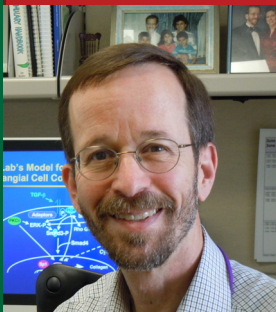


November ~ December 2011

## President's Corner



Season's Greetings!

We are approaching the end of a very busy year for ASPN. The committees have been active: Public Policy has sought to keep up with the pace of events in Washington, especially related to the new dialysis billing and quality rules. The Clinical Affairs Committee has developed toolboxes and other useful content for our web site, as well as advising regarding a new pediatric hypertension brochure for NKDEP; and the Workforce Committee continues to address the related issues of recruiting into our profession and enhancing our ability to enjoy its practice. The Training and Certification Committee has worked with the training program directors to establish a new Match date.

More information can be found about these activities in this issue of *KIDney Notes*. I'd like to mention several specific initiatives:

- The first Board Review Course, chaired by Lenny Feld, was a terrific success. The feedback we got was very positive, and the course finished in the black despite significantly subsidized tuition rates for our trainees. The next phase, involving access to online content, is now available.
- The John E. Lewy Foundation continues to support our Advocacy Scholars Program, with new Scholars Sara Swartz and John David Spencer joining Tamar Springel and David Hains. We are excited about the prospect of growing a new cadre of skilled advocates to participate in our public policy activities.
- Mary Leonard is chairing a group that is seeking to identify investigators who are interested in collaborating on clinical trials. Please participate and help us provide a venue for evaluating new drugs, devices, and therapeutic approaches to our patients. Such studies will augment the work being accomplished by our community-based NIH studies, the FSGS Clinical Trial (now concluding), CKiDs, and the RIVUR study.
- Our Corporate Liaison Board, chaired by Joseph Flynn, continues to grow. The members are listed elsewhere in *KIDney Notes* and also on our web site. We have found that the CLB is providing an increasingly valuable forum for exchanging ideas between practitioners and Industry.
- One way in which the CLB has helped is in the planning for our Leadership Development Course, directed by John Mahan. We have gotten great suggestions, as well as support from several companies who have provided faculty for the sessions.
- All of these initiatives are supported by our website. Council has identified enhancing the organization and "look" of the website as an important priority. We hope you will take a look and make suggestions to our Website Committee regarding the upgrades. Please respond soon to our requests for comments. We would like your input but once we have started to make changes it will not be easy to modify them.

My thanks to the Society members and the Council for what has certainly been a busy and exciting year in *my* life. I wish you all a pleasant holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year.

Best wishes.

Bill



# ASPEN Leadership

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## Announcements

### ASPEN PEDIATRIC NEPHROLOGY BOARD REVIEW COURSE AVAILABLE IN ONLINE VERSION!

The very well received ASPEN Board Review Course, consisting of 17 separate presentations given by respected academicians and experts in our field, is now available in an online version.

#### Price:

\$300 for Fellows in training and non-US IPNA members (partially underwritten by a grant from IPNA).  
\$700 for ASPEN member  
\$900 for non-ASPEN member

#### Register:

[https://www.charlotteahec.org/continuing\\_education/registration/workshop.cfm?EventID=36045](https://www.charlotteahec.org/continuing_education/registration/workshop.cfm?EventID=36045)

Your purchase will enable you to access:

- 1) recorded video of the presentations
- 2) podcasts of the presentations
- 3) short review materials related to the ABP content specifications
- 4) a bank of over 300 Board type questions with detailed explanations

The online material should be equally useful to ASPEN members and other practitioners who are in the process of re-certification and looking for comprehensive Board preparation materials. The online material is locked and can not be **copied** or **printed** but will stay available to subscribers through September 30, 2012 to assist those who are preparing for the ABP MOC Secure Examination.

#### The dates for the ABP Pediatric Nephrology Maintenance of Certification Part 3 [Secure Examination] are (<https://www.abp.org>)

Subspecialty (Spring) • March 1 - 31, 2012

Subspecialty (Fall) • September 1 - 30, 2012

Once again, we thank our ASPEN members and supporters who prepared and presented their Board Review materials without financial compensation, but motivated by the opportunity to support ASPEN and our members.

### ASPEN RESIDENT TRAVEL GRANT

The ASPEN will sponsor residents and selected other non-fellow trainees to attend the upcoming ASPEN/PAS meeting.

