INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Residency Handbook is to provide both residents and faculty members with a blueprint of the learning objectives for the Program in Urological Surgery at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio. This program has a long history of excellence in didactic, clinical, and research contributions to the field of Urologic Surgery and has trained a superb group of urologic surgeons who are now leaders in the field throughout the United States.

All faculty members and residents will be provided with an updated copy of this handbook annually. It is a living document, changing with the constantly changing field of Urologic Surgery as well as the changing needs for resident education.

The raison d'être of the Department of Urology at the UTHSCSA is education of residents and students, married with a dedication to the highest quality healthcare for our patients as well as a commitment to furthering the knowledge base in the field of Urologic Surgery. These three missions are inextricably linked and each enhances the other two. Our strategic goals for the Department of Urology are one and the same with these three fundamental elements of the program.

DEFINITION OF THE SPECIALTY OF UROLOGY

The definition of the Specialty of Urology has been stated by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. The definition is:

Urology is the medical and surgical specialty involving disorders of the genitourinary tract, including the adrenal gland. Specialists in this discipline must demonstrate the knowledge, skill, and understanding of the pertinent basic medical sciences. Residency programs must educate physicians in the prevention, diagnosis, and medical management & surgical treatment including reconstruction necessary due to urologic disease processes.

SCOPE OF EDUCATION

The Residency Training Program in Urology at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio is a five-year training program.

It is a dynamic and growing residency training program, and is designed to allow maximum development of the individual resident. The breadth of the program prepares one quite well for either the private practice of urology or the pursuit of academic interest. We offer four positions for each of the five years of training. Three of these are civilian positions and 1 is reserved for a designated military trainee. The PGY1 training year is a pre-specialty training year in general surgery and associated disciplines according to the Urology RC guidelines. For the civilian trainees, this year is spent at University Hospital and the Audie Murphy V.A. Hospital. Both are physically adjacent to the Health Sciences Center. The military trainees are assigned to a surgical internship through Brook Army Medical Center (BAMC) before joining the program in the PGY-2 year.

The graduated responsibilities from the U-1 (PGY-2) through the U-3 (PGY-4) year prepare the chief residents very well for the responsibilities of running the large clinical services at University Hospital, Santa Rosa Health Care System and the V.A. Health Care System. As U-3s, the residents at Santa Rosa Pediatrics and Methodist are essentially chief residents in charge of a service. Elective blocks of three months in the
U-2 and U-3 years allow residents to benefit from a large fund of urologic knowledge on the individually designed rotations. Residents are allowed to spend this time on clinical electives related to urology or get involved in clinical or hands-on laboratory research, but with a concurrent clinical responsibility, if they desire.

The final twelve months of the urology educational program is spent as a Chief Resident (U-4) with appropriate clinical responsibility under supervision in participating institutions of the UTHSCSA Residency Training Program in Urology. To be considered a graduate of the program, residents must complete the full length of the educational program meeting all Urology RC and ACGME requirements.