

Douglas W. Strand, PhD

Biography: Douglas Strand, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the department of Urology at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX. Dr. Strand received his PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology in the laboratory of Dr. David Rowley at Baylor College of Medicine from 2001-2007. He then took a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Simon Hayward at Vanderbilt University from 2007-2013. Following his promotion Research Assistant Professor in 2013, Dr. Strand joined the faculty at UT Southwestern in 2014. Dr. Strand's research career has focused on pathophysiology of benign and malignant prostate disease. He has been continuously funded by the NIH since 2013, and is currently the PI of an R01 award from the NIDDK, a project leader on the Wisconsin O'Brien Center, and co-Investigator on several awards on benign and malignant prostate disease. He is a member of the Human Cell Atlas and the GenitoUrinary Development Molecular Anatomy Project (GUDMAP). Dr. Strand has served *ad hoc* on scientific review panels for the NIH, as well as for Prostate Cancer UK. He reviews for a broad range of basic science journals. Dr. Strand has been an active member of the SBUR since 2009, and has received travel awards as a grad student and postdoc.

Research Interests: Research in Dr. Strand's group focuses on cell-specific tissue remodeling and cancer progression primarily in the prostate, but also in other lower urinary tract organs such as the bladder and ureter. A major focus in our group is to investigate the molecular changes in specific cell types in disease progression, using novel technologies in human specimens. We recently created a cellular atlas of the normal human prostate and will soon be finished with the normal bladder and ureters. With this baseline understanding of the cellular anatomy of normal organs, we are currently assessing the heterogeneity of disease. To reach the broader research community, we have freely shared our tissue and data resources as well as our experimental tools. Our studies have identified a number of novel cell types that are being recognized as important in human disease and we are building the experimental models to test novel treatments with the goal of providing personalized therapy for diseases of the lower urinary tract.

Vision Statement: As a member of SBUR for the past 11 years, I have forged lasting friendships and collaborations with this community. Since 2014 I have served on several planning and abstract committees. If I have the honor of being elected Director at Large, I would address the following issues:

1) Enhance the breadth of research represented within SBUR: To ensure all researchers with interests in urologic disease feel that the Society serves their interests, I would promote greater inclusion of benign disease, particularly in areas that go beyond the traditional focus on prostate. I would also actively promote introduction to new technologies by experts in other fields in order to expedite progress in particular urologic diseases. Finally, I would encourage more clinical presentations to orient the audience to the challenges that physicians face in treating disease. The presentations can get a little too mechanistic – losing the forest for the trees.

2) Sustain and grow the SBUR membership: Our trainee members represent the lifeblood of the Society, but retaining them within the SBUR can be challenging as they move through their training. I pledge to work closely with the Membership and Trainee Affairs Committees to ensure we enable our trainees to thrive and to become active long-term members fully engaged with Society activities. I would continue the trend in recent years to have tailored presentations on grant writing and funding opportunities to show trainees that they are valued.

3) Strengthen the fiscal health of SBUR: Although our financial situation has improved significantly in recent years, it will be essential to develop new strategies to ensure continued growth of SBUR such that it can provide the best value in terms of training, education and networking capabilities to its members. I will work closely with the Treasurer and management group to devise new approaches to fundraising to ensure our long-term financial viability.