Stipends to partially support travel (approx. \$400) and complimentary registration will be given on a competitive basis. Applicants must be medical students, pediatric residents, chief residents, or med-peds residents currently enrolled in an ACGME-accredited pediatric residency program. Priority will be given to those trainees earlier in their education (ie PL-1 and PL-2).

The request to be considered must include the following:

- Recommendation by a member of the ASPEN who agrees to accompany the trainee to the meeting.
- Applicant's curriculum vitae along with a 1-page statement from the candidate describing his/her interest and possible career plans in pediatric nephrology.

It is important that all of the documents accompany your request. Applicants must commit to attend the 3-day meeting if selected.

**Nominations must be submitted by Friday, January 13, 2012.**

The Board of Directors of the John E. Lewy Foundation for Children's Health is especially happy to announce the selection of Dr. John David Spencer and Dr. Sarah Swartz as the 2012-2014 JELF Advocacy Scholars. These two outstanding young pediatric nephrologists will soon begin a two year course designed to provide them with expert skills in the areas of advocacy and legislative affairs.

Dr. Spencer is currently a third year fellow at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio and is Chair of pFENA, ASPN's affiliated pediatric nephrology fellows organization. His goals for participation in the program include improvement in patient care, advancing pediatric nephrology research, and insuring a healthy pediatric nephrology workforce for children.

Dr. Swartz is currently Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Texas Children's Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine and an active participant in the ASPN Public Policy Committee and the Payment Workgroup. Her goals for participation in the program include the development of skills to better affect change in the political arena and to insure that children with kidney disease are appropriately represented and their interests not overlooked.

Launched in October 2010, the Advocacy Scholars Program utilizes didactic educational experiences from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the TheCapitol.net combined with individualized mentored experiences with ASPN members and governmental affairs leadership. By working directly with ASPN's Washington representative and senior members of the ASPN to specifically understand ASPN's advocacy and Capital Hill efforts, scholars will be prepared for participation in ongoing advocacy initiatives.

Funded by the John E. Lewy Foundation for Children's Health and initiated by the leadership of the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology (ASPN), the Advocacy Scholars Program aims to develop a pipeline for the next generation of leaders in pediatric nephrology with specific expertise in governmental processes affecting children's healthcare and advocacy for pediatric nephrology. This initiative honors the memory of Dr. John E. Lewy who was one of pediatric nephrology's strongest advocates for children's health in the US and around the world. Dr. Lewy had served a Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship in with Senator John Breaux of Louisiana and was intimately involved with the governmental affairs activities of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the International Pediatric Nephrology Association. He had just completed his tenure as Chair of the AAP's Committee on Federal Government Affairs at the time of his unexpected death in 2007.

For more information on the John E. Lewy Foundation for Children's Health and its missions to support pediatric nephrologists and other pediatricians in activities to improve their knowledge skills and efficacy in delivery better health for children worldwide, please visit <http://www.aspneph.com/JohnELewyFoundation/JELFMain.asp>. Your support will be welcomed.



### **A Note From The Treasurer**

As this year draws to a close, it is a perfect time to review the goals we set for ourselves, to take pride in those we achieved, and to consider perhaps even loftier goals for next year. The membership of ASPN has much to be proud of, for your Society accomplished quite a bit this year, including completion of the first year of the John E. Lewy Foundation Advocacy Scholars Program. Our first two Advocacy Scholars, Tamar Springel and David Hains, epitomize the vision of the Foundation, which was established to be a living remembrance of Dr. Lewy's dedication to pediatric nephrology, pediatric advocacy and education, and the advancement of science. Indeed, the program has been such a success, that we have expanded it to be a two-year program and, as Senior Scholars, Drs. Springel and Hains will not only further their advocacy efforts, but will serve as mentors for our two incoming Scholars, Sarah Swartz and J.D. Spencer.

Through activities like the Advocacy Scholars Program, and with new initiatives under development, the John E. Lewy Foundation enhances and expands ASPN'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. To accomplish these goals, the Foundation needs your ongoing support.

If you are looking for meaningful gifts or thinking about making year-end contributions to recognize or 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/howtodonate.asp>.

