The George W. Drach, MD, Distinguished Visiting Professorship in Urology was established in 2013 to recognize the remarkable achievements of the founding Chief of Urology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. George W. Drach, now Professor Emeritus, founded Urology in 1970 in the Department of Surgery. In 2016, Dr. Benjamin Lee was named Professor and Chief, bringing an increased focus in robotics, laparoscopy, endourology to an already strong clinical reputation in the areas of urologic oncology, female urology, pelvic floor prolapse, reconstruction and calculus disease. On July 15, 2019 Urology successfully became a Department of Urology within the College of Medicine. Our mission is to deliver compassionate, high quality care to the people of Arizona, the Southwestern U.S. and beyond. In addition, we lead advancement of urologic science in Arizona with innovative and impactful research in prostate, kidney cancer and bladder cancer, reconstruction as well as pelvic prolapse and female urology. Our educational residency program will train and develop the next generation of exceptional urologists. The Distinguished Professorship brings outstanding urologists to the College of Medicine to educate and inspire residents, fellows and colleagues.

Drach Visiting Professors

2020 Hunter Wessells
University of Washington

2019 Christopher Kane, MD
University of California, San Diego

2018 Jeffrey Holzbeierlein, MD
University of Kansas

2017 Stephen Nakada, MD,
University of Wisconsin

2016 Tom Lue, MD
University of California, San Francisco

2015 Alan Wein, MD
University of Pennsylvania

2014 Byron Joyner, MD
University of Washington

2013 Marshall Stoller, MD
University of California, San Francisco
Hunter Wessells MD, FACS

Hunter Wessells is Professor and Nelson Chair of the Department of Urology at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

Dr. Wessells specializes in genitourinary trauma, reconstructive surgery, and erectile dysfunction. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Georgetown University and urology residency training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. After completing a fellowship in Trauma and Reconstructive Surgery at UCSF, Dr. Wessells was a member of the faculty at the University of Arizona before joining the Department of Urology at the University of Washington in 2001, serving as Chair since 2008. The Department currently is nationally ranked in US News for its UW Medicine and Seattle Children’s Hospital clinical programs; for NIH funding in Urology; and for its Residency Program.

Dr. Wessells is Program Director of a Fellowship in GU Trauma and Reconstruction based at Harborview Medical Center and the Department’s AUA Physician Scientist Research Training program. He leads research funded by NIH, NASA and other agencies investigating the risk factors and genetic susceptibility to erectile dysfunction; novel therapies for kidney stone disease; and urological trauma. His professional service includes the AUA Guidelines Panel Chair for Male Urethral Stricture, Chair of the NIDDK sponsored Urinary Stone Disease Research Network, and as Vice President of the American Board of Urology.

An avid outdoors sportsman, Dr. Wessells enjoys open water swimming in the Puget Sound, back country skiing, and maintains an organic vegetable garden. Weather permitting, he plays tennis with his wife and swims, bikes or rows with his daughter.

Contributions to the
George W. Drach, MD, Endowed Chair in Urology are welcome.

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UArizona Department of Urology Faculty

Benjamin R. Lee, MD – Professor & Interim Chair of Urology, GU Cancer Planning Team
Juan Chipollini, MD – Urologic Oncology, Assistant Professor of Urology
Joel T. Funk, MD – Chief of Surgery, Banner – University Medical Center South, Associate Professor of Urology
Matthew B. Gretzer, MD – Director of Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgery, Associate Professor of Urology
Roger Nellans, MD – General Urology, Associate Professor of Urology
Christian O. Twiss, MD – Director of Female Pelvic Medicine, and Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery, Associate Professor of Urology, Residency Program Director
David Tzou, MD – Endourology, Assistant Professor of Urology
Ken Batai, PhD – Research Scientist, Department of Urology

RSVP by
Wednesday, February 26, 2020 to
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