

## UROLOGY

Faculty Elective Coordinator:

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### GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS PLANNING A RESIDENCY IN UROLOGY

Urology is a competitive surgical subspecialty with an early match. In the urology residency selection process, program directors are interested not only in national board scores, class rank and other traditional methods to measure the ability of medical students, but also the quality and quantity of electives taken during the senior year.

Due to the early match process, it would be difficult to participate in more than two urology months prior to the interview season. The primary purpose of taking a urology elective is to solidify career decisions about pursuing urology. The other reason to take urology electives during the fourth year is to achieve exposure in locations where the student is seriously considering applying. Obviously, the student's performance during an elective away from his parent institution can either help or hinder his/her obtaining a residency position where he/she does the elective. We usually advise students to take a month of urology at this institution and a maximum of one month of urology at another institution. The rotation at this institution is critical in furnishing the letters of recommendation from the home institution that are considered necessary.

Rather than recommend specific electives, we do urge senior students entering into a urologic residency program to elect quality electives, which offer good breadth of experience. Urologists care for patients of all ages and many patients with urologic problems have coexisting significant other medical problems. For these reasons, a nephrology elective is worthwhile. Electives dealing with various medical subspecialties are also thought to be extremely valuable for students entering urologic training programs. For example, nephrology, hematology, cardiology, infectious disease and renal transplantation are all very reasonable electives to take. Radiology, as well as a subinternship in either medicine or surgery, is also a good choice for the future urologist.

#### Additional Elective Topics:

In addition to the departmental elective offerings described on the following pages, students may pursue other interests with faculty by arranging ad hoc electives or Special Projects according to the procedure outlined at the beginning of this book. Some potential elective topics and the faculty contacts are listed below. To explore other possibilities, please contact the departmental elective coordinator.

Topic	Faculty Name	Telephone Number
Urologic Oncology	Ashish Kamat, M.D. akamat@mdanderson.org	713 / 792-3250