

To fellow members of the Southeastern Section:

I am writing to enthusiastically support Tom Stringer for AUA President in the upcoming SESAUA vote. Raju Thomas has long been a friend and colleague and I offer my appreciation to him for being willing to pursue this position. However, I consider Tom Stringer to be the perfect candidate.

An AUA President serves for only one year. One observation I have made is that AUA Presidents with experience on the Executive Board end up being much more effective and accomplish more than those who assume the role with less knowledge of the inner workings of the AUA. The AUA President does perform ceremonial duties but also has the opportunity to make changes and policies which can help all AUA members. Tom has had leadership roles in the Section but also within the AUA and serves as the SES representative to the Board of Directors. He has intimate knowledge and familiarity with the AUA and the key individuals who could help with moving forward an active agenda.

What I can add is that Tom has always taken his responsibilities seriously. The AUA Presidency is not a trophy position for him. Rather, it is a platform from which he could represent urologists and promote the specialty for the good of practitioners but also our patients. The AUA President is the face of the organization to the public but also to many other urology groups worldwide. Personally, I would be delighted to point to Tom as the individual representing me.

The Southeastern Section has always done a great job of merging the interests of both academic and private urology. We have had terrific leaders from both domains. I am not aware, though, of someone who so readily combines experience from both entities as well as Tom Stringer. For the most part, the interests of academic and private urologists align but there is major benefit in having someone who understands the perspectives of both.

The primary reasons for my enthusiasm in supporting Tom, however, are not his experience and capabilities. It is from my knowledge of him as a person. It is hard to imagine that anyone who knows Tom does not like him. He will bring a reasoned, considered presence as AUA President and he has personal integrity and unselfish concern for others that are unquestioned. I will look forward to voting for Tom Stringer for AUA President from the Southeastern Section.

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