

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am writing to endorse Tom Stringer as AUA President-Elect. I have had the pleasure and honor of knowing Tom since we met as interns at the University of Florida in 1975. Over the past 43 years I have had the opportunity to share his friendship and to follow his truly unique career path. I would never have supposed that Tom's trajectory in 1975 would lead to what has been a remarkable life of involvement and leadership in urology.

From the tennis courts on 34th Street in Gainesville to his current position as Associate Chairman of Urology at the University of Florida is something that neither one of us would have supposed. The one constant with Tom is his lifelong optimism and the desire to keep up with his friends no matter what professional twists and turns occurred. Tom's outgoing nature and willingness to follow through and complete whatever task or role is given to him is one of the things that has fueled his career and urological political advancement.

When I was serving as President of the Florida Urological Society, I remember getting a call from Tom asking if there might be some role for him in the FUS. At that time he had been in his private practice for some time, but felt that the time was right for him to get into organized medicine. Little did I know at that time that Tom would not only take advantage of the opportunity to be a part of FUS, but would go on to become much more. He emerged then as a strong leader for the state society, but also went on, as we all know, to work diligently not only for FUS but took on responsibilities in the Southeast Section. He eventually served not only as President of FUS but also as the President of the Southeast Section.

During these years Tom never wavered. He kept that big smile and gregarious nature building relationships with members of the section, while maintaining his practice. Sensing a need for change, Tom returned to his roots at UF where he became a fulltime academic while continuing to give selflessly to both the Southeastern Section and the AUA by serving as the SES representatives to the board. He has excelled in both venues being recognized as a special teacher at UF by the residents and as a valued member of the AUA board. As all of you know at UF, he advanced to be the Interim Chair of Urology while being selected to be on the AUA Finance committee.

As I reflect back on my friend, Tom Stringer, it gives me great pleasure to support his commitment to Urology and his desire to serve us as President-Elect/President of the AUA. I think that he would bring a uniquely balanced perspective to this position. His involvement in all aspects of urological practice as well as local, regional and national leadership roles positions him, in my mind, as an ideal candidate to lead us in Urology in the coming years. His ability to work with people and to forge strong liaisons with other thought leaders, private practitioners, and academics would serve us well.

Sincerely,

W. Paul Sawyer, M.D