

# WVU Department of Urology

## E-News

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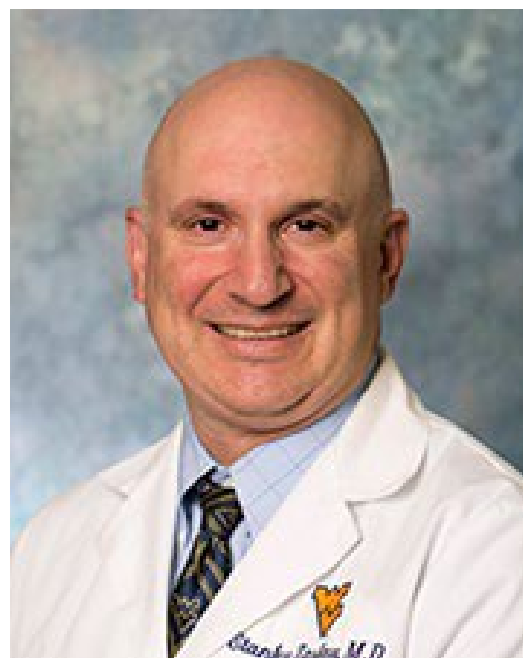
### ***MESSAGE FROM the CHAIR***

Welcome to another exciting edition of the Department of Urology's E-Newsletter -- WVU Urology E-News. Our news blast is meant to keep our urology family around the country updated with the progress of our nationally ranked department. It is with the utmost pleasure to serve as the chairman of this growing and productive department. We continue to employ outstanding faculty, residents, advanced practice providers, nurses, and support staff. Our mission is to provide the highest quality healthcare for the people of West Virginia and its neighboring states. We offer state of the art care across all urologic sub-specialties.

To our former students, alumni, employees, and patrons - please let us know of the important events in your life and where you are currently working and or living. We want you to continue to be a part of our lives. Please email us anytime at [szaslau@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:szaslau@hsc.wvu.edu).

Certainly, this was another very difficult year with challenges imposed by the post Covid-19 pandemic as well as staffing difficulties and shortages. We have all continued to follow appropriate guidelines throughout these difficult times. We continue to work hard to meet the needs of our patients and support the needs of our providers. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all health care workers, their families, and the rest of the world.

It has been another great year with momentous achievements. The Department has achieved national ranking in the 2023-24 US News and World Report in pediatric (#35) urology, its sixth-consecutive national ranking and high performing in adult urology.



**Stanley Zaslau, MD, MBA, FACS**

Voting on Doximity will begin soon for the 2024-2025 US News and World Report Best Hospitals. Please log into [www.doximity.com](http://www.doximity.com) to cast your votes as a show of continued support. Voting will be available until March 20, 2024.

For those of you who wish to contribute to Department of Urology Endowed donor funds, all pertinent information is provided below.

Please enjoy our timely articles and departmental updates. Have a safe, healthy, and happy spring!

