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# *International Young Urological Association: a global platform network for young urologists*

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*Despite the growth of the digital era, rapid spread of  
information, and real-time communication, there are  
several urologists throughout the world who do not have  
access to urological scientific programs, academic training  
programs, or memberships to well-established urological  
organizations, associations, and societies.*

*The International Young Urological Association  
(IYUA) is a non-profit organization that was created to  
specifically address and facilitate access for urologists*

*that for geopolitical, economical, or other reasons would  
not otherwise have these opportunities available to them.  
The IYUA's non-competitive nature allows for urologists  
to use the IYUA as an initial platform to network with  
globally established organizations to deliver scientific  
training programs, courses, and meetings in less common  
locations.*

*It is our objective to demonstrate the IYUA's mission and  
facets that may contribute to the increased academic and  
scientific education of professionals in Urology where the  
access to these resources can be challenging.*

**Key Words:** urology, association, international,  
urology training

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## Introduction

Throughout the world many urologists do not have the access to scientific publications, training programs, and continuing medical education courses that are commonly used to share and disperse advances in knowledge, technology, and best practices. Moreover, these urologists are generally from geopolitical and geographic areas that have scarce resources, and often lack access to established urological networks, associations, and societies.

The main purpose of the International Young Urological Association (IYUA) is to be the bridge connecting young urologists to the globalized academic community where they will gain access to resources previously unavailable to them. For example, IYUA can assist and mentor young urologists who are trying to be inducted into a society, but need an introduction from a senior member.

The root of IYUA was a group of young urologists that had experienced and heard the needs of other young urologists in suboptimal situations who were having difficulties trying to network and access more advanced training and mentoring. It is the IYUA's belief that our initial objective is to organize a database of young urologists that are in need, or interested in beginning this initial process to ultimately be a part of more established associations. This vulnerable transition from young to a more seasoned urologist may be a dramatic change depending on obstacles or established pathways in pursuit of academic or non-academic.<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, we proposed and commenced a series of leadership and training courses reported on the website [www.iyua.com](http://www.iyua.com).

## History of the IYUA

In December 2010, a group of seven European Society of Residents in Urology (ESRU) members discussed the issues abovementioned, created the concept, and formed the International Young Urologists Association in Turkey. The process of formulating the mission and goals of this new association had genesis from the experience gathered by these former ESRU

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members who went through the resident and young urologists forums acting as volunteers of the European Association of Urology (EAU).

Others quickly joined them, and in 2011 the IYUA was established as association in the United States. On November 25, 2012 a non-profit organization status was applied under the 501(c)(3) section of the Internal Revenue Code. Currently, more than 4000 participants worldwide follow IYUA digitally and support by participating in all academic and scientific programs given to date, reaching more than 70 countries with the international representatives.

## Mission and aims

The mission of IYUA is to facilitate access of scientific, academic, and clinical resources, including training young urologists that may face challenges, along with trying to find a pathway for the development of all aspects of urological knowledge. IYUA works on all scientific and social requirements needed to develop the future generation of urologists. IYUA works towards publicizing and supporting all educational opportunities aimed at young urologists. IYUA aims: to promote the relationship among young urologists by developing and implementing scientific research and activities dedicated to them, to create and maintain a healthy network to deliver accurate scientific information, to create a platform that allows professional and academic growth of urologists around the globe, to encourage urological training modalities related with urological research, to promote the medical leadership skills among the young urologists with regular leadership courses, to plan activities that support the young urologists for the management of their careers, to lead the evidence based hands-on training courses which are based on cadaver applications, to structure and promote the post-residency scientific trials among the young urologists, to support the projects come from the young urologists, to help reduce the sense of isolation for the young urologist from different countries in Europe, Africa, South America and Far East Asia, to promote ideas, innovations and outstanding projects developed by young urologists by creating an Electronic International Platform that can be accessed by any IYUA member.<sup>2</sup>

## Organizational structure

*IYUA International Board* – The board members will include the president, secretary, founding members, and members designated by the bylaws of IYUA. Several committees will be part of the IYUA including: 1) IYUA International Scientific Team (UROScience) –

its role is to plan and organize scientific activities that are requested by different group of urologists around the globe; 2) IYUA Research Team (URORes) – will promote scientific research projects and groups that will engage in multi-center studies and publications; 3) IYUA Fellowship Team (UROFellow) – will facilitate and organize IYUA fellowship programs and create academic leadership programs; 4) IYUA Grant Team (UROGrant) – will request and raise funding from educational grants; 5) IYUA Rescue Team (URORescue) – will organize volunteer rescue groups which will act in areas of emergency and natural disasters organizing connections between the IYUA teams and the local rescue organizations in the disaster area; 6) IYUA Social Network Team (UROSocial) – will share the activities with all members on social networks (Facebook, Twitter etc...) creating a worldwide Electronic International Platform that can be accessed by any IYUA member.<sup>2</sup>

## Recent activities of the IYUA

### *The highlights of the 1<sup>st</sup> International UroAnatomy Congress*

More than 350 international academic urologists and anatomists from 15 countries participated during the 1<sup>st</sup> International UroAnatomy Congress in Izmir, Turkey from June 14-16, 2013. The International Young Urologists Association, Turkish Society of Anatomy and Clinical Anatomy and European Association of Clinical Anatomy formed the foundation of this unique conference allowing discussions that educated the surgeons and other medical professionals interested in the genitorurinary system. The abstracts of this meeting and all future scientific communications will be published in the official publication of the IYUA, *The Canadian Journal of Urology*.

## Conclusion

IYUA is a non-profit organization that will facilitate and organize the access of young urologists with established scientific organizations by promoting networking, post-training education courses, nurturing leadership courses, and research especially for urologists in geopolitical areas with limited access to these resources. □

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