

## National urology expert to join SUNY Upstate

Dr. Firouz Daneshgari plans to create clinical, educational and research programs.

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A leading national expert in the treatment of female urinary incontinence and other pelvic disorders has been recruited from the Cleveland Clinic to run the urology department at SUNY Upstate Medical University.

Dr. Firouz Daneshgari plans to build new clinical, educational and research programs in female pelvic disorders, urological cancer and pediatric urology in a collaborative effort among Upstate, Crouse Hospital and the VA Medical Center.

An urologist is a doctor who specializes in problems of the male and female urinary tract and the male reproductive organs.

More than 50 percent of women will develop urinary incontinence and other pelvic disorders over the next 20 years, creating a big demand for treatment, he said. Medicine has been slow to address these problems, which until recently were "closet issues," Daneshgari said.

"Scientifically, we did not have too many options for these people years ago other than giving them diapers," Daneshgari he said. "Now we have curative treatment options."

His first priority at Upstate will be to recruit two pediatric urologists before the opening of Upstate's new children's hospital next year, said Dr. Steven Scheinman, dean of Upstate's medical school. Upstate's only pediatric urologist left late last year. In the meantime, Upstate has been relying on pediatric surgeons, adult urologists and some temporary doctors to provide those services, Scheinman said.

"There was a fair amount of discord within the department of urology... and I was hoping to identify somebody who would bring the department to the next level and re-establish stability and recruit new people into the department," Scheinman said.

Daneshgari will set up a collaborative program between Upstate and Crouse that will treat women with urinary incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse, fecal incontinence, pelvic pain and sexual dysfunction. These problems can be caused by pregnancy, vaginal deliveries, obesity, diabetes and aging. That program will be housed at Crouse.

"That will bring to Syracuse a high level of prominence in an area that we would have not been academically active in," Scheinman said.

At the Cleveland Clinic, Daneshgari directed the female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery center. He founded a nationally ranked fellowship program in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery.

He's also a leading researcher and has more than \$10 million in federal and industry grants to find new treatments.

Daneshgari also will recruit specialists for a joint Upstate-VA Medical Center urologic cancer program. Urological cancers such as cancers of the prostate, bladder and kidney are increasing as the population ages.