

Melissa R. Kaufman

Dr. Kaufman is a professor, Patricia and Rodes Hart Endowed Chair of Urologic Surgery, and Chief of the Division of Reconstructive Urology and Pelvic Health at Vanderbilt Medical Center. Her practice focuses on female and male voiding dysfunction and incontinence, cancer survivorship, pelvic organ prolapse, neurourology, transitional care for congenital urologic conditions, urologic prosthetics, and transgender surgery, as well as reconstructive surgery for urethral stricture, fistula, and trauma.

She currently serves as the global principal investigator for a pivotal phase 3 clinical trial to pioneer the first application of autologous cell therapy for urologic indications. Additionally, she is the national principal investigator for the Artificial Urinary Sphincter Clinical Outcomes trial.

Dr. Kaufman received her BA from Washington University–St. Louis and PhD in microbial genetics at the University of Tennessee. Following postdoctoral research at Stanford and completion of medical school in her home state of Arkansas, she began her urology residency at Vanderbilt in 2002. She completed fellowship training in both male reconstruction and female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery in 2009 at Vanderbilt.

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Dr. Kaufman serves on the board of the Society of Urologic Prosthetic Surgeons and was a founding member of the Women in Prosthetic Urology. She has dedicated substantial effort on behalf of the AUA membership, with service on the Practice Guidelines Committee, Core Curriculum Committee, and Medical Student Urological Curriculum Committee. She currently serves as the Guideline Panel Chair for Genitourinary Syndrome of Menopause. She was named the 2019 AUA Young Urologist of the Year. She is additionally an Associate Editor for the Journal of Urology and for Neurourology and Urodynamics. She is a past-President of the Society of Women in Urology. Dr. Kaufman was honored as the 2017 recipient of the Zimskind Award from the Society for Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine, and Urogenital Reconstruction for outstanding contributions within 10 years of completion of training.