

UROLOGY

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Inside Urology at Yale

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RALPH STROUP TO RETIRE

It is with great respect, admiration, and gratitude that we announce the retirement of **Ralph F. Stroup, MD**, who has served the faculty, residents, and patients of Yale Urology for more than 50 years. A reputable urologist within the New Haven community, Dr. Stroup is known for his kind and calm manner. Dr. Stroup's profound influence through his instruction and care for the underserved will be greatly missed.

Following graduation from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and his training in general surgery, Dr. Stroup enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps in 1967, and was soon sent to Vietnam as a general surgeon. While based in Sa Dec, South Vietnam, Dr. Stroup served as commander for a 16-man medical advisory team to provide medical services in conjunction with a Vietnamese team at a nearby civilian hospital. In his role as commander, Dr. Stroup discovered his love for teaching and talent for leading, commencing a lengthy career.

In 1969, upon his discharge, Dr. Stroup arrived at Yale School of Medicine to focus on basic kidney research with renowned pathologist Dr. Michael Kashgarian, but he quickly realized he longed to return to teaching. The following year, Dr. Stroup joined the residency program in urology, under Drs. Bernard Lytton and Robert Weiss, two patriarchs of Yale Urology. He completed his residency in 1973 and joined a five-person, private practice in New Haven providing patient care for more than 35 years. During this time, he also held a clinical faculty appointment with the Department of Urology, teaching medical students and urology residents, and attending Grand Rounds.

Shortly after his retirement from private practice in 2008, Dr. Stroup was invited to Kenya by Robert Bruce Williams, a renowned workshop facilitator to participate in a three-week HIV/AIDS workshop to train Kenyan healthcare workers regarding mobilization of community resources, food insecurity issues, and care for orphans whose parents died of AIDS. During his stay in Laikipia County, Kenya, Dr. Stroup had an opportunity to visit some remote partially built clinics, and saw many instances of food insecurity and lack of water, and a marginal primary health care infrastructure. He was so taken by the poverty and lack of healthcare infrastructure, he had a discussion with his wife Mary Ann, and soon thereafter they took steps to start a non-



profit organization: [Kenyan Health Care Initiatives \(KHCI\)](#). In the last 12 years, KHCI, in collaboration with several partner organizations, has fundraised and led the planning and construction of several projects within the Il Ngwesi Group Ranch Conservancy, including a major water filtration project for schools and homesteads, a school book program, a sewing center, and medical clinics.

After only a brief retirement from clinical practice, Dr. Stroup was recruited by Yale Urology in 2009 to return and lead the clinical training of urology residents. Dr. Stroup has been supervising PGY-2 residents at the residents' training clinic based at Cornell Scott Hill Health as well as on our Saint Raphael Campus. A strong teaching role that perfectly suited his strengths, Dr. Stroup guided residents as they learned valuable skill sets and confidence while caring for patients from the greater New Haven area.

While the COVID-19 pandemic may have sped up his "second" retirement, Dr. Stroup has no plans to slow down. His non-profit is a full-time job in itself with grant writing, fundraising, conference calls, and travel. But, in retrospect, he says his career in urology truly provided a sense of purpose and he greatly cherished his time meeting with patients and his colleagues. His more recent work with residents also brought great personal satisfaction, allowing him to help educate and train the young urologists of the future.



Pictured (left - right): Mary Ann Stroup and Ralph Stroup, MD, at the dedication of the Ntalabany Medical Clinic in September 2019.

Pictured (left - right): Dr. and Mrs. Stroup, along with villagers and members of the Nkubu, Kenya and North Branford, CT Rotary Clubs.

NEWS AND NOTES

John Onofrey, PhD discussed the use of Artificial Intelligence to improve imaging for prostate cancer as the featured guest on the April 26 Yale Cancer Answers radio show, "AI and Prostate Cancer," broadcast on WNPR. Dr. Onofrey's interview is available [online](#) or on [iTunes](#).

