

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **ANNUAL HISTORY EXHIBIT TO ADDRESS CIVIL WAR MEDICINE**

*Retrospective to focus on key aspects of surgery, health care during War Between the States*

San Antonio, May 21, 2005: Why was amputation a first-line of treatment during the Civil War? Did anesthesia work – if so, why did patients thrash and moan during surgery? To what extent were urologic problems addressed during wartime? These questions and many more will be addressed at the urologic history booth (#310) in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center from Sunday, May 22, 2005 to Wednesday, May 25, 2005 at the AUA Annual Scientific Meeting in San Antonio.

Rainer Engel, M.D., retired urologist and curator of the AUA's William P. Didusch Center for Urologic History, will lead energetic discussions on urology in the Civil War. Dr. Engel will address long-standing wartime misconceptions and recreate emergency care implemented during the war. Live demonstrations will allow bystanders to be transported to an era where more men succumbed to typhoid, dysentery and diarrhea than to battle wounds, and surgeons were labeled as butchers because of their common practice of amputating limbs.

Topics to be addressed include *Amputation* (Sunday, 3:00 p.m.), *Biting the Bullet: Anesthesia in the Civil War* (Monday, 10:00 a.m.), *Urology* (Tuesday, 12:15 p.m.) and *Beastly Biting Bugs & Embalming* (Wednesday, 12:45 p.m.). Dr. Engel will also be performing numerous operations, several times a day, including removing a bullet from a scrotum and a soldier's bladder, amputating an arm, leg, foot and hand, taking out an eye and much more. Accompanying these procedures will be exploratory, descriptive narratives. For a full schedule of operations and talks visit the Press Office in room 202A of the Convention Center.

Complementing the history booth will be a forum entitled, *The Story the Soldiers Wouldn't Tell: Sex in the Civil War*. Tom Lowry, M.D. will give this talk in the River Room 001A in the Convention Center on Monday, May 23, 2005 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Those of you who are curious about the high incidence rates of gonorrhea and syphilis during the war should not miss this forum.

"Fascinating material, fascinating medicine and people – that is what urology and the Civil War is all about," said Dr. Engel. "History buffs, physicians and everyone in between should find my presentation to be informative and exciting – and with live demonstrations with spurting blood and urine, how can they not?"

*About the American Urological Association: Founded in 1902 and headquartered near Baltimore, Maryland, the American Urological Association is the pre-eminent professional organization for urologists, with more than 13,000 members throughout the world. An educational nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, the AUA pursues its mission of fostering the highest standards of urologic care by carrying out a wide variety of programs members and their patients, including [UrologyHealth.org](http://UrologyHealth.org), an award-winning on line patient education resource, and the American Urological Association Foundation, Inc., formerly AFUD.*