



AUA Staff Liaison	TBD
Chair	Steven Kaplan, MD
Terms of Office	Chair: 4 years (non-renewable) Members: 3 years (renewable once)

Council Makeup

Council shall consist of the chairs of the designated component committees (ex officio voting) and at least one member from each AUAER Section. Per AUA Bylaws, each Section shall be entitled to select one representative for each 800 voting members enrolled by that Section during any year. The AUA will request Sections to submit the names and CVs of three candidates that meet the member qualifications listed in this profile. Additional supplemental member criteria may also be required as defined by the Research Chair and Director of Research. Per affiliation agreements, there are also three members from the Society for Basic Urology Research and one Dornier MedTech Corporation representative.

Note: The SBUR appoints its President, Vice-President and President-elect to serve as the three SBUR representatives on the Council, and these positions rotate at the fall SBUR meeting.

Vision/Mission/Purpose Statement

The Council supports the research component of AUAER's mission by advising and facilitating advancement of the Office of Research and its efforts to advance research through funding, education, and advocacy. The Council's mission is to increase and maintain the workforce of urology physician-scientists and researchers to catalyze the advancement of clinical practice to reduce the burden of urologic disease through impactful research.

The functions and activities of this Council shall be assigned to component committees including but not limited to 1) the Research Education, Conferences, and Communications Committee and 2) the Research Grants and Investigator Support Committee, and including a strong relationship with the Research Appropriations Committee, which reports to the AUA Public Policy Council. In addition, the Research Council Chair, in consultation with the Director of Research and the Research Grants and Investigator Support Committee Chair, shall appoint members of an overarching Research Grant Review Panel (RGRP) that will serve to peer review applications, across several panels, for Urology Care Foundation and AUAER research grants, as well as other ad hoc workgroups for specific research-related activities.

Reporting

The Research Council reports to the AUA Board of Directors. The Research Chair reports to the board at the fall board meeting and may present action items at the other board meetings as needed.

Council Meetings

The Research Council typically meets twice per year via teleconference to ensure that the Council maintains appropriate oversight of Office of Research programs. Other meetings of the Council are limited but may occur in person or by teleconference as deemed necessary by the Chair, Director of Research, or AUA Chief Executive Officer.



Time Commitment

Chair: 12 hours per week

Member: 1 hour per month (average) (some Council members also serve on a Research Committee, which has additional service requirements). Council members are encouraged to extend their service to engagement with Office of Research programs, including peer review or program committees.

Responsibilities

Chair: In executing responsibilities, the Chair of Research will report to the Board of Directors and will chair the Research Council and oversee its Committees. The Chair must work in a mutually effective and collaborative manner with the Director of the Office of Research to help coordinate and implement research activities. The Chair's efforts will include teleconferences and meetings with staff, AUA- or Urology Care Foundation-funded investigators, AUA Research Committees, and representatives of external organizations/agencies, as well as collaborating with the Director of Research in providing presentations to the AUA Board of Directors and Urology Care Foundation Board of Directors three times a year each. This time commitment includes travel up to 30 days annually for attendance at AUA's Annual Meeting, fall AUA and Urology Care Foundation Board of Directors meetings, leadership meetings with NIH institute officials, and interaction with other AUA/Urology Care Foundation Councils supporting funding, education, or advocacy activities.

Members:

- Serve as active liaisons between the Research Council and their sections/organizations by attending meetings and providing status reports on activities of the Council and urologic research in general.
- Be available to participate in Council meetings, workshops and sub-committee activities.
- Work collaboratively and effectively with the Council Chair, Council members, and Research staff to provide guidance for the oversight (including development and optimization) of all AUA research programs.

Criteria for Selecting New Members

All Council members, except those mandated by contractual obligations, should meet the following criteria to qualify for appointment to the Council:

- First representative from each Section must be a urologist. Second representative may be a PhD researcher, MD from another specialty, or an individual with an advanced degree who is active in urologic research. The third representative can be either a urologist or PhD researcher.
- Extensive experience in urologic research (e.g., history of multiple investigator-initiated, peer-reviewed, research funding grants as the Principal Investigator or Co-PI, sustained three years or more, funding of at least one R01-type grant from agencies under the Department of Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense)
- Research-related service (e.g., service on HHS, VA, or DoD peer review, in research-related associations, organizations, and/or societies)

Criteria for Selecting Next Chair

Openings for Research are announced every four years at the webpage AUAnet.org/ResearchChair. A job description highlighting the qualifications is posted on that site. The next search will begin fall of 2023. The Research Chair is selected by a Board Search Committee.



Recent Accomplishments 2023

The Research Council has governance responsibility over the activities of the two Research council subcommittees. Some of the programs and initiatives that the Council has guided and approved include:

- Launching the inaugural urology incubator program, the Innovation Nexus Conference, on April 27, 2023, immediately prior to the Annual Meeting. This meeting was followed by a one-day Innovation Nexus Boot Camp for urology researchers at AUA HQ in September 2023. Planning for the 2024 Innovation Nexus Conference in San Antonio, TX is underway. Conducting the **11th Annual AUA Early-Career Investigator Workshop (ECIW)**, hosted at AUA Headquarters October 20-21, which provided intensive mentoring between 30 participants and faculty mentors and speakers to increase preparedness for independent research funding.
- Hosting two **Scientific Symposia** as part of the AUA Annual Meeting in April 2023, including the AUA Office of Research Challenges for Urologic Research Symposium: **“Overcoming Health Disparities in Urologic Research.”**
- Hosting the 6th annual co-sponsored bladder cancer scientific symposium in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Greenberg Bladder Cancer Institute in March 3-4, 2023, which brought together stakeholders to examine, discuss, and identify opportunities for Clinical and Biological Implications of Tumor Heterogeneity
- Completing awardee selections for four **2023 Urology Care Foundation Research Programs**: Research Scholar Awards; Residency Research Awards; Rising Star Award, ; and Medical Student Fellowships with awards totaling over **\$1.3 million**.
- Awarding the first **Boston Scientific Medical Student Innovation Fellowship** to fund a 12-month research project for a medical student interested in translating urology research into innovation. This award has a strong preference for applicants from groups underrepresented in urology and/or projects focused on health disparities.
- Completing Year 6 of the **Urology Scientific Mentoring and Research Training (USMART) Academy** to provide external, high-quality mentoring to early-career investigators developing their independent research careers. With this year’s cohort, the OR met the goal that at least 50% of mentees would be from groups traditionally underrepresented in the scientific and biomedical workforce.
- Establishing the first **Independent Practice Research Symposium**, a dedicated 4-hour Scientific Symposium at the 2023 AUA Annual Meeting, with the intent to increase opportunities for independent researcher engagement with the AUA.
- Implementing the recommendations of the **Office of Research Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Work Group** to enhance DEI, improve existing processes, and identify new initiatives.
- Building the International Research Work Group to begin creating an International Urology Researcher Needs Assessment to determine how the AUA can best support international researchers.