The UCLA Institute of Urologic Oncology (IUO) is pleased to announce the addition of a new Board of Directors Member, along with the successful recruitment of 3 new faculty to UCLA – Dr. Paul Boutros, Dr. Brian Shuch, and Dr. Huihui Ye. These compliment the IUO’s 3 other new UCLA faculty additions – Dr. Jeremy Calais, Dr. John Shen, and Dr. David Ulmert. To learn more about these outstanding new IUO members, please see below.

NEW IUO BOARD MEMBER
Dr. Johannes Czernin has joined the IUO Board of Directors; a collective that now includes the Chairs and Chiefs of Diagnostic Radiology, Medical Oncology, Nuclear Medicine, Pathology, Radiation Oncology and Urology.

Dr. Czernin has 30 years of experience in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. He received his MD degree from the University of Vienna, Austria, and started his career at UCLA as a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Heinrich Schelbert’s lab. He is a Professor and Vice Chair of the UCLA Department of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and serves as the Chief of the Ahmanson Translational Imaging.

Dr. Czernin’s work focuses on improving the outcomes of cancer patients by developing novel diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. He has served as the President of the Academy of Molecular Imaging, has published more than 240 manuscripts, and currently serves as the Editor in Chief of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine.

NEW IUO FACULTY RECRUIT
The addition of Dr. Paul C. Boutros marks rare consensus from the broad cancer research and care communities including the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Departments of Human Genetics and Urology, the Broad Stem Cell Research Center, Institute of Urologic Oncology, NCI-funded Prostate the Broad Stem Cell Research Center, Institute of Urologic Oncology, Cancer SPORE Program, Precision Medicine Institute, and the DGSOM Dean’s Office.

Dr. Boutros pursued his undergraduate education at the University of Waterloo in Chemistry, a PhD in Medical Biophysics from the University of Toronto, and an Executive MBA from the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto.

Dr. Boutros joins UCLA as a Professor following his appointment as an Associate Professor in the Departments of Pharmacology & Toxicology and Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto. He was also a Principle Investigator II in the Informatics & Biocomputer Program, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research. His work focuses on the development of clinically useful biomarkers using genomic
and data science techniques like next-generation sequencing, clinical and cellular imaging, machine-learning, crowd-sourcing and cloud-computing.

Dr. Paul Boutros will begin his appointment on September 17, 2018. He is expected to provide vision and leadership in building a much-needed program in Clinical Cancer Genomics that interfaces with numerous campus stakeholders and interested parties, to help move UCLA into the next wave of genomics-based cancer research and clinical care. Dr. Boutros’ work directly addresses the pressing question for the next decade of cancer research and patient care: How does big data impact and inform better clinical decision-making? A key goal is applying computational big data to improve the understanding and management of cancer.

NEW IUO FACULTY RECRUIT

Dr. Brian Shuch will join the Department of Urology and the Institute of Urologic Oncology as the Director of the Kidney Cancer Program on September 1, 2018. Dr. Shuch earned his undergraduate degree with Honors from the University of Michigan and his medical doctorate from the New York University School of Medicine, where he was honored as the most outstanding graduate in his class. Subsequently he completed his residency in Urology at UCLA followed by a 3-year Urologic Oncology fellowship at the National Cancer Institute under Dr. Marston Linehan.

Dr. Shuch joins UCLA after 5 years at the Yale School of Medicine where he was recently promoted to Associate Professor in the Departments of Urology and Diagnostic Radiology. At Yale, he created the Yale Genitourinary Biospecimen Repository for the Yale Cancer Center and the Yale’s GU Cancer Genetics program. Dr. Shuch has published an impressive body of work including articles features in many high-profile journals (eg. PNAS, JCO, NEJM, Nature Genetics, Cancer Cell, and Clinical Cancer Research) and while at Yale, he received peer-reviewed funding to run a translational research lab focused on renal cancer tumor heterogeneity, sarcomatoid transformation, and oncometabolite-induced tumorigenesis. Dr. Shuch is active in clinical trials, including various investigator-initiated trials and is a leader in the SWOG and SUO Renal Cancer teams. He is on the NCCN Kidney Cancer guideline panel and the VHL Family Alliance Renal Cancer Committee.