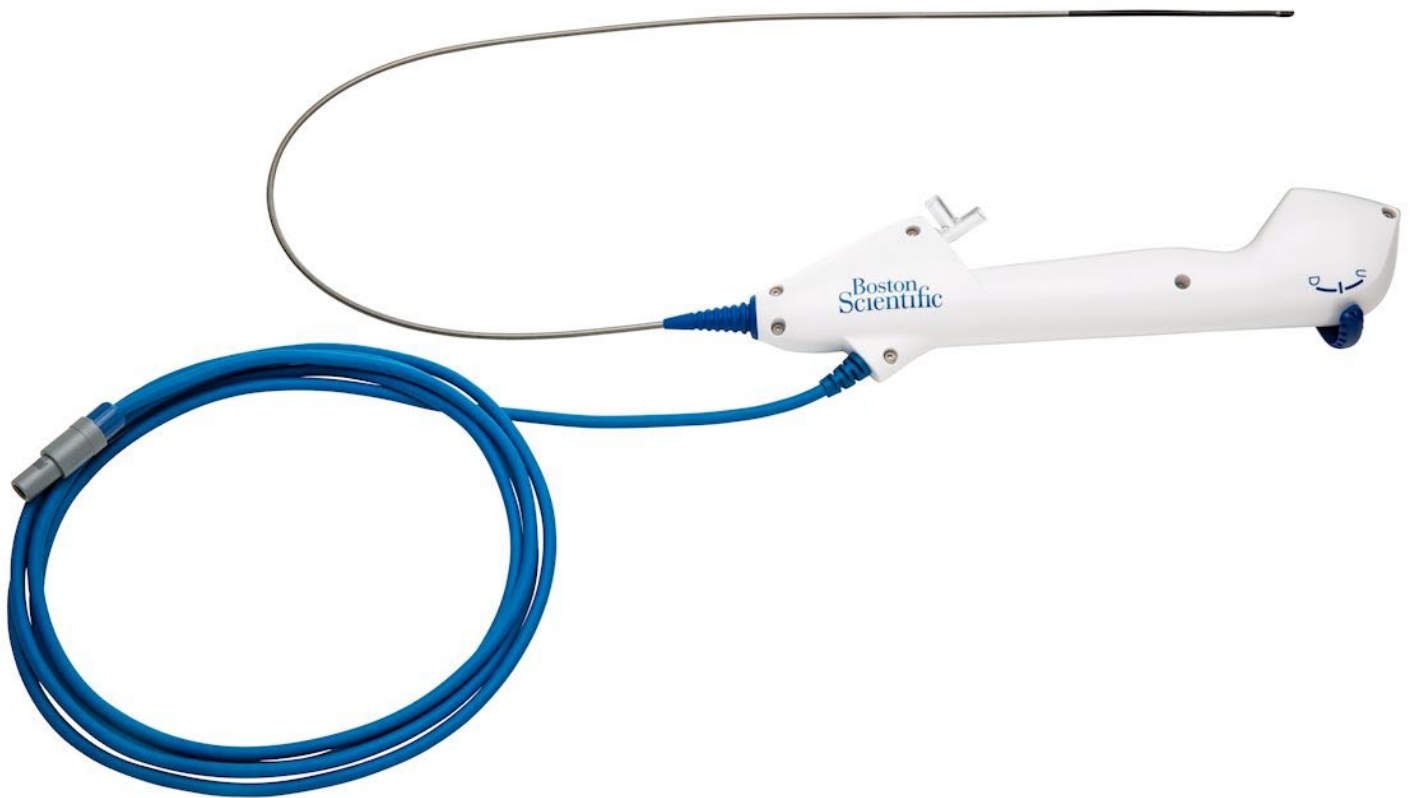
Sincerely yours,

Stanley Zaslau, MD, MBA, FACS  
Professor and Chairman

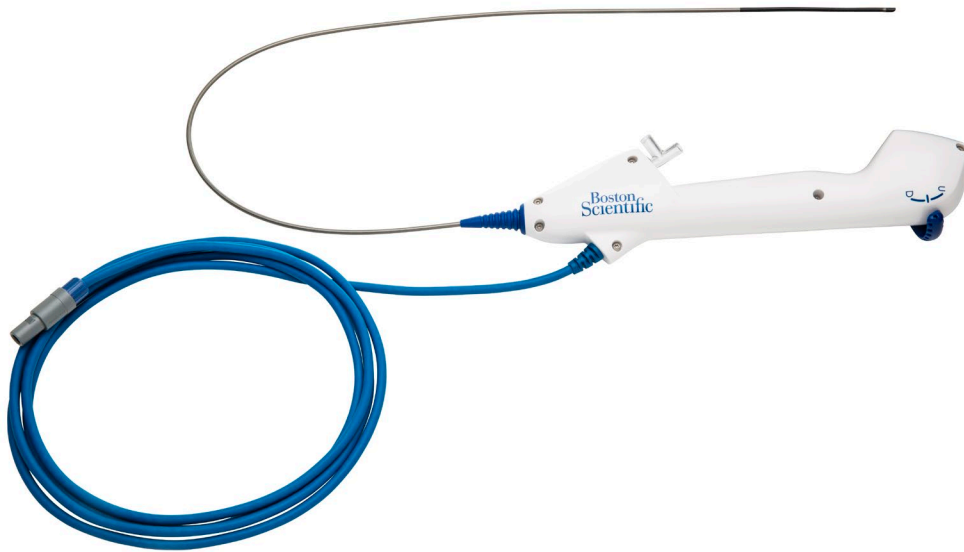
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## ***WVU Medicine Urology offers new technology for treatment of kidney stones***

