



Greetings, fellow ASPN members!

I hope Spring is coming to you faster than it is coming to us here in Chicago. A sure sign of the season is our Annual meeting, beginning April 30 in Denver. The schedule is packed with sessions developed by our Program Committee, covering a wide range of topics. These include not only clinical pediatric nephrology and basic science related to our practices, but also topics important in developing a career in our field, such as how to successfully prepare a manuscript or developing leadership skills. The quality of the submitted abstracts seems higher each year, and both the poster sessions and the platform presentations should be of great interest. Noteworthy for the trainees are two sessions on Sunday, May 1: the Meet the Professor Breakfast at 7 a.m. and the CPC Battle of the Brains Fellows' Luncheon at noon. These are very popular and, yes, free food is provided to the trainees at both sessions.

Other important schedule items (and more food!) include the ASPN Member Reception beginning at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 30 at the Grand Hyatt, Crystal Peak/San Luis Peak; and the ASPN Awards Luncheon on Monday, May 2 at 12:30 in Convention Center rooms 505/507. At the Awards Luncheon, we will recognize Bruder Stapleton with the ASPN Founder's Award, Monica Tucci with the ASPN Trainee Research Award, and Jim Chan with the Henry Barnett –AAP award. Our hearty congratulations to all of the recipients! The ASPN Annual Business Meeting will be Sunday May 1 at 3:30 p.m. in Korbel 1 E/F. This meeting is an important opportunity for the Council to bring the membership up-do-date on our many activities and for the membership at large to discuss concerns to our profession. Several issues have been suggested by members and will be brought up with a significant amount of time set aside for open discussion. I urge you to actively participate in the proceedings. Please note that all trainees are encouraged to attend these events.

Among other topics, you will hear about two new initiatives for career development for our members. In one, we have started a leadership development program for our Society. We have enrolled 13 ASPN members who sought admission to the first class. They will participate in an intensive session at the end of this PAS meeting and then additional, selected activities over the next year. The other initiative is a special program, supported by the John E. Lewy Foundation, to train two Advocacy Scholars who will support our important mission of promoting the optimal care of children with kidney disease. One of the Scholars, David Hains, will present briefly at the business meeting.

Finally, your continued input and active participation are essential for us to accomplish as much as we can to improve the lives of our patients and, indeed, our own lives. A list of ASPN Committee meetings is on page 6 of this issue of KIDney Notes. These meetings are open to any interested member, so please look at the list, come and contribute to our ongoing efforts.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Denver!

Best regards,



H. William Schnaper
President

The upcoming PAS meetings in Denver have provided another venue for the John E. Lewy Foundation for Children's Health to further our goals of advancing the science of childhood kidney disease, supporting research, and enhancing clinical excellence and practitioner effectiveness. The Foundation is sponsoring a PAS topic symposium entitled Transition and Chronic Disease: The Long Hard Road from Childhood to Adulthood to be held Saturday, April 30th from 2:45-4:45 pm in Korbel I E/F. The issues of transition from pediatric to adult care for children with chronic disease continue to be poorly addressed and will require ongoing advocacy and efforts to appropriately improve. This is just the type of issue that the Foundation is dedicated to attacking by supporting the science of transition, facilitating advocacy and leadership efforts, and encouraging broader clinician involvement. Please join us!

The Foundation is also eagerly following the progress of our two inaugural Advocacy Scholars, Dr. David Haines and Dr. Tamar Springel, as they advance through their training. Dr. Haines will provide an update to the ASPN at the Business Meeting scheduled for 3:30-5:30 pm on Sunday, May 1st in Korbel I E/F.

And don't forget that the Foundation's activities depend on your tax-deductible support as well as your professional expertise. Please consider donating at <http://www.aspneph.com/JohnELewyFoundation/howtodonate.asp> or bring your checkbook to Denver! Looking forward to seeing you!

Victoria F. Norwood, MD, Chairman of the Board

Committee Updates

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Study Updates:

The Randomized Intervention for Children with Vesicoureteral Reflux Clinical Trial (RIVUR-CT) (clinicaltrials.gov#NCT00405704) is a multicenter, randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled study aimed at determining if daily trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole prophylaxis is superior to placebo in preventing recurrent urinary tract infections and scarring. Currently, 19 centers are contributing patients aged 2 months-71 months. The goal has been to enroll 600 patients and the enrollment period is approaching its end. After being enrolled in the study, patients will be followed for 2 years to collect all data necessary.

