

Season's Greetings!

Based on my interactions with many of you, it has been a very busy year for all of us. The pressures of ongoing patient care, tightly managed reimbursement for our efforts, decreasing research funding and other effects of the economy have created significant challenges for the pediatric nephrology community. In response, ASPN members offered higher levels of commitment and involvement than ever before, with the result that we achieved progress on several fronts. A small, steady stream of new recruits are joining our ranks, our committees are offering increased services to our community and we hosted two highly successful meetings—one North American and one international—this year. Most important, we steadily improve the already excellent level of care that we can offer to our patients.

Among the services the society will be providing is a new course of leadership training, being developed by Joseph Flynn and the rest of the ASPN Council in consultation with some of our Corporate Liaison Board members. Offered as a pilot program beginning this Spring, we hope that it will develop into a regular activity supported by the Society. Another initiative will provide hands-on advocacy training. We urge you to support and/or participate in these programs, now or in the future. Finally, the Clinical Toolbox on the ASPN web site offers many new, useful resources for our membership. All of these services are described elsewhere in this issue of KIDney Notes.

An ongoing, joint ASPN Public Policy and Clinical Affairs effort addresses payment for pediatric dialysis services. We are disappointed and concerned that the case-mix adjustor established for pediatric dialysis does not reflect the costs we face. We continue to work on this problem. The issues were discussed at our recent Business Meeting at the ASN in Denver, and a group representing the ASPN will be meeting with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services in January. We feel that, because we represent a small group that has special concerns, CMS may not be aware of the problems that are unique to providing pediatric care; but we anticipate that they will be receptive to considering these issues. Importantly, CMS relies on facts and figures, and it is critical that we have appropriate and comprehensive data to support our cause. We will be contacting you on several occasions to obtain such data. It is essential that you make every effort to respond to us each time as quickly and as accurately as possible. The first request is the survey regarding what kind of insurance coverage your end-stage patients have, being conducted by Michael Somers. The responses have so far accounted for almost 700 pediatric patients, but clearly there are more out there. If your unit hasn't yet responded to Mike, please get in touch with him and tell him about your unit.

In closing, I wish all of you health and happiness in the coming year. I look forward to our continued work together.

Best regards,

Bill

November ~ December 2010

President's Corner





ASPEN Leadership

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A Note From The Treasurer

With Thanksgiving and Chanukah already behind us, and as we prepare for Christmas and the rapidly approaching New Year, I can think of no better time to reflect upon the accomplishments of our Society in the past year and to look forward to achieving even more in the coming year. One of the more exciting endeavors to be initiated is the Advocacy Scholars Program, highlighted elsewhere in this issue of KIDNEY Notes, which was made possible by support from the John E. Lewy Foundation for Children's Health. Established as a living remembrance of Dr. Lewy's dedication to pediatric nephrology, pediatric advocacy and education, and the advancement of science, the Foundation enhances and expands ASPEN's missions of teaching, learning, discovery, and responsibility. There is no better way to pay tribute to Dr. Lewy's memory than to train and mentor young members of our Society to become the next generation of advocates for children's health, and we hope to develop even more projects with the Foundation's support. To that end, the Foundation needs your support.

If you are looking for meaningful gifts or thinking about making year-end contributions to recognize and remember family, friends, colleagues, co-workers or mentors, please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation. To contribute, please go to <http://www.aspneph.com/JohnELewyFoundation/ContributionForm.pdf>

Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

Sharon A. Perlman, MD
Treasurer

THANK YOU

TO THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS!!

International Pediatric Hypertension Association

Genzyme Corporation

Kidney & Urology Foundation of America, Inc.

NephCure

NephroPath

Announcements

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Background: Leaders of professional societies such as the ASPN need a specific skill set to be able to negotiate the complex tasks of program development, personnel supervision, and dealing with outside constituencies and other organizations. These skills are also applicable to many other aspects of academic medicine and are commonly acquired after years of experience, perhaps also by specific training, or through trial and error. We believe that it is possible to intentionally develop future leaders of our Society by offering a leadership development curriculum. This program will not only assist the ASPN in development of future leaders, but will also give the participants important skills that they will be able to utilize at their home institutions.