May 15, 2023 [WVU Medicine News](#)



MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – [Urologists](#) at [WVU Medicine J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital](#) are among the first to implement intrarenal pressure monitoring technology to reduce the risk of infection during the surgical treatment of kidney stones. The LithoVue Elite Single-Use Digital Flexible Ureteroscope System is FDA approved and offered in a limited market release.



LithoVue Elite Single-Use Digital

#### Flexible Ureteroscope System

“Sepsis is one of the biggest risks when treating kidney stones,” [Chad Morley, M.D.](#), WVU Medicine urologist, said. “Research is showing that one of the leading factors for sepsis is increased pressure in the kidney during the operation. Previously, there wasn’t a way to measure that when you were treating kidney stones, but this new scope allows us to monitor real-time pressures while you are operating.”

The system combines imaging and pressure monitoring to allow surgeons to visualize the internal anatomy of the kidney and treat the stones that are causing blockages, while the pressure sensors serve as an early warning system to prevent damage to the kidneys or the backflow of bacteria into the bloodstream.

“If there is an infection in the urine, bladder, or kidney, increased pressure can cause it to enter the bloodstream,” Dr. Morley said. “This system lets us monitor how much pressure is building in the kidney from the blockage, urine production, and the fluids we use to improve visibility. If we see the pressure rising, we can remove fluid to decrease the pressure or end the procedure in favor of a safer approach.”

Routine measurements of intrarenal pressures are also believed to reduce post-operative pain and risk of kidney damage during surgery.

The device is being used at a very limited number of facilities during its initial launch and is expected to have more widespread availability in the future.

For more information on kidney stones and urologic health, visit [WVUMedicine.org/Urology](http://WVUMedicine.org/Urology).

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## ***Dr. Ali Hajiran Named as Chief of Urologic Oncology***



December 8, 2022 [Cancer News](#)

West Virginia University Medicine is proud to announce the appointment of [Dr. Ali Hajiran](#) as the new Chief of Urologic Oncology. Dr. Hajiran is a native of Wheeling, West Virginia. Dr. Hajiran completed his undergraduate degree at Wheeling Jesuit University before earning his Doctorate of Medicine from West Virginia University School of Medicine. He completed General Surgery Internship and Urologic Surgery Residency training at West Virginia University. Dr. Hajiran then completed a Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO) accredited Fellowship at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa, Florida. Dr. Hajiran has authored or co-authored more than 40 peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters. He specializes in treating complex cases of kidney, bladder, prostate, and testicular cancers using minimally-invasive robotic and traditional surgical techniques.

"It is a great honor to appoint Dr. Hajiran to this important role. His outstanding residency and fellowship training have provided him with the skills needed to excel. It is even more special that Dr. Hajiran has come home to bring these skills to care for the people of West Virginia, a state where he grew up in" added [Dr. Zaslau](#), Professor and Chairman, Department of Urology.

"West Virginia has one of the highest rates of newly diagnosed cancer and cancer mortality in the nation," Hajiran said. "As a native West Virginian, I have seen firsthand the effects of cancer on our community. To be able to serve our neighbors, family and friends who are dealing with cancer in this capacity is a dream come true. For me, this position is very personal and I look forward to bringing my energy and new ideas to this role. I am committed to working with our team of dedicated professionals to deliver the highest quality cutting-edge comprehensive urologic cancer care through multidisciplinary collaboration and improving access to clinical trials here in Appalachia."

