



KIDney NOTES

Michel Baum New North American Editor of *Pediatric Nephrology*



After an intensive search and interviewing of several highly qualified candidates, **Michel Baum**

was chosen to become the new North American editor of *Pediatric Nephrology*, succeeding Russell Chesney. Michel is Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Pediatric Nephrology at the University of Texas/Southwestern Medical School. He has published a broad variety of articles related to both clinical aspects and basic science issues in nephrology, and is ideally suited to this position. We wish him well, and also wish to recognize the outstanding contribution that Russ has made to our profession through his role on the journal.

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ASN Meeting-At-a-Glance ASPEN Functions

Function type	Day	Date	Start time	End Time	Hotel/room
ASN Welcome Reception for Residents	Thursday	10/28	6:30pm	7:30pm	Renaissance Grand/Landmark Room 5, 6
C-KID Study Meeting	Friday	10/29	Noon	1:00pm	Marriott Pavilion Hotel/Suites 2-3
ASPEN Membership Breakfast	Saturday	10/30	6:45am	7:45am	Renaissance Grand/Majestic FG
Clinical Affairs Committee	Saturday	10/30	Noon	1:00pm	TBA
ASPEN Co-sponsored symposium "Pathogenesis and Treatment of Reflux Nephropathy"	Saturday	10/30	1:30pm	3:30pm	Room A
Public Policy Committee	Sunday	10/31	6:45am	7:45am	Renaissance Grand/Pershing room
Fellowship Training Program Directors	Sunday	10/31	6:45am	7:45am	Renaissance Suites/Lennox room
Workforce Committee	Sunday	10/31	Noon	1:00pm	Renaissance Grand/Aubert Room
Research Committee	Sunday	10/31	Noon	1:00pm	Renaissance Grand/Parkview Room
Closing Lunch For Residents	Sunday	10/31	Noon	1:00pm	Renaissance Grand/Landmark Room

President's Corner

Dear Colleagues:

I am sure all ASPEN members at the IPNA meeting in Australia were impressed by the fine scientific program and enjoyed the lovely setting and hospitality. Our Down Under colleagues put on a great Congress and the ASPEN was well-represented in the scientific program. Through a generous grant from Genentech the ASPEN was able to sponsor travel to the meeting for trainees and young investigators and to support the scientific program.

We now look forward to the annual ASN meeting in St. Louis. Information concerning this meeting is highlighted above. I want to remind you about the residents' program sponsored by the ASN. Eleven residents who are interested in pediatric nephrology will attend from Children's Hospital of Michigan, CHOP, Winnipeg, Johns Hopkins, DC National Medical Center, SUNY Downstate, Oregon Health Sciences Center and Montefiore. We would like each of these institutions to be sure to help their residents navigate the meeting. All program directors should plan to attend the Thursday evening reception and bring information about their training programs to distribute to interested residents.

The ASPEN staff, officers and committees are working hard to move forward on many projects. We appreciate the support and participation of the membership. Please feel free to bring new initiatives to us and to indicate your willingness to work with the standing committees and new task forces as they are created.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the ASPEN breakfast October 30th in St. Louis. Safe travels.

Sandy

ASPN MEMBERS ATTEND IPNA CONGRESS IN ADELAIDE

In August, approximately 90 members of the ASPN attended the 13th Congress of the International Pediatric Nephrology Association in Adelaide, Australia. A robust scientific program was enjoyed by almost 800 delegates from 66 countries. In addition to science, the delegates also considered issues related to facilitating quality care for children with kidney disease throughout the world, an important part of the IPNA mission. Two committees are carrying out the major portion of this work. A Fellowship Committee, under the direction of ASPN member Isidro Salusky, arranges for physicians from areas that lack pediatric nephrologists to spend time at an established pediatric nephrology program learning how to provide renal care to children. An Education Committee, chaired by ASPN member Robert Mak, seeks to send established pediatric nephrologists to underserved areas to educate non-nephrologists or non-pediatricians about aspects of care specific to pediatric renal patients.

ASPN continues to play an active role in IPNA. Several ASPN members are leaving the IPNA Council. Eileen Brewer, Aaron Friedman and Paul Goodyer will be replaced by Barb Fivush, Rick Kaskel and Norm Rosenbloom. Lisa Guay-Woodford, Robert Mak and Tony Portale remain on the Council. Bruder Stapleton is retiring as Treasurer, to be replaced by Isidro Salusky, and Sharon Andreoli will be replaced as Regional Assistant Secretary by Bill Schnaper. Ellis Avner serves *ex-officio* as International Pediatric Association representative to the Council, and Michel Baum serves *ex-officio* as North American Editor of *Pediatric Nephrology*. Lisa Satlin organized the satellite meeting on Developmental Nephrology. The satellite meeting for the Budapest IPNA Congress in 2007 will be organized by a committee led by Lisa Guay-Woodford.