Furthermore, proposals for ancillary studies will continue to be accepted and reviewed by the RIVUR-CT Ancillary Studies Committee even after the enrollment period is completed. Proposals could include secondary analyses of the data collected from the parent study or studies involving the repository samples. The ASPN Research Committee is encouraging investigators to utilize the large collection of clinical data and biosamples for clinical as well as basic science research in children with vesicoureteral reflux. For more information, please contact Ron Keren, MD, MPH, Chair of the Ancillary Studies Committee (CHOP, 3535 Market Street, Room 1524, Philadelphia, PA 19104).

On Behalf of the Research Committee,
Michael Braun & Carl Bates

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The 2012 ASPN Program Committee, at the request of ASPN Council, prepared a brief survey to assess what would make the ASPN annual meeting of more value to our members. This survey was active from late February to mid-March 2011. Thank you to the 87 members who responded!

The results of the survey and our committee's interpretations are provided below. About 55% of the responders had attended 2 of the last 3 years' meetings. Those who attended said that the most important reasons for attending were: 1) to attend ASPN clinical sessions; 2) to reconnect with other pediatric nephrologists; 3) as an invited speaker or abstract presenter. Those who did not attend felt that the topics were interesting but had other reasons to not attend (e.g., not enough

time, not enough resources, not enough overall value or attended another nephrology meeting). Responders wanted more clinical medicine symposia and translational medicine symposia. Pure basic science, career development and business regulation symposia scored lower. The 2012 program committee will heed the survey results and make the symposia and sessions more clinically relevant to its members. Each session organizer/chair will provide the speakers with guidelines for what is expected from the talk. The preliminary program that will be published in ASPN's Kidney Notes will provide a few lines describing each talk, not just the overall description of the session. To make free communications more relevant, we are considering other formats for those sessions, as used in other nephrology meetings, such as adding an invited speaker interspersed with the free communications; or interspersing a clinical symposium with 3 top rated free communications. The membership has already received a blast email requesting topic suggestions. As always, your thoughts are welcome!

On behalf of the 2012 Program Committee,
Vikas Dharnidharka, Chair 2012 Program Committee

American Society of Pediatric Nephrology Annual Meeting

Denver, Colorado

April 30 - May 3, 2011

Together with our sister alliances we will join the Pediatric Academic Societies and The Asian Society for Pediatric Research for their Joint Meeting in Denver, Colorado. The mile high city will serve as a beautiful backdrop for a spectacularly organized program. The deadline for advanced registration is **March 31, 2011!**

Visit the [PAS website](#) for the list of outstanding topics to be presented this year by the ASPN and PAS.



ASPN PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

INVITED SYMPOSIA

- AKI: What's New in Diagnosis, Pathogenesis, and Management
- Bone and Beyond: Pediatric Bone and Mineral Disorders in 2011
- Magnesium Handling: The Good, the Bad, and the Deranged
- Novel Roles of Vitamin D Metabolites in Kidney and Cardiovascular Diseases
- Promises and Pitfalls of Routine Screening for Kidney Disease
- Renovascular Hypertension: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Considerations
- The Kidney: Roles as a Culprit and a Bystander In Childhood Cancer
- The Role of Dietary Electrolytes in Determining Blood Pressure
- Transition and Chronic Disease: The Long Hard Road from Childhood to Adulthood
- UTI and VUR: From the Bench to the Office
- What Can You Do With a Database?

ASPN AWARDS LUNCHEON

ASPN CPC FELLOW'S LUNCHEON (BATTLE OF THE BRAINS)

ASPN MEMBER RECEPTION

ASPN PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AND BUSINESS MEETING

MEET THE PROFESSOR BREAKFAST SESSION FOR TRAINEES AND JUNIOR FACULTY

ORIGINAL SCIENCE ABSTRACT SESSIONS IN NEPHROLOGY AND HYPERTENSION

PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINE SOCIETY PLENARY SESSION (KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DANIEL BCHET)

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY

- Health Care Reform: Are We Making Progress for America's Children?
- Health Reform and New Delivery System Models, What do Emerging Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) Mean for Pediatrics?
- New Developments and Seminal Advances in Pediatric Quality: The Institute of Medicine (IOM)
- Public Policy Council: Implementation of Health Care Reform – The State Perspective