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

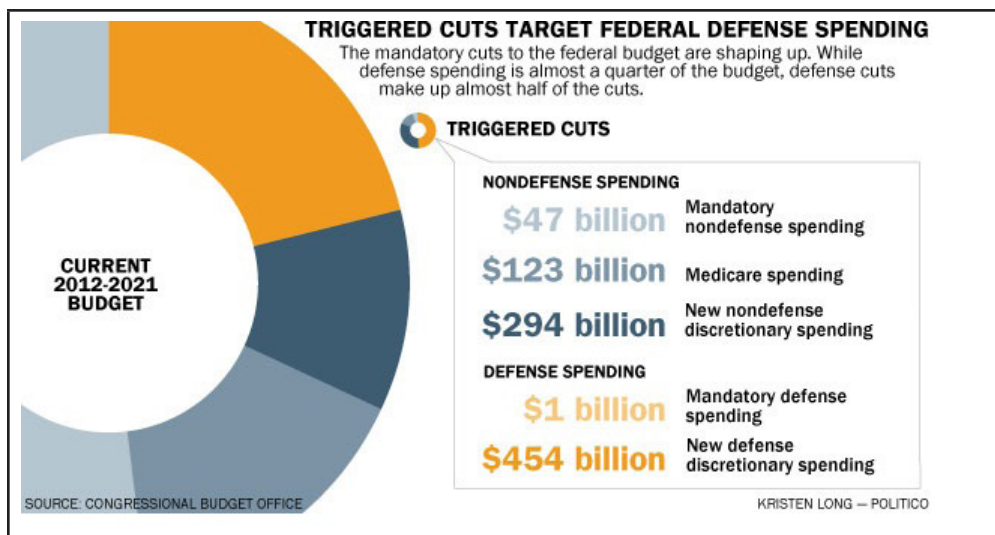
Sharon A. Perlman, MD  
Treasurer

## Washington Update

### SUPERCOMMITTEE'S "SUPER FAIL"

Just two days before their deadline to announce recommendations, the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, or the so-called "Supercommittee" co-chairs Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representative Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) announced that the Committee could find no common ground and were unable to reach a deal.

The Supercommittee, composed of an equal number of Democrats and Republicans from each chamber of Congress, was tasked with finding \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction over ten years by November 23. With news of the failure, automatic spending cuts are triggered beginning in 2013. The automatic cuts, known as "sequestration," are across-the-board cuts applied equally to both defense and non-defense spending. The cuts will go into effect in 2013, meaning there will be time for Congress, in an election year, to tinker with how the cuts might be enacted. In fact, Members of Congress who voted for this process believed that Defense spending would be protected by the Supercommittee and now are scrambling to propose ways to change or delay the cuts. Because these cuts do not go into effect until 2013, it seems that funding for the National Institutes of Health will get away with either level funding or a small "hair cut." What will happen in the future with sequestration remains to be seen.



The graphic above shows how the sequester will work. Of concern to the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine is how these across-the-board cuts might be implemented at the NIH and ultimately, the NICHD. Estimates of the cuts range from four to eight percent across-the-board, to be determined by Congress and the agencies.

### APPROPRIATIONS WINDING DOWN, ALONG WITH A POSSIBLE SGR BILL

As this issue goes to press, Congress is working to finish its regular business of funding the federal government. While this was supposed to have been finished by September 30, they still have nine spending bills to pass, including the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education bill. The government is currently running on a short-term continuing resolution that will expire on December 16, 2011. At this point, it seems that the most likely scenario will be the passage of a "mega-bus" bill that will include all of the spending bills that are left, plus a two year Medicare physician payment fix and payroll tax extension.

### NEW CMS ADMINISTRATOR ON THE WAY

President Obama's first CMS Administrator, Don Berwick, resigned effective December 2, 2011. Obama has announced that he will nominate Marilyn Tavenner, current CMS Deputy Administrator, to replace him. Ms. Tavenner will have to be confirmed by the Senate or appointed by President Obama during a Congressional recess to take office.

## WHAT IS THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE?

The Sustainable Growth Rate or SGR is an approach used by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to try to control its spending for physician services. Each year a conversion factor is proposed to apply to the physician fee schedule to make expenditures reconcile with desired rates of growth. If Medicare expenditures for the previous year significantly outpaced desired rates of spending, the SGR can be very negative. For instance, this year's SGR if applied would result in a cut of nearly 30% to physician payments. Congress can, however, adjust or suspend the SGR if there are concerns that the changes would have adverse effects on health care provision to Medicare recipients. Many physician organizations have argued that the physician payment rates should be exempt from these rate cuts and have lobbied for a "permanent doc fix" or new approach to reining in such costs.