While the science was intense and the mission-based activities were rewarding, there was enough time to enjoy the land Down Under, as the pictures here and on page 5 attest.



President Sandy Watkins addresses the ASPN Regional meeting.



Aaron Friedman, Robert Mak, Rick Kaskel, Michael Solhaug, Tej Mattoo, Manju Chandra.



Bill Schnaper with Grilled Schnapper (item #2 on the menu).



Barbie and Bruder Stapleton, Lesley Rees, Enid and Steve Wassner.

WASHINGTON UPDATE*Domenic Ruscio and Jennifer Shevchek, ASPN Washington Representatives****ASPN Comments on the Proposed 2005 Medicare Fee Schedule***

On September 22, the ASPN sent a comment letter to CMS outlining its concerns over the August 5 CMS proposal to implement a basic case-mix adjustment system for dialysis facilities. CMS proposes to create adjustments for both age and gender under a newly developed basic case-mix adjustment system. The objective measures used to define the three categories for age (under 65, 65-79, and over 80) ignore the complexity of care involved in treating pediatric ESRD patients. Specifically, the letter urged CMS not to adopt the proposed patient characteristics. ASPN recommended CMS conduct a period of data gathering to determine the extent of the problem and the indicators that will need to be followed to assess outcomes of such a system on children and adolescents.

The letter also commented on other issues included in the proposed rule, like defining a transient patient, and CMS' recognition of telemedicine as an additional visit required under the 2-to-3 visit MCP and the 4-or-more visit MCP.

Senate Committee Adopts NIH Appropriations Bill

On September 9, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (L-HHS) appropriations subcommittee completed mark-up of their 2005 spending bill. For NIH, the subcommittee is recommending \$28.9 billion, an increase of \$1.1 billion (or 3.9%) over the FY2004 level and \$373 million over the budget request and House-passed level. For NIDDK, the subcommittee provided \$1.8 billion (including \$150 million earmarked for juvenile diabetes), an increase of \$67.3 million, or 3.7%.

ASPN is pleased to report that the subcommittee adopted ASPN's report language in the legislation:

Pediatric kidney disease. - "Chronic kidney disease is the ninth leading cause of death and one of the costliest illnesses in the U.S. Although significant strides have been made in understanding kidney disease in adults, much less is known about its manifestations in children. This breach has taken on greater significance in recent years as the number of children who are overweight and obese has skyrocketed, giving rise to an increased incidence of type 2 diabetes, hypertension and chronic kidney disease in this population. Given the long-term implications of diabetes-related kidney problems initiating in childhood, NIDDK is encouraged to undertake longitudinal studies of the natural history, prevention and treatment of kidney disease in type 2 diabetes and its antecedents in children and adolescents. The Committee is pleased that NIDDK has assigned priority to clinical studies related to the treatment of FSGS, the most common acquired cause of kidney disease in children, and to longitudinal epidemiological studies of children. In both instances, NIDDK is encouraged to support ancillary studies aimed at discovering new prevention and treatment strategies for children."

While this language is not statutorily binding, it serves as a tool for ASPN in working with NIH to increase focus on pediatric kidney disease research.

Workforce Committee Provides Information to Maternal and Child Health Bureau

A new work group at the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health will likely produce policy briefs that, it is hoped, will contribute to improving the care provided by pediatric subspecialists. Our Workforce committee was asked to address the following questions:

- 1) Is the availability of pediatric nephrologists a problem?
- 2) What are the three most important

causes of shortages/access difficulties?

- 3) What are the main consequences to families and physicians of shortages/access difficulties, e.g. in terms of access to care and family satisfaction, in terms of health and functional status outcomes, and in terms of physician practice changes and satisfaction?

In response, the Committee implicated the shortage and uneven distribution of pediatric nephrologists as the main reasons for delayed access and decreased families' (and physicians') satisfaction. Other causes included inadequate numbers of trainees and insufficient resources for their training.



ASPN Member Appointed

Frederick Kaskel has been appointed ASPN representative to and expert reference for the FDA Cardio-Renal Advisory Committee. The Division of Cardio-Renal Drug Products brings to the Advisory Committee problems that affect public health policy as it relates to cardiac and renal drug regulations. Rick is Professor and Vice Chairman for Affiliate and Network Relations at Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University. He

also, along with Susan Furth, is ASPN representative to the National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP) Scientific Steering Committee.

