



AUA Annual Urology Advocacy Summit REPORT

First Quarter 2019

Washington State was well represented by Drs. Ken Berger, Jeff Evans, Jeff Frankel, Kathleen Kobashi and Carleen Bensen.



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Day 1 was general orientation and a discussion of the Leave Behinds. Bob Woodward was the luncheon keynote speaker. Expounding on the Leave Behinds, there were 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 from Florida. The latter has written a book: Dead Center about political polarization.

We then hit the Hill with our asks:

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). We asked for more NIH funding to study this group.

Support Prior Authorization Legislation – asking for guidance to health plans, standardization of prior authorization transactions, data collection and oversight.

Support Federal Funding for Urological Research – asking for increased support of DoD, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (part of the ACA which is due to expire in September 2019) and 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. We visited Congressman Derek Kilmer, District 6, Representative Adam Smith's legislative aide, Senator Maria Cantwell, Senator Patty Murray's legislative aides, Representative Dan Newhouse's legislative aide (his flight was delayed so we couldn't meet with him directly) and dropped off information at Representatives Pramila Jayapal and Kim Schrier. We were well received and since none of our issues were contentious, we got verbal support from the Congressmen, Senators and their staffs.

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