

## **Position Statement on Standardization of Urodynamic Training in North America**

### **Background:**

Assuring the quality of urodynamic testing remains a central concern of health care providers offering care to patients with lower urinary tract disorders, patients themselves, and insurance organizations. The International Continence Society (ICS) now recommends standards for UDS training programs. The recommendations are for the training of beginners (both performing and interpreting) in the field. The draft recommendations, authored by Derek Griffiths, PhD, were presented at the 2002 Annual General Meeting of the ICS in Heidelberg, Germany, and have since been finalized and approved. The recommendations are available at the ICS Web site at [www.icsoffice.org](http://www.icsoffice.org).

### **Purpose of Statement:**

Urodynamics are a group of functional diagnostic studies evaluating the transport, storage and evacuation of urine by the lower urinary tract. These studies are invasive, costly and involve a significant learning curve for accurate performance and interpretation. The ICS is recognized as the world's largest and most authoritative interdisciplinary society devoted to Urodynamics and lower urinary tract function. The ICS recommendations, as they are written, do not provide for testing of individuals and do not lead to any formal qualification or board certification. Therefore, the following organizations support standardized training programs meeting the ICS recommendations.

### **Supporting Organizations:**

- Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates (SUNA) was established in 1972 and is a professional organization of nearly 3,000 members committed to excellence in clinical practice and research through education of its members, patients, families and community. SUNA's vision is to be the nursing authority in the management of persons with urological healthcare concerns.
- Society for Urodynamics and Female Urology (SUFU) was established in 1978 and fosters interdisciplinary dialogue and communication, promotion of the development of young scientists, and the development of scientific, educational, and professional activities through publications, meetings and original activities to assist in the establishment of standards of care. The purposes of this society are to improve the art and science of Urology through basic and applied clinical research in urodynamics and neurourology, voiding function and dysfunction, female urology and pelvic floor dysfunction.
- The American Urogynecologic Society (AUGS) founded in 1979 to represent healthcare professional and scientists dedicated to improving the lives of women with pelvic floor disorders, such as pelvic prolapse and bowel and bladder control problems. By encouraging research and education, AUGS promotes the highest standards of practice in the prevention and treatment of these disorders in an ethical, safe and effective manner. AUGS recognizes UDS as diagnostic, not screening modalities, which may be used to determine the factors responsible for various urinary tract dysfunctions.