NIH Loan Repayment

Program:

The NIH Loan Repayment Program (LRP) can repay up to \$35,000 a year of qualified educational debt for health professionals pursuing careers in pediatric research. Applications for 2005 awards must be submitted by December 15, 2004. Please visit www.lrp.nih.gov for further information and to apply online.

Dialysis Survey Update

The Clinical Affairs Committee has received about 50 replies to the dialysis survey and should be able to report preliminary results at the ASN meeting. If you have not returned your survey, please do so at your earliest opportunity. We are also working to increase pediatric representation in the ESRD networks, only about 50% of which currently have pediatric nephrologists serving on their Medical Review Boards.

Member Research Interest Database Goes Online

The new ASPN Research Survey-Database is now online. You will soon be receiving an e-mail outlining the very simple steps needed to enter information about your research interests. This Survey-Database builds on the "Table of Membership Research Interests" that the ASPN assembled ~1 1/2 yrs ago. It can now be easily updated, browsed, and

searched by all members. This should facilitate identifying colleagues with similar research interests, potential abstract/manuscript reviewers, etc. We ask all members to go to the site and enter their information, and to restrict the use of the database expressly for their own purposes.

ASPN Training/Certification Committee and Program Directors Consider Common Fellowship Application Process

The Training/Certification Committee has entertained the question of whether we should move to a common application for fellows. According to the ERAS electronic application service sponsored by the AAMC, this process would have no cost to the fellowship programs, but would cost prospective applicants a \$100 fee for the first 10 programs. The ERAS prefers to support an 18 month lead time for fellows, so that potential applicants would apply late autumn with a notification to the programs on December 1, for positions 19 months later. For example, applications for positions that would start in July 2007 would be received in November 2005, and then be forwarded to programs in December, signaling the start of the interview process.

Bruce Morganstern, Co-chairman of the Training/Certification Committee, emphasized that this does not represent a match program, but rather a central clearing mechanism for applications. The immediate advantage would be to provide a common process for the applicants. The application date would serve as a stimulus for prospective fellows to apply and an indication of the appropriate timing for application. While not a part of the initial plan, successful implementation of this common process holds the potential of our working toward developing a common offer date, which might ease the time pressure some applicants and programs now feel regarding the need to make commitments rapidly after interviews. Disadvantages include the application fee and uncertainty regarding how we would approach "late-bloomers" who decide they are interested in pediatric nephrology toward the end of their residency,

ERAS can accommodate Pediatric Nephrology programs as soon as the 2007 start-date cycle (application by December 1, 2005) if we decide to pursue this by the week after the ASN meeting. The Pediatric Nephrology program directors will meet in St. Louis, and this will be one of the items discussed. If you cannot attend, please contact Bruce (bmorganstern@mayo.edu) with your feedback as soon as possible.



IPNA Congress Co-chairmen Colin Jones and Ken Jureidini.



In Adelaide, Marva Moxey-Mims and Aaron Friedman check out the animal models.

13th IPNA Congress



ASP members Iekuni Ichikawa and Russel Chesney with *Pediatric Nephrology* North American Managing Editor, Andrea Patters.



Left to right: Aaron Friedman, Rick Kaskel, Phyllis Kaskel, Mark Nowlan, Julie Ingelfinger, Pete McDavitt, Shao-Ling Zhang, Joseph Flynn, Sylvia and Michael Solhaug.

Marketplace

Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma, WA, is recruiting a full-time clinical pediatric nephrologist to make a two physician team caring for a full range of pediatric nephrology patients, including prenatal/neonatal to young adults, ESRD and post-transplant patients. Current affiliations with Children's Hospital in Seattle as well as two adult facilities provide creative options that allow for the provision of end stage renal care to the kids in our referral area. Our growing tertiary care community-based hospital is an exciting place to work, and our patients appreciate our outreach clinics as well. A regionally unique Lifestyle's Clinic with exercise specialist for hypertension/obesity patients is thriving under the care of our nurse practitioner. Family practice and pediatric residents and University of WA medical students provide wonderful teaching opportunities. There is 24-hr hospitalist and PICU/NICU/ER attending level coverage at the hospital. Interest in clinical research welcomed. Quality of life and natural setting in the Puget Sound area are wonderful. For more information, please contact Niki Becker, M.D., at (253) 403-5298.