Proposal: A comprehensive leadership development program, to be awarded on a competitive basis to 12-15 ASPN members. The entire program will be completed over an approximately one-year period. The curriculum will be spread out over 3 full-day sessions to take place in conjunction with scheduled meetings as follows:

- 2011 PAS, Denver. Specific date Tuesday May 3, 2011.
- 2011 ASN, Philadelphia. November 2011. Specific date to be determined, likely the day prior to the scientific sessions.
- 2012 PAS, Boston. Specific date to be determined, likely May 1, 2012.

The May 2011 session will consist of a kickoff seminar led by a past president of the ASPN, followed by a 4-5 hour session on 360 degree assessment to be led by a trainer from Novartis. The remaining topics will be covered over the two final day-long sessions. Outside speakers from both industry and academia will be utilized as faculty for the remaining sessions.

Eligibility: The successful applicant will be an ASPN member in good standing, with an established record of ongoing service to the ASPN. Roughly one-third of the awards will be made to junior faculty within 5-10 years of completion of fellowship training, one third to mid-level faculty, and the final third to more senior faculty. An ad hoc committee of 3 past presidents of the ASPN will select the awardees. It is expected that awardees will be selected from a diverse group of institutions, geographic locations, and backgrounds.

If selected, applicants must agree to participate in all elements of the Leadership Development Program (3 full days of training sessions and appropriate additional preparatory time), and must commit to serve the ASPN as an active member of an ASPN Committee, Task Force, or Council. They will be asked to present a summary of his/her experiences in the program at the 2013 ASPN Annual Meeting, possibly in the form of a workshop at the PAS, or at the business meeting. Finally, there is a one time, nonrefundable participation fee of \$100.00 that must be paid once the applicant is selected for the program.

Application process: Applicants must submit a completed application that includes:

- Application form
- Current CV
- 2 page personal statement that addresses the following:
 - How did you become interested in working with the ASPN?
 - Please comment specifically on previous ASPN committee work.
 - What skills and knowledge do you hope to obtain as a result of this opportunity?
 - How will this experience enhance your professional development and career?
 - Have you completed a similar formal skills training program in the past? If so, please describe.
- Letter of support from your Division Chief or Department Chair as appropriate that addresses the following:
 - Interest and promise of the applicant in terms of leadership potential.
 - Commitment to provide the applicant, if successful, protected time to participate in the program and requisite post-program ASPN activities.

For the proposed curriculum and application email: lthompson@aspneph.com

Application Deadline: January 15, 2011

Awards Selection Announced: January 31, 2011

Washington Update

REPUBLICANS TAKE HOUSE, SENATE GETS CLOSER

On November 2nd control of the House of Representatives shifted to the Republicans when the party won 60 seats in the House and will enjoy their largest majority since the Truman administration in that chamber. In the Senate the Democrats retained control but their majority narrowed with Republicans gaining six seats.

The 112th Congress will begin January 3rd amidst rising public concern about fiscal responsibility. House Republicans announced their picks for committee chairs last week and spoke to these concerns. Rep. Fred Upton (MI) will take the helm of the House Energy & Commerce Committee, with Rep. Dave Camp (MI) becoming Chairman of the powerful Ways & Means Committee, whose jurisdiction includes tax policy and Medicare. Rep. Camp is also the long-time champion of immunosuppressive drug coverage legislation and is very familiar with the kidney community having served as ranking member of the Health Subcommittee. Taking over for the Health Subcommittee of the Energy & Commerce Committee is Rep. Joe Pitts (PA), a conservative stalwart with designs on health reform dismantling. Rep. Hal Rogers (KY) will head the House Appropriations Committee. Rogers is a veteran member of the committee and has also publicly commented on cutting spending and bringing funding levels back to FY2008.

CONGRESS TRIES TO WRAP UP 111TH CONGRESS – MAKES DEAL ON SGR

The House and Senate were able to make a deal on the Medicare physician reimbursement rate and were able to pass a one year fix before the current patch expires December 31st – avoiding a 25% cut. Physicians will see a freeze in payment rates at current levels. Both the AMA and specialty societies, including the ASPN, hope that Congress will use this time to find a permanent solution to the problem.

