

# Faculty Questionnaire for UroResidency.com

Thank you for telling us about your program! With no in-person interviews or away electives, students are finding it difficult to learn about prospective residencies. At UroResidency.com, we hope to provide free information and resources for residencies and applicants alike. With your help, we can reach applicants and make the 2021 Urology match a success. We understand some fields may be left blank, these will not be displayed on your page!



Please complete this document and email your response to [uroresidency@gmail.com](mailto:uroresidency@gmail.com). Attach any pictures of your program/residents/life you want to share alongside your submission! Feel free to insert any weblinks in your responses!

**Name :** Yahir Santiago-Lastra, MD

**Residency Program :** UC San Diego

**Your Position :** Associate Professor; 4<sup>th</sup> year Medical Student Clerkship Director

**Program Director :** Jill C. Buckley, MD, FACS

**Contact info :** @YSL\_MD; [ysantiagolastra@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:ysantiagolastra@health.ucsd.edu)

**Please note that UC San Diego Health will be hosting two Virtual Town Halls via Zoom:**

Tuesday July 21<sup>st</sup> at 530pm PST

Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup> at 530pm PST

In addition, next week the School of Medicine will begin to accept applications for Virtual Subinternships that can be tailored to the students' availability, for 1-4 weeks duration. These will not be allowed for credit. More details will be provided via Twitter or inquiries sent to the email address above.

## Survey

### **What aspects of your program would you like to highlight for students?**

- Wide breadth of Urology represented. Residents will have extensive operative experience with:
  - Urologic Oncology – 5 subspecialists with expertise in robotic and open techniques
  - Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS)
    - 2 urologists
    - 4 urogynecologists
  - Endourology – 3 endourologists with experience in cutting edge percutaneous and endoscopic techniques
  - GU reconstruction – 1 reconstructive urologist with extensive urethral, robotic, upper and lower tract reconstructive practice
  - Pediatric Urology – 4 clinically busy pediatric urologists at stand-alone pediatric hospital
  - Male Sexual Medicine / Infertility – busy andrology practice with stand-alone clinic
  - General Urology well-represented at both University and VAMC

Our residents are well-exposed to virtually all aspects of Urology. In addition, UC San Diego is the only academic medical center that serves the San Diego and Imperial Counties. We attend to patients of a variety of backgrounds, and many patients are underserved and speak other languages, particularly Spanish. As such, our residents gain an early exposure to disparities in access to care and how to optimize care for these vulnerable patient populations.

**How long is the residency? What portion is pre-urology training? How many residents a year?**

5 years – 6 months of General Surgery in PGY-1 year. 3 residents per year are selected for a complement of 15 house officers.

**Is there a public step 1 cut off? Does your program require Step 2 CK?**

Yes, we currently have a Step 1 cutoff of 235

We do not require step 2 CK, but we may do so in the future

**What is the rotation schedule like? Please feel free to attach images in the response.**

PGY 2 year – Each rotation is an apprenticeship model, 4 months duration

**General Urology / Intro Onc** – site: La Jolla Jacobs Medical Center

**General Urology / Endourology** – site: Hillcrest Medical Center

**General Urology / Spinal Cord Injury / Neurogenic Bladder** – site: VA Medical Center

PGY 3 year – 4 month rotations

**Pediatric Urology** – Rady Children’s Hospital

**Urogenital Reconstruction / Men’s Health / Infertility** – La Jolla Jacobs Medical Center

**Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery** – La Jolla / Hillcrest

PGY 4 year – 4 month rotations

**Urologic Oncology** – La Jolla

**Research**

**General Urology / Advanced Endourology** - San Diego VAMC

PGY 5 – 4 month rotations

**Blue Chief** – Advanced Urologic Oncology / Robotics – La Jolla Jacobs Medical Center

**Gold Chief** – Advanced Urologic Oncology, Male Reconstruction, Robotics – Hillcrest

**VA Chief** – Urologic Oncology / Robotics / Endourology – VAMC

**How many sites do the residents train at during residency? What hospitals are involved?**

UC San Diego Jacobs Medical Center

UC San Diego Hillcrest Medical Center

San Diego Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Rady Children’s Hospital