Walter Hsiang, MD/MBA student and future urologist, is the recipient of a prestigious [Summer Medical Student Fellowship](#) from the AUA, described as an opportunity "for outstanding medical students to pursue urology research by engaging them in summer research fellowships alongside world-class urologic scientists." For his fellowship, Walter will be mentored this summer by **Michael Leapman, MD**, on a project looking at the effects of Medicaid expansion on access to urologic cancer services. Congratulations, Walter!

Carolyn (CC) Hayden has joined the Department of Urology as the new Program Coordinator working with the Residency, Fellowship, and Clerkship Programs. CC is new to Yale after spending the last five years living and working in Maine, most recently as Operations Manager for a small dermatology practice. She is excited to return to her hometown of New Haven and looks forward to being a member of the Yale Urology team. Over the coming months, CC will be working closely with Christine Merenda to become familiarized with the department and her Program Coordinator role. Welcome, CC!

PUBLICATIONS

Evolving surgical management of pediatric vesicoureteral reflux: is open ureteral reimplantation still the 'Gold Standard'?

Kirsch AJ, Arlen AM.

Int Braz J Urol. 2020 May-Jun.

High WHO/ISUP Grade and Unfavorable Architecture, Rather Than Typing of Papillary Renal Cell Carcinoma, May Be Associated With Worse Prognosis.

Yang C, Shuch B, Kluger H, Humphrey PA, Adeniran AJ.

Am J Surg Pathol. 2020 May.

Chasing the Pack: Association between Urology Hospital Rankings and Surgical Outcome.

Abello A, Leapman M, Kenney PA.

J Urol. 2020 May.

Predicting Breakthrough Urinary Tract Infection: Comparative Analysis of Vesicoureteral Reflux Index, Grade and Ureteral Diameter Ratio.

Arlen AM, Leong T, Wu CQ, Traore EJ, Cooper CS, Kirsch AJ.

J Urol. 2020 Apr 3.

How should radiologists incorporate non-imaging prostate cancer biomarkers into daily practice?

Rajwa P, Syed J, Leapman MS.

Abdom Radiol (NY). 2020 Mar 30.

Deep learning-based attenuation map generation for myocardial perfusion SPECT.

Shi L, Onofrey JA, Liu H, Liu YH, Liu C.

Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging. 2020 Mar 26.

Transcriptomics in RCC.

Syed JS, Brito J, Pooli A, Boutros PC, Shuch B.

Urol Oncol. 2020 Mar 25.

Redefining the Role of Surgical Management of Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma.

Hsiang WR, Kenney PA, Leapman MS.

Curr Oncol Rep. 2020 Mar 13.

Sparse Data-Driven Learning for Effective and Efficient Biomedical Image Segmentation.

Onofrey JA, Staib LH, Huang X, Zhang F, Papademetris X, Metaxas D, Rueckert D, Duncan JS.

Annu Rev Biomed Eng. 2020 Mar 13.

When and How Should Active Surveillance for Prostate Cancer be De-Escalated?

Rajwa P, Sprenkle PC, Leapman MS.

Eur Urol Focus. 2020 Feb 1.

Geographic-Level Association of Contemporary Changes in Localized and Metastatic Prostate Cancer Incidence in the Era of Decreasing PSA Screening.

Yang DX, Makarov DV, Gross CP, Yu JB.

Cancer Control. 2020 Jan-Dec.

Long-term efficacy and safety of solifenacin in pediatric patients aged 6 months to 18 years with neurogenic detrusor overactivity: results from two phase 3 prospective open-label studies.

Franco I, Hoebeke P, Baka-Ostrowska M, Bolong D, Davies LN,

Dahler E, Snijder R, Stroosma O, Verheggen F, Newgreen D,

Bosman B, Vande Walle J.

J Pediatr Urol. 2019 Dec 27.

Do you have any news, publications, or photos to share for an upcoming issue?

Please share with Eliza Folsom,
Assoc. Communications Officer
for Yale Urology:

eliza.folsom@yale.edu



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