## ***Pediatric Urology Receives 6<sup>th</sup> Consecutive National Ranking***

### **WVU Medicine Children's again named top hospital in West Virginia, Pediatric Urology nationally ranked by U.S. News & World Report**

June 14, 2023 [Connect News](#)

For the second consecutive year, [WVU Medicine Children's](#) has been named the top children's hospital in West Virginia by U.S. News & World Report. The Hospital's [Pediatric Urology Program](#) received its fifth-consecutive national ranking, taking the 35th spot in the country.

"It is an honor to be named the top children's hospital in West Virginia as well as to receive national recognition for our Pediatric Urology program," Michael Grace, president of West Virginia University Hospitals, said. "I am extremely proud of all of the physicians, providers, and care team members at WVU Medicine Children's, especially as we prepare to move into our [new Children's Hospital](#) this fall."

The annual Best Children's Hospitals rankings and ratings, now in their 16th year, are designed to assist families and their doctors in making informed decisions about where to receive care for challenging health conditions.



WVU Medicine Children's has the only comprehensive pediatric urology service with fellowship-trained physicians in the state. The pediatric urologists at WVU Medicine Children's have special expertise in the management of all congenital anomalies of the genitourinary system, kidney stones, neurogenic bladder, and dysfunctional voiding. It is also the state's only pediatric urology practice offering robotic surgery.

"No longer are parents from West Virginia and the surrounding region traveling great distances out of the area to find the specialized care their children need, but we have families from other states coming here to Morgantown to get care they cannot find close to their homes," [Osama Al-Omar, MD, MBA](#), chief of Pediatric Urology at WVU Medicine Children's, said. "This national recognition from U.S. News & World Report proves that we are among the premier institutions in the country – a fact that is made possible by the dedicated team of physicians, nurses, and staff who care for our patients every day."

For 2023-24, U.S. News ranked the top 50 centers in each of these 10 pediatric specialties: cancer; cardiology and heart surgery; diabetes and endocrinology; gastroenterology and gastrointestinal surgery; neonatology; nephrology; neurology and neurosurgery; orthopaedics; pulmonology and lung surgery; and urology. For the second year, the Best Children's Hospitals rankings featured expanded offerings that include state rankings and multi-state regional rankings.

"Choosing the right hospital for a sick child is a critical decision for many parents," Ben Harder, chief of health analysis and managing editor at U.S. News, said. "The Best Children's Hospitals rankings spotlight hospitals that excel in specialized care."

The Best Children's Hospitals [methodology](#) factors objective measures such as patient outcomes, including mortality and infection rates, as well as health equity and available clinical resources and compliance with best practices. To calculate the Best Children's Hospitals rankings, U.S. News gathered relevant data from children's hospitals in early 2022 and from pediatric physicians and other healthcare organizations as well as available clinical resources, compliance with best practices, and efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion among patients and staff in 2022.

RTI International, a North Carolina-based research and consulting firm, collected and analyzed data from 119 children's hospitals and surveyed thousands of pediatric specialists. More than 100 pediatric specialists and other experts provided input through methodology working groups.

For more information on WVU Medicine Children's Hospital, visit [WVUKids.com](http://WVUKids.com).

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## ***West Virginia Urological Association to hold 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting***

The West Virginia Urology Association is heading into its third year this summer at Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, West Virginia (one year postponed due to COVID). The mission is to further advance the care of urologic patients of West Virginia through collaboration and innovation between WVU, CAMC, community Urologists, Medical Oncologists, and Radiation Oncologists from the state and surrounding areas. The 2023 meeting featured breakout sessions for mid-level providers. Most importantly, the meeting allows an opportunity for all the Urology residents of West Virginia to come together, in an educational, fun, and relaxing atmosphere. The 2024 Meeting will be held at the Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, West Virginia, July 11-14, 2023.



## *WVU Urology welcomes its new resident class to begin in July 2024*

The Department of Urology is pleased to welcome its incoming urology resident class to begin July 1, 2024. As always, it was a great opportunity for our department to showcase our depth and breadth across all urologic disciplines to our applicants. We welcome Dr. Andrea Pettit and Dr. Nikos Crist to our Department.