**Tell us about your location/city. What is it like living there?**

Living in San Diego is phenomenal. It is very well-known for its mild climate year-round, its extensive beaches, amazing outdoor sports opportunities including hiking, surfing and cycling for all ages. The city has a long association with the US Navy and the military. In addition, San Diego is a border city in close proximity with Mexico, sharing a border with the city of Tijuana. It is California’s second largest city and a hub for bio-technology. There is a rich multicultural history and approximately 30% of its population is Latino, and there is also a historic LGBTQ community, and the city offers a mix of urban and relaxed living. Many families and young professionals live in San Diego. Housing costs are high, as is typical for large cities in California, and most residents will rent their homes during their time here. In addition to the

beautiful coastline and beaches and outdoor activities, San Diego has an active nightlife, with a host of highly-rated restaurants, bars, and coffee shops.

**Is there an emphasis on research or dedicated time?**

The PGY-4 residents gets a dedicated 4 months of research time.

**What makes your program unique?**

UC San Diego has an incredible depth and breadth of experience for incoming residents. Virtually every subspecialty in Urology is well-represented here. We have 15 full-time adult and 4 pediatric Urology faculty that are actively engaged in resident education and research. In addition, our residents rotate with Urogynecology, Medical Oncology and Interventional Radiology faculty as part of their apprenticeship-style clinical rotations.

Our residents gain an excellent depth of experience and many feel incredibly comfortable with their clinical knowledge, and those that pursue fellowship training do so because of an interest in academic medicine that they wish to enhance.

**What percentage of graduates go on to complete fellowships? Two-thirds of our graduates go on to complete fellowships. Here is a breakdown of our most recent graduates:**

**2020 graduates:**

- Fellowship - Johns Hopkins – Urologic Oncology
- Fellowship – Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center – Urologic Oncology
- Faculty Position – Veteran’s Affairs – Denver, CO

**2019 graduates:**

- Fellowship –Children’s Hospital of Colorado – Pediatric Urology
- Fellowship – MD Anderson Cancer Center – Urologic Oncology
- Private Practice – West Virginia

**2018 graduates:**

- Fellowship – University of Southern California – Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery
- Fellowship - Western Health of Melbourne Men’s Health fellowship, Australia
- Fellowship – University College London Hospitals, UK - Neuro-Urology, Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery

**Are there any programs to promote resident wellness?**

San Diego lends itself to well-being, as a world-famous vacation destination and vibrant, diverse and economically thriving metropolitan area in Southern California. It is located minutes from the ocean, mountains, high desert and Mexican border. That said, UC San Diego is committed to enhancing well-being and has a host of programs, including advocacy resources, a Housestaff Association, counseling and psychological services available confidentially. In addition, each resident is paired with a faculty adviser whose goal is to check in, support and advise the resident through the various stages of their training.

**What is the call schedule like?**

There are 3 separate call schedule coverage: UCSD Hillcrest and Jacobs Medical Center, the San Diego VAMC, and Rady Children’s Hospital. Call is typically home call for all Urology years of training and the ACGME work hour rules are strictly followed.

**Is there anything else applicants should know?**

Unfortunately, for 2020 UC San Diego School of Medicine will not be allowing away rotations. We have arranged for 2 virtual town halls to take place with faculty and residents, as well as a virtual subinternship that will give interested applicants a glimpse into our residency program. At this time, these opportunities will not be available for credit, but will allow the applicants to learn from our residents, fellows, and faculty.

**Advice in general for aspiring urologists in the Class of 2021?**

Urology is an incredibly rewarding field that is incredibly diverse in its breadth of cases. At UC San Diego we are committed to being a center of excellence where patients can expect to find comprehensive treatment for virtually any urologic problem. We draw from the most promising medical graduates in the country and are committed to having a diverse and engaged complement of 15 resident physicians. The residents are the crown jewel of our program at UCSD Urology and we look forward to meeting many of you during our virtual fall interviews!

Sincerely,  
Yahir Santiago-Lastra, MD  
Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery  
Department of Urology  
UC San Diego Health