**Dr. Stephen Nakada** has been elected as the 2023 President-Elect of the American Urological Association (AUA). He will take the office of President-Elect at the conclusion of the AUA annual meeting in 2023, and will become President at the conclusion of the 2024 meeting. Congratulations to Dr. Nakada on this tremendous achievement!

The Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research (BRIMR) has publicly released its *NIH Funding to U.S. Medical Schools* rankings for the 2021 federal fiscal year. Our department is #7 in the nation for urology departments, our highest ranking ever. Investigators included in our ranking are William Ricke, PhD, Teresa Liu, PhD, Kristina Penniston, PhD, and Petra Popovics, PhD. We are thankful for the work of these individuals, and all our talented investigators shaping our field.

**Dr. Sara Best** has been elected to serve as the Chair-Elect of the American Urological Association's Conflict of Interest Review Workgroup, and will also serve as a member of the AUA Education Council.

**Drs. Chris Manakas** and **Dan Gralnek** will be serving as presenters at an upcoming Journal of Endourology webinar titled Building your HoLEP Practice: Tips, Tricks & Technology. The event will be held Thursday, February 24th at 11 AM ET. Click [here](#) to register.

**Dr. Zoe Blumenthal**, urology resident, is the recipient of the 2022 Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine and Urogenital Reconstruction (SUFU) Resident Travel Stipend Program.

The **Department's Residency Program**, led by Dr. Daniel Williams, Dr. Kyle Richards, and Denise Mussehl, has received continued accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) with no citations.

We are Delighted to Announce Our Incoming Resident Class Who Will Start at the End of June
February 3, 2022 marked the fifth annual National Women Physicians Day on the 201st birthday of Elizabeth Blackwell – the first woman to earn a medical degree in America.

Not surprising, the road to that degree was not an easy one; Blackwell was rejected by 29 programs before finally being accepted by a small New York college in 1847. Two years later, she graduated first in her class, a monumental personal and historic achievement. Despite being the lone female physician in the country at that time, Blackwell stared down society’s prejudices, going on to build a medical practice, establish a medical college for women, and campaign for reform in the medical profession.

An inspiration and a true pioneer, Blackwell’s perseverance and dedication blazed a trail for countless women.

In honor of this important day, we would like to recognize and thank the women physicians on our faculty and in our residency and fellowship programs for their strength, determination, and leadership – and for the outstanding care they provide to our patients every day.