At the time of this printing, Congress was working to finish funding bills, with the House passing a one year continuing resolution (CR) at 2010 funding levels. The Senate is holding out hope that it can pass an omnibus spending bill, however, it seems more and more likely that they will have to resort to a one-year CR as well. When the Republicans take control of the House in January it is expected that they will attempt to cut spending. The ultimate outcome of that is unclear, given the narrow Democrat majority in the Senate.

Meanwhile, despite the fact that President Obama and Senate Republicans made a deal on extending the Bush tax cuts, House Democrats announced that they did not in principle support this. The Senate's test vote yielded over 80 votes in support of moving forward and they are expected to pass this tax deal very soon, while the House may try to make some changes to it. Time is running short as the end of the year is fast approaching and once the clock runs out all current work will have to begin again – House Democrats may have to move forward on this deal reluctantly if they want to see their priorities passed before the end of the year.

2011 OUTLOOK

The ASPN Public Policy Committee (PPC) will have its hands full this year with ongoing MIPPA implementation efforts, including the first days of the new ESRD prospective payment system and the Quality Incentive Program (QIP). Beyond this, the PPC will continue to advocate for research language for pediatric chronic kidney disease, immunosuppressive drug coverage, a permanent fix to the sustainable growth rate (SGR), and implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).



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Committee Updates

CLINICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

NEW CLINICAL RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS!

The website workgroup of the Clinical Affairs Committee is pleased to announce new clinical resources available to all ASPN members through the website:

- (1) A comprehensive and “user-friendly” list of links to various websites that provide patient/caretaker education resources on a variety of topics,
- (2) A list of clinical entities with known available genetic testing.

To access these new resources, members should log-in, select “Clinical Toolbox”, and then select either “Clinical Entities-Genetic Testing” or “Patient-Centered Education Resources”. Within “Clinical Entities-Genetic Testing”, a simple categorized list of diseases with available genetic testing is provided, along with a link to www.genetests.org.

Within “Patient-Centered Education Resources”, 15 subcategories are listed as follows: chronic kidney disease/ESRD, dialysis topics, transplant, nephrotic syndrome, glomerular disease, hypertension, cystic kidney disease, solitary kidney/kidney dysplasia, urologic/voiding, imaging, urine collection, kidney biopsy, nutrition, websites, and index. Within each of these subcategories, links to the educational resources are provided. To help guide the member to relevant links, the title, source, brief description of content and intended audience are also included. An example of a link found within the “Chronic Kidney Disease/ESRD” subcategory follows:

Title: Your Kidneys and How They Work
Source: NIDDK/NIH
Content: General info about kidneys/CKD: function, causes/symptoms/testing for CKD
Intended audience: Adults and children
Link: **ENGLISH** <http://kidney.niddk.nih.gov/kudiseases/pubs/yourkidneys/>
SPANISH <http://kidney.niddk.nih.gov/spanish/pubs/yourkidneys/index.htm>

The links are from respected sources, but the educational resources have not been officially vetted by the ASPN, so clinicians should review the content before distributing and/or recommending to patients/caretakers. The website workgroup will review and update the links on at least a yearly basis. If problems are found with the links or content, or if you would like to recommend additional resources, please email [Jeff Fadrowski](mailto:Jeff.Fadrowski@aspn.org) or [Lisa Thompson](mailto:Lisa.Thompson@aspn.org).

The ASPN hopes these “one-stop shopping” resources will be of use to the membership, and the Clinical Affairs Committee would be happy to receive any suggestions to improve the website’s clinical content/usefulness.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Division of Kidney, Urologic and Hematologic Diseases (KUH) at the NIDDK has announced an initiative for an “interactive web-based dialogue to elicit a wide range of ideas and opinions” about future directions of kidney research. During the initial phase, ideas, objectives, and/or important questions will be posted online after which they will be discussed and voted on by participants. The suggestions “should be compelling, and if answered, worthy of a Nobel Prize in nephrology.” These ideas will then lead to research strategies (basic, clinical, and translational) based on prioritized objectives or questions. Eventually, these ideas will be assembled into a “Blueprint for Kidney Research.” It is important that this eventual blueprint

includes input from the pediatric nephrology community. If you have any ideas, questions, etc., please contact either Research Committee co-Chair (Mary Leonard or Carl Bates) so that they can forward them on to the web site.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

The Website Subcommittee had a fall phone conference and a meeting at the ASN. The committee is re-assessing the current content for updates, additions, and revisions. Other ASPN subcommittees are developing new content for their section of the website. Policies on links to outside organizations and how content is determined to be public access or restricted to the members-only-area are being drafted. We are interested in your feedback on

these initiatives and policies. One current area for expansion involves content aimed at fellows. With input from the fellows organization (pFENa), we will post educational, board preparation, and teaching resources drawn from practicing pediatric nephrologists. Collaboration with cutting-edge online nephrology educational sites will enhance what the ASPN website can offer fellows and life-long learners.