## Washington Update Cont'd.

Dr. Berwick, a trained pediatrician and renowned quality expert, advocated innovative programs to improve the quality and efficiency of treatment in Medicare and Medicaid during his tenure as Administrator. He launched efforts to reorganize and more closely monitor the insurance industry. While he was determined to improve patient safety, the overriding task of his agency since the health care overhaul passed was to prepare for and begin implementing the sweeping law. Berwick was always a controversial figure who enjoyed little support from Senate Republicans. He was appointed by Obama on a temporary basis.

Tavenner will carry on Berwick's work on an acting basis and, if she is confirmed by the Senate, as permanent CMS administrator.

Tavenner has kept a relatively low profile in Washington. Prior to CMS, she spent more than a decade in senior management positions with the Hospital Corporation of America, a for-profit company. Tavenner was also Virginia's secretary of health and human resources. Republicans outside of Congress have expressed support for her, including former CMS Administrator under President George W. Bush, Tom Scully, who said, "I think she's terrific, and you'd be very hard pressed to find anyone better in either party."

Additionally, Rich Tarplin, former Health and Human Services staff under President Clinton, noted, "the politics of health reform obscured the fact this is ultimately a job of managing a large structure with complex, vital programs. Tavenner has the perfect background and experience to do this successfully."

Ms. Tavenner has yet to be formally nominated by President Obama.



*Submitted by:*  
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Tentative Ancillary Meetings in Boston	Date	Day	Begin	End	Location
ASPN Council Meeting	04/27/12	Friday	Noon	06:00 PM	TBD
ASPN Program Committee	04/27/12	Friday	Noon	06:00 PM	TBD
Meet the Fellow Coffee	04/28/12	Saturday	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	TBD
ASPN Clinical Affairs/Practice Management Committee	04/28/12	Saturday	Noon	01:00 PM	TBD
John E. Lewy Foundation BOD Meeting	04/28/12	Saturday	1:15PM	2:30PM	TBD
ASPN Website Committee	04/28/12	Saturday	01:00 PM	02:00 PM	TBD
ASPN Member Reception	04/28/12	Saturday	08:00 PM	09:30 PM	TBD
ASPN Quality and Payment Committee	04/29/12	Sunday	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	TBD
ASPN Research Committee	04/29/12	Sunday	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	TBD
ASPN Member Education Task Force	04/29/12	Sunday	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	TBD
ASPN Workforce Committee	04/29/12	Sunday	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	TBD
ASPN Membership Committee	04/29/12	Sunday	12:30 PM	01:30 PM	TBD
ASPN Business Meeting	04/29/12	Sunday	03:30 PM	05:30 PM	TBD
ASPN Training & Certification Committee	04/29/12	Sunday	05:45 PM	06:45 PM	TBD
ASPN Public Policy Committee/ Clinical Affairs Committee	04/29/12	Sunday	05:45 PM	06:45 PM	TBD
ASPN pFeNA Social Event & Meeting	04/29/12	Sunday	08:00 PM	010:00 PM	TBD
ASPN Training Program Directors	04/30/12	Monday	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	TBD
ASPN Leadership Development Course	05/01/12	Tuesday	7:30AM	04:00 PM	TBD

## Committee Updates

### TRAINING & CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM DIRECTORS COMMITTEES

**NRMP [National Resident  
Matching Program] announces  
application and match dates  
for Class to start in 2013.**

The NRMP has announced the dates for the Fall 2012 Match process that includes now includes Pediatric Nephrology! Beginning for the class who will start in July 2013, resident applicants will have more time to explore pediatric nephrology in residency training before being required to enter into the ERAS (Electronic Resident Application System) and NRMP processes. We found strong interest in this match sequence from pediatric and medicine-pediatrics residents. The Pediatric Nephrology Training Program Directors and ASPN Council strongly supported this transition from the Spring to the Fall Match and approval from the NRMP has been obtained. This allows residents more opportunities for educational activities and thoughtful choice prior to deciding to commit to apply to Pediatric Nephrology.

Pediatric Nephrology now joins Pediatric Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Behavior/Development and Rheumatology in the Pediatric Subspecialties Fall Match in 2012. Neonatology also matches in the Fall and it is hoped that they will all occur on the same day in the near future. We hope to see all of the Fall match dates coalesce on the same date (all Internal Medicine Specialties now follow this Fall timeline) to allow for couples matches and better coordination for the applicants in the future.

Important dates to know and distribute to interested residents.

