



## Oregon Urological Society, Quarterly Update Spring 2019

### **2019 AUA Policy Meeting Recap: March 4-6, 2019**

Oregon was well represented by OUS board member, Brian Duty MD. Nearly 250 urologists, advanced practice providers, research and patient advocates descended in Washington D.C.

249 emails and tweets were sent to members of congress from 128 summit attendees in addition to the in-office visits most attendees participated in. These stats were tracked through the new AUA grassroots service, Phone2Action.



Day 1 was a general orientation and discussion of the handouts that were given to members of Congress on Day #2. Bob Woodward was the luncheon keynote speaker. Expounding on the congressional handouts, the AUA provided general sessions on Prostate Cancer Screening and Patient Advocacy; the Value of Research: How Funding for Urologic Research Improves Health Outcomes; and Regulatory Burdens to Care. Breakout sessions later in the day covered Transgendered Care, Access to Rural Care, Stark Law under MACRA, and Opioid Use, Improving Post-Operative Care.

Day 2 started with general sessions on Intersex Advocacy Update, and Collaborative Approaches to Overcome Workplace Challenges in Urology. There were addresses by Senator John Barroso, MD(R-WY) and former Congressman Jason Altmire (D-PA) now from Florida. The latter has written a book: Dead Center about political polarization.

Dr. Duty met with members of Oregon to address the following:

- 1) Support Prostate Cancer Screening for High Risk Populations** – even though prostate cancer screening has been elevated from a D to C level by the USPSTF, it does not address the high risk populations (African Americans, patients with family history of prostate cancer and Agent Orange exposure). The main focus of the AUA, and Dr. Duty, was to recommend to Congress to fund National Cancer Institute (NCI) programs screening and studying men at higher risk for developing prostate cancer.
- 2) Support Prior Authorization Legislation** – The AUA has endorsed the “AMA Prior Authorization and Utilization Management Principles.” This is a set of 21 principles intended to “ensure that patients receive timely and medically necessary care and medications and reduce the administrative burdens.” The goal is to provide guidance to health plans concerning the standardization of prior authorization transactions, data collection and oversight. There needs to be extensive work and focus on the streamlining and standardization of prior authorization. In addition, accountability, data collection, reporting of Medicare Advantage prior authorization delays, time to approval, medication and procedural delays.
- 3) Support Federal Funding for Urological Research** – asking for increased support of DoD, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) which is due to

expire in September 2019) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) research. The NIH ask is for a 6.4% increase over current levels. Urological research is disproportionately funded compared to the burden of disease. Unlike prior years, there were no House or Senate bills attached to any of these, yet.

Day 3 had general session on Veterans' Healthcare, Urological Workforce Issues, Negotiating Affordable Drug Prices and Alternative Payment Models.