



Q&A with Chief Resident Kevin Shee: Lessons, Leadership, and What's Next

As he wraps up his final year of residency, Kevin Shee, MD, looks back on the experiences that shaped him, from memorable cases and mentors to lessons learned as a leader. He also shares what's next after residency and his advice for those just starting out.

What have been your top lessons learned as chief resident this year?

One of the most important lessons I've learned as chief resident is that the Urology service functions like a team sport. Every member is integral to the group's success, and the service runs best when everyone has buy-in and is motivated to work together toward shared goals – namely, providing the best possible care for our patients while ensuring that all members of the team are growing, learning, and enjoying the process together. Making sure that team members feel supported and valued has been my top priority from day one.

Importantly, the “team” extends beyond the Urology residents and attendings. Our APPs, RNs, and administrative, clinical, and OR staff are also crucial to the team's success, and maintaining strong relationships with them has been essential to keeping morale and patient care at a high level.

Could you share a memorable case or clinic moment that's stayed with you (keeping patient details general)?

There have been many moments that have helped me grow as a clinician, surgeon, and teacher, so it's hard to choose just one. One memorable case involved a patient with an ileal conduit urinary diversion for bladder cancer who developed blockage of his left kidney and strongly disliked his nephrostomy tube. We performed a complex open surgical repair, removing the obstructed ureteral segment and connecting the healthy portion of the left ureter to his existing ileal conduit. The operation went smoothly, and we were able to remove his nephrostomy tube a few weeks later. These cases can be extremely challenging, so I was thrilled with the outcome.

Another memorable moment was during a laparoscopic nephrectomy when I led one of my junior residents through the entire case – from start to finish – with minimal supervision. The patient had an excellent outcome, and as a future urologic oncology surgeon, this felt like a major milestone in my training.

What words of advice would you want to share with junior residents or others earlier in their journey?

One piece of advice – and something I wish I had done earlier – is to start documenting your learning experiences as early as possible. You'll thank yourself later when you're called upon to lead cases or recall specific technical details. This might mean keeping notes in a physical or digital notebook, taking photos or videos (when appropriate), or maintaining a detailed case log for future reference.

Another piece of advice is to remember that relationships take time and effort to build, and they should never be taken for granted. My general philosophy is simple: be kind – to co-residents (junior and senior), attendings, fellows, staff, and patients. Everyone is dealing with their own challenges, and it's easy to misinterpret a negative interaction without knowing the full story. Nurturing these professional relationships pays enormous dividends in the long run.

What's next after residency – fellowship interests or career plans?

I'm planning to stay at UCSF for a two-year Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO) fellowship. I believe UCSF provides an exceptionally supportive environment for my growth as a surgeon-scientist and future leader in urologic oncology. After fellowship, I hope to obtain an academic appointment at a top institution that encourages both clinically meaningful research and compassionate care for patients with urologic cancers.

What's one fun fact or outside-the-OR hobby you'd like readers to know about?

I'm incredibly blessed with a wonderful and supportive family – my wife, Helen; our 16-month-old son, Lucas; and our two long-haired Dachshunds, Loki and Lynx. Watching Lucas grow and learn new things this past year has been the greatest joy of my life. During my limited free time, we love visiting the Exploratorium, the zoo, and other fun spots around the city.

Outside of medicine, I'm a former professional ballet and modern dancer and hope to start taking classes again once I have a bit more free time. More recently, I've also taken up golf and look forward to improving my game through lessons in the future.

Any links to recent publications, presentations, or awards we should include?

I'm grateful to have received grant funding from the American Urological Association (AUA) and the Urology Care Foundation (UCF) through the AUA Resident Research Award for 2024–2025, as well as from UCSF through both the Resident Clinical and Translational Research Funding Award and the California Urologic Foundation Research Grant for 2024–2025, which supported my research year. Over the past year, I've presented multiple abstracts at conferences including WSAUA 2024, AUA 2025, GU ASCO 2025, and EAU25. Below are links to several of my recent first-author publications with my research mentors Peter Carroll, Hao Nguyen, and Marshall Stoller at UCSF:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40754483/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40619326/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40374413/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39341710/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39121452/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38057193/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36870794/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36067374/>

The complete list of my publications over the years can be found here: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=MxyXCzwAAAAJ&hl=en>