INVITED SYMPOSIA

- Best Pharmaceutical for Children Act (BPCA) and Opportunities for CTSA Collaboration
- Developing Women as Leaders in Academic Pediatrics: Mentoring, Advising, and Professional Coaching
- Duty Hour Restrictions: The View from the Trenches
- Health Information Technology Platforms for Research and Discovery: From Healthcare to Home to the Genome
- Longitudinal Children's Studies: A Global Perspective
- Making Sense of the Child Health Implications of the Gulf Oil Spill
- PAS Opening General Session (Joseph W. St. Geme Leadership Award)
- Transition and Chronic Disease: The Long Hard Road from Childhood to Adulthood
- Transitions and Handovers: Challenges and Strategies for Safe Patient Care

CORE CURRICULUM FOR ABP SUBSPECIALTY TRAINING –

The PAS has a particularly deep appreciation to the education of trainees and continues to provide a comprehensive core curriculum for fellows that address areas of academic development identified in the new guidelines summarized in the **American Board of Pediatrics Guidelines for Fellowship Training**. These workshops, scheduled throughout the PAS/ASPEN meeting, focus on skill and knowledge acquisition that are appropriate for individuals at the fellowship level of training and provide a foundation for those who may not have had exposure to the topic of interest, as well as those who wish to pursue a topic in greater depth in the future. It is intended that these themes repeat each year so individual curriculums can be created to complement education provided by local fellowship training programs. Certificates of completion will be available for participants.

Topics are outlined below. A comprehensive listing of core curriculum sessions is available on the PAS website.

- Introduction to Biostatistics
- Critical Literature Review
- Clinical Research Methods and Study Design
- Application of Basic Science Techniques to Translational Research
- Preparation of Applications for Grants
- Preparation of Abstracts and Brief Scientific Presentations
- Preparation of Scientific Manuscripts
- Preparation of Applications for Institutional Review Boards
- Principles of Evidence-Based Medicine
- Scientific Conduct in Research
- Achievement of Proficiency in Teaching

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KID_{ney} NOTES
Is the Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
 April 30–May 2, 2011 ~ Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO

Saturday, April 30	Sunday, May 1	Monday, May 2
<p>8:00am–10:00am Invited Science Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kidney: Roles as a Culprit and a Bystander In Childhood Cancer <p>10:30am–12:30pm Invited Science Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AKI: What's New in Diagnosis, Pathogenesis, and Management <p>1:15pm–2:30pm Poster Session I & Exhibits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic/Translational <p>2:45pm–4:45pm Invited Science Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Role of Dietary Electrolytes in Determining Blood Pressure Transition and Chronic Disease: The Long Hard Road from Childhood to Adulthood <p>5:00pm–6:30pm PAS/ASPR Opening General Session</p> <p>8:00pm–9:30pm ASPN Member Reception</p>	<p>7:00am–8:00am Meet the Professor Breakfast Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pediatric Nephrology and Academia: Allison Eddy <p>8:00am–10:00am Original Science Abstract Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nephrology I: Mechanisms in Development & Disease Pathogenesis <p>10:15am–11:45am APS Presidential Plenary and Awards</p> <p>10:30am–12:30pm Invited Science Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bone and Beyond: Pediatric Bone and Mineral Disorders in 2011 Novel Roles of Vitamin D Metabolites in Kidney and Cardiovascular Diseases <p>12:00pm–1:30pm ASPN CPC Fellow's Luncheon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battle of the Brains <p>1:00pm–3:30pm PES Presidential Lecture and Plenary Session II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote Speaker: Daniel Bichet-Aquaporins and Water Balance (2:15pm) <p>1:30pm–3:30pm Invited Science Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UTI and VUR: From the Bench to the Office What Can You Do With a Database? <p>1:30pm–3:00pm ASPN Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical Leadership Skills for Academic Pediatricians <p>3:30pm–5:30pm ASPN Presidential Address and Business Meeting</p> <p>5:45pm–7:30pm Poster Session II & Exhibits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hypertension 	<p>7:00am–8:00am Public Policy Council Legislative Breakfast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Reform and New Delivery System Models, What do Emerging Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) Mean for Pediatrics? <p>8:00am–10:00am Invited Science Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magnesium Handling: The Good, the Bad, and the Deranged <p>10:15am–11:45am PAS Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit, Review, Revise, Resubmit: Getting to the Next Step in Publishing Your Work <p>10:15am–12:15pm SPR Presidential Plenary and Awards</p> <p>10:30am–12:30pm Invited Science Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promises and Pitfalls of Routine Screening for Kidney Disease <p>10:30am–12:30pm Original Science Abstract Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nephrology II: Biomarkers & Novel Therapeutics <p>12:30pm–1:45pm ASPN Awards Luncheon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainee Research Awards Henry L. Barnett Award Founder's Award <p>3:30pm–5:30pm Invited Science Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovascular Hypertension: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Considerations <p>4:15pm–6:15pm Original Science Abstract Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Spectrum of Recent Research in Pediatric Hypertension <p>5:45pm–7:30pm Poster Session III & Exhibits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical <p>6:30pm–7:30pm IPHA General Business Meeting</p>
<p>Exhibits Open 1:00pm–4:00pm</p>	<p>Exhibits Open 4:15pm–7:30pm</p>	<p>Exhibits Open 4:15pm–7:30pm</p>