Dr. Shuch intends to bring novel tumor profiling to the clinic for personalized medicine, establish a UCLA Cancer Genetics Program, pursue novel therapeutic trials in early stage and advanced kidney cancer, while maintaining a rigorous surgical practice. Brian’s desire is to hit the ground running, meet with the UCLA clinical and translational research community to harness its existing collective strengths and build on the outstanding kidney cancer reputation established by his long-time mentor, Dr. Arie Belldegrun.
NEW IUO FACULTY RECRUIT
On July 2, 2018, Dr. Huihui Ye joined the Departments of Pathology and Urology, along with the Institute of Urologic Oncology and the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, as an Associate Clinical Professor. Dr. Ye serves as the Department of Pathology’s GU Service Chief.

Dr. Ye attended Medical School at Zhejiang Medical University, did her residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at New York University School of Medicine and completed her Urological Pathology fellowship at Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Ye joins UCLA following her appointment as an Assistant Professor in Pathology at Harvard Medical School and as the Director of Genitourinary Pathology at Beth Deaconess Medical Center. Her main research interest is to study molecular characteristics of aggressive prostate cancer with the goal to improve early detection and early interventions of these aggressive cases. Her work also involves identification of predictive biomarkers and resistance mechanisms of high-risk localized prostate cancer in neoadjuvant intense androgen deprivation clinical trials. One of Dr. Ye’s current interests is to dissect the interplay of tumor genetics and immune response in prostate cancer and to evaluate the effects of different treatment modalities in the prostate cancer immune microenvironment.

NEW IUO HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY FACULTY ADDITION
Dr. John Shen is a Board-certified physician in oncology who begins his tenure as a Clinical Instructor in Hematology/Oncology and with the Institute of Urologic Oncology on July 1, 2018.

Dr. Shen received his bachelor of science from Stanford University, with honors in cancer biology. He completed medical school at the University of California, Irvine and an internal medicine residency at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. At UCLA, he completed a combined fellowship in Hematology/Oncology and Geriatric Medicine, and served as chief fellow. Dr. Shen specializes in the care of older adults with genitourinary malignancies, in particular cancers of the prostate, kidney, and bladder.
NEW IUO NUCLEAR MEDICINE FACULTY ADDITION

Jeremie Calais, MD, MSc, received his MD degree from the University of Paris-Diderot in 2010.

He subsequently trained in nuclear medicine and cancer imaging at the Henri Becquerel Cancer Center of the University of Rouen and was board certified by the French Society of Nuclear Medicine in 2014.

He currently serves as Assistant Professor at the Ahmanson Translational Imaging Division of the Department of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. His work focuses on improving the outcomes of cancer patients by translating and applying novel diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. He uses PET/CT imaging for cancer phenotyping, radiation therapy planning and therapy response assessment. He leads the clinical theranostics research program at UCLA that combines radionuclide therapy and imaging.

NEW IUO NUCLEAR MEDICINE FACULTY ADDITION

Hans David Ulmert, MD, PhD, joins UCLA as an Assistant Professor in Residence in the Department of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology and the Institute of Urologic Oncology on August 1, 2018. Hailing from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Dr. Ulmert obtained his medical degree at Lund University in Sweden. He began a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering in 2010 and has served as a Senior Research Scientist in the Medical Pharmacology Program and as the Technical Director for the Ludwig Center for Cancer Immunotherapy since 2014.

Dr. Ulmert’s clinical research is focused on the study of risk factors and biomarkers related to clinically diagnosed prostate cancer and definitive end-points in non-screened cohorts. The findings of these studies extend into my translational research, which center on development of novel in vivo strategies targeting enzymes regulated by the molecular pathways that drive the disease. The overarching goal is to apply these specific tissue targeting vehicles for multimodal molecular imaging strategies, as well as for carriers of therapeutic agents.

Dr. Ulmert joins Nuclear Medicine’s Translational Research Program with a focus on prostate cancer.
The Institute of Urologic Oncology is a multidisciplinary team of scientists and physicians, from disciplines including urologic oncology, medical oncology, diagnostic and interventional radiology, nuclear medicine, pathology, nursing, basic sciences and clinical trials, that works together as a team to personalize patient care and to develop state-of-the-art technologies and revolutionary treatments for prostate, kidney, testicular and bladder cancers.

We know that these faculty additions will greatly enhance our team of scientists and physicians developing leading-edge therapies for the treatment of GU cancers and in training the next generation of outstanding urologic oncologists.