps in the Office of Education’s content library to ensure that all ABU Lifelong Learning subcategories are represented and have activities that can be assigned as remedial CME.

Advanced Practice Providers Educational Needs Survey. The Office of Education reported the results of market research conducted with current U.S. practicing urologists (non-residents) and Advanced Practice Providers (APP’s) to assess interest in the AUA advancing urologic education to APP’s. A total of 205 urologists (10% response rate) and 66 APP’s (12% response rate) completed the survey. Generally, the survey showed that a high percentage of urologists currently using APP’s, as well as APP’s themselves, would find value in AUA developing more in-depth knowledge-based education for APP’s new to urology. The availability of CME or nursing credits and a certificate of completion would make such training more valuable to APPs and urology practices. Complete survey data will be presented to the APP Education Committee in March, and the committee will develop recommendations to be considered by AUA leadership. AUA is offering an expanded version of its Urologic Care for the Advanced Practice Provider program on May 19-20, 2018 in San Francisco in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. AUA will continue to balance physician scope of practice issues with workforce concerns and educating APPs.
New Technologies and Imaging Committee. The Board approved merging the Laparoscopic, Robotic & New Surgical Technologies and Urologic, Diagnostic & Therapeutic Imaging Committees into a new committee called the New Technologies & Imaging Committee. This new committee will include experts in Robotics, Laparoscopy, Surgical Energies, and Imaging and reduce content overlap that occurred previously between the two committees.

Science & Quality

New Testosterone Replacement Therapy Guideline. The Directors approved the Evaluation and Management of Testosterone Deficiency: AUA Guideline and accompanying algorithms. The new guideline will soon be available on the Guidelines page of AUA’s website.

Patient Safety. Five patient safety educational modules are now available on AUAUniversity. The modules address a just culture and how it can facilitate patient safety, disruptive behavior and its impact on safety, standard communication to decrease medical errors, and public reporting and its role in patient safety. Participants can receive CME credit, and ABU has agreed that credit will be awarded for Lifelong Learning to those who complete the modules.

AQUA Registry. The AQUA Registry has been approved by CMS as a Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) for 2018 and is able to provide participating AQUA Registry practices at the Elite subscription level with the ability to meet the 2018 Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) reporting requirements through urology-specific performance measures against the national benchmark. The AQUA Registry offers three subscription levels that provide practices with a variety of options to fit their needs and budgets with the goal of ensuring that all practices wishing to join the only national urology–specialty-wide registry can do so. For more information about subscription options, visit the AQUA Registry page on the AUA website.

Research

Rising Stars in Urology Research Award Program. The 2018 Rising Stars in Urology Competition will begin in April. Information about the competition, along with a list of 2017 winners, will be available online later this spring.

Research Scholar Award Program. Recipients of the 2018 Urology Care Foundation Research Scholars Awards were announced in December 2017. Information about recent winners and future award opportunities may be found online.

Additional Support for Early-Career Investigators. The Office of Research, through its Research Grants and Investigative Support Committee, has been working to develop the Urology Scientist Mentoring and Research Training (USMART) Academy. The USMART Academy is intended to provide additional support for early-career investigators by establishing an interactive network platform to foster a creative mentorship between recently graduated AUA Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Award recipients and established investigators with an exemplary track record of leadership and mentorship in urology. The program will launch in spring 2018.
Public Policy & Practice Support

Annual Urology Advocacy Summit. The inaugural Annual Urology Advocacy Summit will be held March 12-14, 2018, at the Capitol Hilton in Washington, DC. The robust agenda was created by the Summit Planning Committee with input from a wide range of stakeholders, including all eight AUA Sections, 15 urologic specialty groups, and nearly a dozen patient advocacy groups. Hot topics for the general session include prostate cancer advocacy, workforce and graduate medical education, and veterans’ health. Breakout sessions will address targeted topics such as physician burnout, shared decision making, payment reform and research advocacy. There also will be a Monday evening event at the National Press Club and a reception on Capitol Hill on Tuesday evening. CME credits are available for designated sessions, and most Sections are participating in the AUA-sponsored match to attract young urologists to the Summit. Registration details and more information about the Summit are available online.

2018 Federal Legislative Priorities. The Board approved the 2018 Federal Legislative Priorities, which focus on issues such as preserving access to appropriate PSA screening, promoting medical liability reform, preserving the appropriate use of the in-office ancillary services exception to the Stark Law, and monitoring implementation of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) and limiting regulatory burdens to urologists. A complete list of the 2018 legislative priorities will be available online.

Centralization of Research Advocacy Activities. The Board approved the centralization of research advocacy activities and support, including the Research Advocacy Committee, under the Public Policy Council in coordination with the Research Council and the Office of Research.

Secretary’s Report

AUA Policy Statements. The Board reaffirmed or revised a number of policy statements, including Definition of a Urologist, Endorsement of Commercial Products, Direct Access to Specialty Care, Hospital Admittance and Discharge, National Cancer Institute’s Physician Data Query and Urologists’ Access to New Technology. A complete list of AUA Policy Statements is available online.

Urology Care Foundation

Foundation Board. The AUA Board approved the appointment of Mr. Jay Baitler as a Public Member of the UCF Board.

UCF Benefit Concert. The UCF Benefit at the Annual Meeting, Rockin’ for a Cause, will be held on Friday, May 18, 2018 from 7 – 10 p.m. at the Mezzanine, a music club in San Francisco, convenient to AUA Meeting attendees. The event is designed to be a casual and fun way to kick off the Annual Meeting and will feature great food and drinks and live entertainment. Check out the UCF website for more information and to purchase tickets to this great event.