What’s New – August 23, 2019

NPR: Reconstructive Urology

The Neuourology/Pelvic Reconstructive Urology Division treats several different types of patients. In this What’s New, we would like to highlight the genitourinary reconstruction service line and our newest faculty member, Yooni Yi.

What is Reconstructive Urology?

Genitourinary reconstructive urology focuses on restoring function within the urinary/reproductive system through surgical repair of a deficit, rerouting urine around an obstruction or rebuilding the physiology through tissue transfer/prosthesis. Although commonly associated with urethral and ureteral surgery, reconstructive urologists are also very involved in post cancer survivorship issues. Over the past several years, there has been a growing partnership between urologic oncologists and reconstructive surgeons to help address quality of life issues related to male urinary incontinence and iatrogenic erectile dysfunction.

Outpatient GU Reconstruction Cases at Michigan

Due to Dr. Bahaa Malaeb’s efforts and skills, Michigan Medicine is one of the highest volume centers for male urethroplasty in the United States. Additionally, our center also is a center of excellence for GU prosthesis, including penile and artificial urinary sphincters. As a division, we are transitioning many of these urethral and prosthesis reconstructive surgeries to an outpatient setting through the ambulatory surgery centers. To date, several urethroplasty and prosthesis surgeries have been performed at these sites as either outpatient or overnight observation. It is a focus of NPR to continue to grow this patient volume, improve care for these patients, and strive to minimize recovery time while maximizing outcomes.

Introducing Dr. Yooni Yi

To this end, we are excited to announce that Dr. Yooni Yi is joining the NPR division! Dr. Yi attended the University of Florida where she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Applied Physiology and Kinesiology. After an amazing undergraduate experience, she decided to stay at the University of Florida for medical school. She later completed her Urology residency at the University of Michigan. During residency, she cultivated an interest in reconstruction and pursued a Genitourinary Reconstruction and Trauma Fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center with Dr. Allen F. Morey.

Her fellowship encompassed a heavy clinical experience in urethral reconstruction, penile prosthetics, anti-incontinence procedures, Peyronie’s deformity, urogenital trauma, ureteral reconstruction and more. With a wide breadth of exposure, she gained an interest in many areas, especially anti-incontinence procedures, urethral reconstruction, and urogenital trauma. In addition, during fellowship, she furthered her interest in global surgery with reconstructive trips to Honduras and Rwanda. Dr. Yi is an avid Gators fan and in her free time, she likes to travel, pretend to be a foodie, and spend time outdoors.

Dr. Yi also was awarded best poster at the American Urological Association meeting in Chicago in 2019 for her work on a rapid, non-invasive surgical evaluation of male stress incontinence. She also has an interest in studying trends in management of male stress incontinence, Peyronie’s disease management, penile prosthetic surgery, and global surgery.

Her clinics will be open August 30th to see patients in both Taubman Center and Brighton Center for Specialty Care and she will operate at both University Hospital and Brighton Center for Specialty Care.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Yi’s return to Michigan Medicine!