ASPEN Denver Committee Meeting Schedule

Ancillary Meeting	Date	Day	Begin	End	Location
ASPEN Council Meeting	4/29/11	Friday	Noon	6:00 PM	Hyatt Regency Downtown - Agate C
ASPEN Program Committee	4/29/11	Friday	Noon	6:00 PM	Hyatt Regency Downtown - Sandstone
ASPEN Clinical Affairs/Practice Management Committee	4/30/11	Saturday	Noon	1:00 PM	Hyatt Regency Downtown - Agate C
John E. Lewy Foundation BOD Meeting	4/30/11	Saturday	Noon	1:00 PM	Hyatt Regency Downtown - Limestone Boardroom
ASPEN Website Committee	4/30/11	Saturday	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	Hyatt Regency Downtown - Sandstone
ASPEN Member Reception	4/30/11	Saturday	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	Grand Hyatt Denver - Crystal Peak/San Luis Peak
ASPEN Quality and Payment Committee	5/1/11	Sunday	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Hyatt Regency Downtown - Agate C
ASPEN Research Committee	5/1/11	Sunday	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Hyatt Regency Downtown - Sandstone
ASPEN Member Education Task Force	5/1/11	Sunday	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Hyatt Regency Downtown - Limestone Boardroom
ASPEN Workforce Committee	5/1/11	Sunday	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Hyatt Regency Downtown - Marble
ASPEN Membership Committee	5/1/11	Sunday	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	Hyatt Regency Downtown - Limestone Boardroom
ASPEN Business Meeting	5/1/11	Sunday	3:30 PM	5:30 PM	Colorado Convention Center - Korbel I E/F
ASPEN Training & Certification Committee	5/1/11	Sunday	5:45 PM	6:45 PM	Hyatt Regency Downtown - Limestone Boardroom
ASPEN Public Policy Committee/Clinical Affairs Committee	5/1/11	Sunday	5:45 PM	6:45 PM	Colorado Convention Center - 106
ASPEN pFeNA Social Event & Meeting	5/1/11	Sunday	8:00 PM	10:00 PM	Sheraton Downtown - The Yardhouse
ASPEN Training Program Directors	5/2/11	Monday	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Hyatt Regency Downtown - Mineral Hall B
ASPEN Leadership Development Course	5/3/2011	Tuesday	7:30AM	04:00 PM	Hyatt Regency Downtown - Limestone Boardroom

Welcome New Members!!

Hsiao Lai, MD
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC

Shoba Narayan, MD
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ASPEN Leadership

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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN NARROWLY AVERTED

House and Senate leaders narrowly averted a federal government shutdown just a couple of hours before a midnight deadline on April 8. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and President Obama announced a deal that would cut nearly \$40 billion from current spending levels for the rest of FY2011.

Specifically it provides \$30.7 billion for NIH in FY 2011, approximately \$320 million (1 percent) below the FY 2010 level. The funding decrease will come from a \$210 million pro rata reduction of all institutes, centers, and the Office of the Director and a \$50 million decrease to the intramural buildings and facilities account. It also reflects a 0.2 percent across-the-board decrease to all non-security discretionary accounts. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sustained one of the biggest cuts — \$730 million from 2010 funding levels, leaving it with a budget of \$5.66 billion.