Committee Updates Cont'd...

TRAINING & CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM DIRECTORS COMMITTEES

ASPEN TRAINING PROGRAM DIRECTORS THIRD ANNUAL WORKSHOP

The ASPN Training Program Directors Third Annual Workshop was held on October 1, 2010 in Elk Grove IL. 15 TPD's attended the workshop and contributed to a lively discussion of methods to improve pediatric nephrology fellowship training.

Highlights included:

1. A report of the Pediatric Fellowship Manpower Issues, Match, Recruitment, Retention: Discussion and Proposals – further discussion of best match dates for 2012 and beyond will be held in a future TPD conference call.
2. A report of plans from the ASPN to develop Pediatric Nephrology Fellow National Conferences.
3. A review of the recently released ASPN National Pediatric Nephrology Fellowship Program Curriculum (developed by the ASPN TPD group) and a very impressive series of presentations of System Based Practice Methods by several of the TPD's .
4. An agreement to develop a national curriculum for Clinical and Translational Research to serve as model for programs to utilize; [working group: R Kaskel (Chair), R Wyatt, D Briscoe, P Grimm, K Meyers].
5. An agreement to develop a defined series of Entrustable Professional Activities – a Method to Best Define Fellowship Training Goals and Competency Assessments; [working group: J Mahan (Chair), V Norwood, W Waz, B Warshaw, F Ali].

There was enthusiasm for continuing to conduct yearly TPD Workshops with conference room and meals provided by ASPN and travel and hotel costs borne by the TPD's.

Slide sets for all of the presentations from the Workshop are available in the [Training Program Directors](#) section of the ASPN web site.

Affiliate Member Column

The ASPN membership committee has created a sub-committee for Affiliate Members. This sub-committee will be co-chaired by Lynn Puma, LCSW and Greg Nelsen, MSW. Our major goal is to find and develop ways the Affiliate Members can benefit from the ASPN. We have several interested members from all areas, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and Dietitians. We will conduct our first conference call after the first of the year. If you or a team member is interested in joining our sub-committee please email me at lynn.puma@carolinashealthcare.org.



KID_{ney} NOTES
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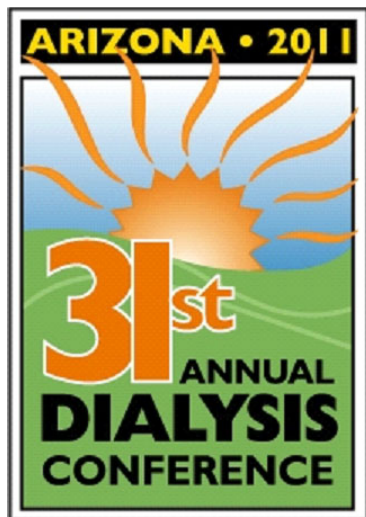
Meeting Announcements



2011 Annual Meeting

April 30 - May 3, Denver, Colorado

[More Information](#)



Fundamentals of Dialysis in Children course

22nd Pediatric Dialysis Symposium

February 19-22, 2011

Phoenix, Arizona

[More Information](#)



Save the Date!

March 10 - 13, 2011

Miami, FL

[More Information](#)



National Kidney
Foundation

2011 Spring Clinical Meetings

MGM Grand // Las Vegas, April 26-30

[More Information](#)

Welcome New Members!!

Barbara Case, RN
Johns Hopkins Hospital

Gal Finer, MD, PhD
Northwestern University
Feinberg School of Medicine

Guido Filler, MD
University of Western Ontario

Sabeen Habib, MD
LSU Health Science Center

David Hooper, MD
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Lorie Smith, MD
United States FDA