

## What's New – March 1, 2019

Welcome to a *new* volume of our Department's What's New weekly newsletter. For those wondering and perhaps worried, Dr. Bloom has kindly agreed to continue his thought provoking and insightful Matula Thoughts as the first WN installment of the month for the foreseeable future. You can relax and so can I! You can find this month's (and all prior editions) at: <https://matulathoughts.org/>.

Given that the Regents made my appointment official just last week, I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you all something about our Department, my vision and me. So here goes...

1. It is with great humility and enthusiasm that I serve as Chair of the Department of Urology at the University of Michigan. For close to 100 years, Urology at Michigan has been an international leader. Former Chairs Cabot, Nesbit, Lapidus, McGuire, Grossman (interim), Montie and Bloom, all household names in our field, each have served our Department with distinction. Indeed, the history and foundation of Urology at the University of Michigan is strong. Due to the cumulative efforts of our faculty and trainees, the Department currently occupies a unique place among our peers as evidenced by top national rankings in clinical care (#5 in USNWR), research (#4 NIH funding) and education (#7 Doximity). In many ways, our Department is a special place and is particularly poised to lead moving forward. I have been many places and I can honestly say there is no place like Michigan Urology, our Home. Our people are our greatest resource and our culture is our greatest strength.

Our Department is well poised to meet the challenges of the future. The rapidly expanding aging population is expected to only amplify the role urologists will play in the health care of Americans over the next 25 years. Urological sub-speciality areas female/neuro-urology, pediatrics, oncology, stones, andrology and reconstructive urology as well as general Urology will be vital to meet the needs ahead.

Additionally, telehealth and community centric health care initiatives will be important as the drive to deliver efficient high quality clinical care to a larger population grows. Our faculty have established expertise in all of these areas and have been developing and testing strategies to meet anticipated demand. While the future is uncertain, I am confident that we will be as prepared as any.

2. The vision that I have is that over the next 5-10 years, we will be an ever-increasingly robust clinical and academic enterprise that is:
  - the preferred choice of patients and referring providers in the region for urological care
  - a national/international referral and destination site for complex urological conditions known for ease of access,
  - a national leader in medical education and academic training,
  - a well-funded research intense organization driven by practice changing science, and
  - a recognized leader in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) and Wellness within Michigan Medicine and among national peers.

Our ultimate goal, our Mission, continues to be:

***To eliminate suffering from urologic disease ... Forever.***

My core values are:

- honesty
- humility
- integrity
- compassion
- empathy
- transparency
- fairness
- collegiality
- dependability
- accountability
- hard work

It is important to me that we are a Department, a family, that takes care of one another.

3. Areas of early Departmental focus.

Over the next 18 months, we will concentrate our efforts on strengthening our clinical operations and clinical base. We will also rejuvenate and re-invest in our top notch educational and research programs. Additionally, we will explore and initiate new initiatives in DEI & Wellness that will position our Department among the institution's leaders in these areas. And finally, we will embrace and celebrate our Department's centennial with pride and gusto! More on Nesbit centennial events in upcoming WNs.

4. For those of you who I may not know (yet), a little about me and my family.

I was born in Toronto, Canada and subsequently moved with my parents to Houston, Texas at the age of 9 years. I attended the University of Texas at Austin where I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities and then Baylor College of Medicine in Houston for medical school. I completed my urology training at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA (where I met David Bloom for the 1<sup>st</sup> time when he was a Visiting Professor and I was a 2<sup>nd</sup> year resident) and then completed a laboratory research fellowship in Urologic Oncology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital/Brady Urological Institute. I joined the U-M faculty as Associate Professor and Chief of the Division of Urologic Oncology in the Department of Urology in 2012 after having held faculty appointments at the University of Rochester and Houston Methodist Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College.

My wife Anu, whom I met when I was 18 and she was 17, completed a PhD in Clinical Psychology at the University of Houston and post-doctoral fellowship in child and adolescent psychology at Johns Hopkins. Anu has been doing a terrific job raising our kids and keeping our family together over the past 13 years—thank you Anu! Our daughter Elina (13 years) and son Kirtan (9 years) absolutely love Ann Arbor and are involved in tons of (too many??!) activities that keep Anu (and me, to a far lesser degree) occupied. In my free time, I enjoy being physically active and spending time with family and friends. And here is a fun fact, I used to be involved with music quite a bit when I was younger and have been taking voice lessons (rock, pop) here in Ann Arbor for over a year. Beware of impromptu performances at upcoming Departmental gatherings!



Elina & Kirtan



The gang on the range