Overall, the deal provides for \$157 billion for labor, health and human services, and education programs. Although many programs experienced some cuts, they were spared the complete elimination that House Republicans sought in their fiscal 2011 budget, including family planning services, AmeriCorps and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

HOUSE VOTES ON FY2012 BUDGET RESOLUTION WHILE THE PRESIDENT OUTLINES DEFICIT REDUCTION PLAN

In the same week that the President signed the final FY2011 budget into law, the House quickly moved to pass a budget blueprint for FY2012. The plan, introduced by House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI), calls for changing Medicare into a voucher program for future seniors as well as shifting Medicaid to a block grant program. Democrats are pledging to maintain Medicare in its current form.

Meanwhile, despite the fact that he released his own budget proposal for FY2012 back in February, the President responded to the Ryan plan with his own long-term plan for deficit reduction. Stating that "most Americans believe we should invest in...medical research," Obama outlined a plan that will result \$2 trillion in savings and reduce the deficit by \$4 trillion over the next 12 years. While the plan calls for deficit reduction partially through cuts to domestic discretionary spending, Obama pledged to protect "investments in the future," including those in medical research. He also called for a new bipartisan deficit-reduction working group, asking House and Senate leaders from both parties to appoint 16 lawmakers to a panel to be led by Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. But administration officials later said they are flexible about how leaders decide to set up the group.

Yet another variable entering the debate is the looming deadline the Treasury Department has given to Congress for increasing the debt limit. Treasury says the debt ceiling must be raised by early July, but Republicans warn they will agree to such an action only if it comes with efforts to reduce the budget deficit or cut spending.

42 GOP SENATORS ASK OBAMA TO WITHDRAW BERWICK NOMINATION

42 Republican Senators wrote to President Obama urging him to withdraw CMS Administrator Dr. Donald M. Berwick's nomination to continue on as Administrator. Obama has stressed his support for Berwick, although it is looking less and less likely that he could muster enough support to be confirmed. ASPEN is in the process of writing a letter to the Senate urging them to hold confirmation hearings on Dr. Berwick's nomination. Should Dr. Berwick's term run out without confirmation, his deputy, Marilyn Tavenner is rumored to be next in line.

CONGRESS STILL NEEDS TO "FIX" MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT RATE

Congress will once again have to pass a Medicare physician payment fix before a 29.5percent cut goes into effect January 1, 2012. A fix is estimated to cost \$330 billion, virtually ensuring difficulty in finding a way to pay for such a high cost piece of legislation. Congress has engaged in activity to fix the formula every year since 2002. Most recently, the Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010 froze doctors' payments through December. ASPEN has engaged in efforts to urge Congress to find a permanent solution to this problem.

Washington Update Cont'd...

CMS PROPOSES TO DEFER COVERAGE OF ANEMIA TREATMENT FOR KIDNEY DISEASE

On March 16th CMS proposed not to cover erythropoiesis stimulating agents (ESAs) for treating anemia in adults with chronic kidney disease. "Despite an exhaustive search, we identified no high quality, randomized clinical trials" that would definitely determine the risk of adverse events from ESAs in geriatric patients with renal insufficiency or renal failure, CMS said in the proposed decision memorandum.

There is no national coverage determination concerning the use of ESAs in beneficiaries with renal disease treated with dialysis or those with renal disease in pre-dialysis stages. In June 2010, CMS accepted a request for consideration of coverage of the anti-anemia drugs from the Medical Technology & Practice Patterns Institute, a Maryland-based research organization.

However, several studies suggested that there might be "unappreciated harm" associated with ESAs, CMS said. ASPN PPC co-chair Douglas Silverstein, MD presented at the Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) meeting in March of 2010, where the panel determined that they would not refer the matter with respect to the pediatric population to CMS, which is largely why this proposal only applies to adult patients. CMS' proposed memo is available at <http://tinyurl.com/66cxoko>.

Katie Schubert, Vice President, Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis Associates

Meeting Announcements

American Society of Nephrology

Renal Week 2010 - Denver, CO | November 16 - 21

[More Information](#)



**National Kidney
Foundation***

2011 Spring Clinical Meetings

MGM Grand // Las Vegas, April 26–30

[More Information](#)

Important Dates to Remember

DEADLINES FOR 2012 PAS ANNUAL MEETING INVITED SCIENCE PROPOSALS ~ JULY 1, 2011
WORKSHOP PROPOSALS ~ AUGUST 12, 2011 (TENTATIVE)
ORIGINAL SCIENCE ABSTRACTS ~ NOVEMBER 17, 2011