

**Fred Saad, MD, FRCS**

**CUA President**

Cite as: *Can Urol Assoc J* 2018;12(10):298.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5489/cuaj.5642>

Pour la version française, voir [cuaj.ca](http://cuaj.ca)

*The CUA exists to promote the highest standard of urologic care for Canadians and to advance the art and science of urology.*



After explaining to patients that their condition requires a surgical procedure, I, as well as others in the CUA, have sometimes been asked who will perform the surgery. Some patients are surprised to learn that, as well as making the diagnosis and prescribing medication, we also perform surgery as a profession. The idea that urology may not truly be a surgical specialty may stem from the fact that we don't have a medical counterpart, as in almost every other surgical specialty. Cardiologist/cardiac surgeon, pneumologist/thoracic surgeon, gastroenterologist/general surgeon, and the list goes on.

A few years ago, there was a case of a urologist who, after having had a heart attack, was told he should no longer operate. His insurance company tried to withhold his benefits, arguing that a urologist was not obliged to operate to practice his specialty. His defence eloquently explained to the judge that a urologist who is unable to operate is no longer a complete urologist. He won his fight!

I have heard from several people that they feel strongly about including the word surgery in describing our specialty. I am personally in favour of this and have discussed the idea at the executive level of our association. While still under discussion, I feel it important to open this up to the membership. I also feel strongly that the uniqueness of our specialty should encompass the fact that we proudly do both medical and surgical urology in Canada.

Over the next few months, we will canvass the CUA board, as well as our membership, as to whether we should proceed with renaming ourselves and our specialty and then how to best describe us. Some of the ideas so far include urologist/urologic surgeon, and the specialty being urology/urologic surgery. I look forward to hearing from the wider membership as we move forward.

Regarding the CUA annual meeting in 2019, the scientific program is progressing extremely well and we will have an outstanding scientific meeting. You will also start hearing about the extraordinary social events planned. Following up on a lot of excellent suggestions, the format of the meeting will be changed in 2019, with full-day scientific sessions Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, and ending with the President's banquet on Monday night. Mark your calendars for June 29 to July 1. See you all in Quebec!