**John Mahan,  
Co-Chair**

**ASPN Corporate Liaison Board**

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**ALEXION**

**Fresenius Medical Care**

### CLINICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Clinical Affairs Committee is establishing a program for timely dissemination of accurate, complete, and up-to-date information regarding issues affecting our patients. To that end, we have formed a group within the Clinical Affairs Committee to collect and disseminate Clinical Alerts. A form for submission of alerts will be posted on the ASPN website, and completed forms may be submitted to the committee by emailing Deborah Stein ([deborah.stein@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:deborah.stein@childrens.harvard.edu)) or Lisa Thompson ([lthompson@aspneph.com](mailto:lthompson@aspneph.com).) All submissions will be verified to the best of our abilities. Once collected and verified, Clinical Alerts will be formatted and posted on the ASPN website Clinical Alerts section (members only.) Alerts will also be disseminated by blast email to ASPN members. We are actively seeking volunteers to assist with collection and verification of Clinical Alerts. Anyone who is interested may contact Deborah or Lisa.

**Deborah Stein**

### PFENA

pFeNA had a very successful reception at ASN this year. Please check our monthly newsletter "The Dipstick" in the members only section of the website for Photos from that event. We had a lot of medical students, residents and fellows interested in contributing to the newsletter and we will feature their contributions in the coming months. We welcome your feedback and suggestions for future issues.

**Isa Ashoor  
Co-Chair**

### AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

During a recent conference call with the membership committee and some affiliate members, conversation centered on how to maintain the momentum on engaging new and renewed memberships. There has been positive movement toward establishing a List Serve for the Affiliate Members which includes nurses, physician extenders, social workers and dieticians. This has long been a desire of this group. Additionally, funding has become available to offer a meeting opportunity on either a regional level or in conjunction with the ASPN 2013 Annual Meetings. The Affiliate Membership Committee will work on an agenda and further details are to follow at a later date.

Those interested in becoming involved in the planning should either email me at [susan.massengill@carolinashealthcare.org](mailto:susan.massengill@carolinashealthcare.org) or [lynn.puma@carolinashealthcare.org](mailto:lynn.puma@carolinashealthcare.org).

**Susan Massengill, Tarak Sivastava  
Co-Chairs**

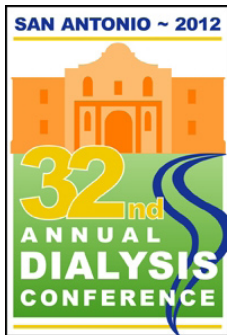
### What is Sequestration?

Since the Congressional supercommittee charged with developing a deficit-reduction proposal failed to reach any agreement, current law stipulates that in 2013 there will be across the board cuts of \$1.2 trillion dollars to all aspects of the federal budget, including defense and non-defense spending. This process is called sequestration. How deeply any specific program would be cut or the impact of sequestration on specific aspect of federally subsidized health care or research remains unknown at this time.

## Meeting Announcements



**Miami Pediatric Nephrology Seminar**  
March 8-11, 2012  
[More Information](#)



**Symposium on Pediatric Dialysis** February 25-28, 2012  
[More Information](#)



**2012 International Pediatric Nephrology Fellows Conference**  
January 25-27, 2012  
[More Information](#)



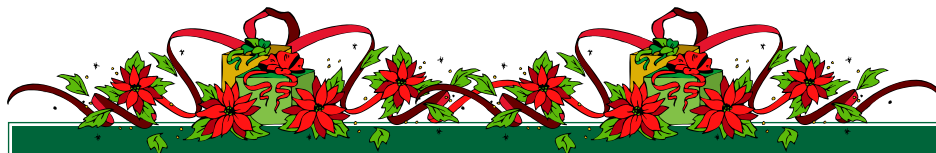
*PD first, the way forward*  
**14th Congress of the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis**  
September 9-12, 2012  
[More Information](#)



**National Kidney Foundation®**  
Spring Clinical Meetings  
May 9-13, 2012  
[More Information](#)



**SAVE THE DATES!**  
April 28 - May 1, 2012  
Boston, MA



**KIDney NOTES**  
The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

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## Welcome New Members!!

Anne Beck, MD  
St. Louis Children's Hospital

Nataliya Chorny, MD  
SUNY Downstate Medical Center

Keisha Gibson, MD  
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Anna Mathew, MD  
University of Michigan

Davoud Mohtat, MD  
Yale University School of Medicine

Rita Sheth, MD  
Loma Linda University Medical Center

Shahnaz Shahinfar, MD  
S. Shahinfar Consulting, Inc.

Tamara Hill, CPNP-AC  
University of Maryland Medical Center

Robert Lynch, MD, PhD  
Mercy Children's Hospital