**Andrea Pettit, MD**

Dr. Pettit hails from Morgantown, WV. Pettit completed her undergraduate work at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV and completed her masters at Cambridge University in Cambridge, UK. She will receive her MD degree from West Virginia University in May 2024. Pettit's hobbies include hiking, running, swimming, cooking and exploring state parks.



**Nikos Crist, MD**

Dr. Crist hails Brooksville, Maine. He completed his undergraduate work at the University of Rhode Island, and will receive his MD degree from Indiana University SOM in Indianapolis, IN in May 2024. Crist's hobbies include fishing, hunting, playing the guitar, and playing basketball.

## *Accomplishments, Happenings and Milestones*

- ❖ Dr. John Barnard was the faculty recipient of the 2022-23 Kandzari Faculty teaching award, voted upon by the residents for excellence in teaching. Congratulations Dr. Barnard!
- ❖ Morgan Myers, Urology and Gastroenterology Program Manager, was the recipient of the 2022-23 Department of Urology Chairman's Award for Excellence. This new award was established by Dr. Zaslau in 2019. Congratulations Morgan!
- ❖ Dr. Amr El-Bakry was the recipient of the 2022-2023 Outstanding Resident Teacher award for making the greatest teaching contribution to the members of the Junior Medical School Class.
- ❖ Dr. David Zekan received the 2022-23 Zaslau Family In-Service Scholarship Award for achieving the highest In-Service Examination (Percentile) Score.

Please consider supporting the Department of Urology with a gift to support one of the funds of your choice listed below. Consistent with our Mission, Vision, and Goals, we strive for excellence. Your support will provide opportunities to be leaders for our students and residents, and most importantly, the best care providers for our patients.

### **Coach Stanley J. Kandzari, MD, Urology Conference Room**

The Department of Urology has just completed its first Department Conference Room. This multipurpose room features high tech audiovisual equipment to assist with resident and faculty teaching conferences. The room will also be used for Department and Staff meetings. This room is named in honor of Dr. Stanley J. Kandzari, a man who has dedicated his entire career to teaching urology residents, medical students, and members of the Department of Urology. As a clinician, his career focuses on the care of West Virginians; he has personally cared for many generations of patients. The Department is asking for contributions from grateful patients, staff, former residents, and students. All contributors will have name recognition on a plaque that will be displayed in the conference room.

**The Coach Stanley J. Kandzari, MD Fund for Resident Education** was established to further urology resident education through their attendance at meetings, courses, seminars, and lectures. Support will also include visiting scholars and lectures. The endowed fund was established in 2013 by Dr. Stanley J. Kandzari, the inaugural Urology Residency Program Director.

**The James and Emily LaRosa Urology Research Fund** was established to fund urologic research in both basic and clinical sciences. The endowed fund has allowed for significant work to be completed in the study of the pathogenesis and treatment of bladder cancer. The fund provides the resources for the purchase of laboratory supplies, visiting scholars, lectures, travel and presentation of scholarly work at regional and national meetings.

**The Urology Chairman's Discretionary Fund** was established through a 5-year donation by the Zaslau Family in honor of Chairman Dr. Stanley Zaslau. This effort provides funds to enhance scholarly activities as well as fund annual department educational and social events such as the annual Resident Graduation weekend.

**The Dr. William Fred Tarry Lectureship in Pediatric Urology** was established to commemorate the contributions of West Virginia's first Pediatric Urologist. This endowed fund will perpetuate Dr. Tarry's passion and energy for Pediatric Urology. The fund will allow for an annual lectureship in Pediatric Urology as well as fund clinical, teaching, and research efforts to promote Pediatric Urologic Education in West Virginia.

To give online, please visit [give.wvu.edu/Urology](https://give.wvu.edu/Urology). You may also contact Jenna Nypaver, Associate Director of Development via email [jnypaver@wvuf.org](mailto:jnypaver@wvuf.org) at 304-554-0250.