

February 8, 2018

RE: Tom Stringer, MD, Southeastern Section candidate for AUA President

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

As many of you may already know, this year will be our opportunity as members of the Southeastern Section to nominate a candidate for the President of the AUA. **I am asking for your support in nominating Tom Stringer for AUA President-elect.** I can think of no better person who has the right mix of clinical, service and business experiences, collegiality and heart for this position. I have an extremely high regard for Tom who has become more than just a colleague over the last ten years, but one of my closest and trusted friends and confidant. Let me expand on why I believe that Tom is the right person for this important job as I believe that I am uniquely qualified to speak about not only where his head is, but also his heart with regards to the AUA Presidency.

- **First, to be successful as the AUA president, I believe that it is critically important to be able to represent *all* urologist by understanding the unique needs and concerns from both the academic and community practice physician. Tom is precisely that individual as he has the perspective of both private and academic practice.** Tom spent 30 years in a large community urology group in Florida following completion of his urology training. In 2011, his calling to “give back” to the younger generation of urologists brought him back to his alma mater at the University of Florida (UF) College of Medicine. I can easily say that he has been by far the most instrumental and effective hire within the department over the last decade as he has worked tirelessly to improve the efficiencies of the urology clinic and has raised morale at both the resident and faculty level based on his upbeat personality and good will.
- **Second, the AUA president should have a firm experience with leadership. To this end, Tom has had significant leadership experience both in the private and academic sectors and at all levels of the AUA.** During his time in community practice, he served as the managing partner in a very successful practice as well as the hospital’s Vice President of Medical Affairs. Since his return to academic medicine, he has served in many vital roles within the department of urology at UF including medical director, executive committee member, interim chair, and more recently the vice chair of the department, a role that I selected him for due to his proven effectiveness, unwavering dedication to the department and diplomacy within the College of Medicine. Tom was the “glue” that held the faculty and residency program together during a time of uncertainty and transition. From a regional and national perspective, Tom has held numerous roles including FUS and SES-AUA President and the founder and President of UF’s UroGators Alumni Society.

- **Third, it is important to understand the priorities of the AUA from an educational and service standpoint. In this regard, Tom has a long history of service in many different capacities within the AUA and is a passionate teacher.** His love for teaching was the driving force for his return to academic medicine. He is unanimously loved by his residents and students often inviting them to his home for meals and always lively discussions. Not surprisingly, he received the department's Resident Teaching Award in 2016, an honor and recognition that brought him to tears. This award was affirmation to Tom that his "second career" and return to academics was impactful to the lives and training of our residents. On a national level, he served on the AUA Core Curriculum Committee and Task Force on the Future of Urology Residency Training. From a service standpoint within the AUA, Tom is the second longest serving AUA board section representative, who will be serving his 5<sup>th</sup> year in 2019. He has served in numerous capacities at the local, regional and national level within the AUA as will be detailed in this letter.
- **Fourth, the AUA president must be well versed in financial affairs. Tom has a deep appreciation for the business of medicine.** He has for many years led the only postgraduate AUA course on business affairs entitled, "Physician Contract Negotiation: Employment and Ownership in the Current Economic". From this course he, in addition to others, published a book entitled "The Complete Business Guide to a Successful Medical Practice" – Springer Publishing Company. Lastly, he has served on the AUA Bylaws Committee, Investment Committee and Finance Committee and as chair of the AUA Compensation Committee.
- **Finally, let me speak of Tom's heart. In medicine, we are surrounded by individuals who are bright and talented, but few possess the "intangibles" – the unique personal qualities that are equally if not more important to those that we typically measure by a curriculum vitae. Tom Stringer possesses these "intangibles" that so few possess.** He is an individual who is kind and compassionate. He is a person who willingly invests time to get to know you, your background and your interests no matter your position or stature. Anyone who has met Tom would agree that he lights up a room with his ever-present smile and good sense of humor. Tom is selfless, always placing the interests of "the team" above all else including himself. Tom is caring. For me, he has been the proverbial shoulder that I can lean on when times get tough and has been a stabilizing force for the department and its faculty, residents and staff alike. Taken together, Tom's heart is in the right place and his desire and passion to serve as the next AUA President is genuine and steadfast.

A notice for written nominations for AUA President-elect will be sent to all SES-AUA members in April 2018. Qualified nominations will be made official by the SES-AUA Executive Committee in August of 2018. Online voting will open in December 2018 and close on January 31, 2019.

**I can think of no individual who is more qualified than Tom Stringer to lead our national organization.** He has the perfect complement of leadership, service, professionalism, collegiality and heart to provide the effective leadership the AUA needs at this time. I would greatly appreciate it if you would keep Tom Stringer in mind when it comes time to vote in December, 2018.

Sincerely,



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