The Department of Pediatrics at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center in Tucson, AZ, has two positions available in Pediatric Nephrology, including the position of Section Chief. Positions are open at the Assistant or Associate or Professor level (open rank). Responsibilities include patient care, program development, medical student and resident education. Candidates must be BC/BE in Pediatrics and Pediatric Nephrology. Research interest is desirable and is available at the Steele Memorial Children's Research Center, which is one of eight centers of excellence at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. Excellence benefit and retirement package is offered as well as incentive opportunities. Tucson offers almost year round recreational activities.

For further information, please contact Mehul Dixit, MD, DM Associate Professor, PO BOX 245073, 1501 N Campbell Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85724. Ofc: (520) 626-6182, Fax: (520) 626-4141. mdixit@peds.arizona.edu referencing JOB # 31307. The University of Arizona is an EEO/AA Employer-M/W/D/V.

Pediatric Nephrologist needed for northwest South Carolina. This Hospital System is affiliated with prestigious medical schools and houses seven different residency programs (including Pediatrics). The facility has a 12-bed multi-discipline Pediatric Intensive Care Unit with all pediatric subspecialties covered. Air and group transport programs are in place. Centrally located a few hours from Atlanta, Charlotte, Asheville and Hilton Head, the area is highly successful. The city was recently named among the top ten hottest housing markets, and the school system has been named in the top three in the Southeast.

Candidates must be BC/ BE in Pediatrics and Pediatric Nephrology. Excellent compensation package is being offered. *Please direct inquiries and curriculum vitas to:* Kelly A. Bownes; medplankab@aol.com; (205)870-7061 - fax; (205)870-7068 – phone.

The Division of Pediatric Nephrology, Department of Pediatrics at Stanford University School of Medicine seeks candidates for appointment as a full-time faculty member at the Assistant or Associate Clinical Professor level in the Clinician-Educator Line of the Professoriate. The predominant criteria for appointment in the Clinician-Educator Line are major commitments to clinical care and clinical teaching, with appropriate scholarly contributions in the field. Candidates should be board eligible (excluding publication requirement) or certified by the Sub-Board of Pediatric Nephrology of the American Board of Pediatrics by the date of their availability. Formal training in clinical research and evidence of prior accomplishment in clinical investigation are desirable but not required. The successful candidate will spend 75% time in clinical care with the remainder of his/her time devoted to clinical research and other scholarly activities. Teaching is a high priority, as evidenced by the fact that the members of the Division of Pediatric Nephrology collectively received the 2003 Stanford Pediatric Housestaff Teaching Award.

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital (LPCH) at Stanford is a 220-bed free-standing children's hospital located on the campus of Stanford University within a medical center complex that includes Stanford Hospital and Clinics and Stanford Medical School.

Stanford University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Interested candidates should send curriculum vitae and a brief letter outlining their interests to: Steven R. Alexander, MD; Professor and Chief, Pediatric Nephrology; Department of Pediatrics, Room G 306; Stanford University Medical Center; 300 Pasteur Drive; Stanford, CA; 94305-5208. Submission by electronic mail to: sralex@stanford.edu is encouraged.

Marketplace—Continued

The Department of Pediatrics, Tulane University Health Sciences Center and The Tulane Hospital For Children, New Orleans, Louisiana (<http://www.tulane.edu>) is recruiting for a full time faculty member to join 2 others in the Division of Pediatric Nephrology.

The appointment will be at the Assistant or Associate Professor level. Expertise in clinical pediatric nephrology, dialysis, and transplantation are required. The division provides the complete spectrum of care for infants, children, and adolescents with acute and chronic kidney disease, as well as active teaching in a well-established Pediatric Residency Program. The successful candidate should have experience in teaching, and possess interest in conducting clinical research. Candidates must be Board Certified/Eligible in Pediatrics and Pediatric Nephrology or equivalent and licensed or licensable to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana.

Applications received by October 20, 2004 or thereafter until position is filled, will receive full consideration. Interested candidates should send curriculum vitae and references to: Samir El-Dahr, M.D., Chief, Section of Pediatric Nephrology, Tulane University School of Medicine, SL-37, 1430 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70112.

Tulane University is an AA/EOE with a strong institutional commitment of excellence through diversity.

Meeting Announcements

National Kidney Foundation 2005 Clinical Meetings

May 5 - 8, 2005

Special Courses offered May 4, 2004

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

2660 Woodley Road, NW

Washington DC

Online registration is now available at www.kidney.org

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) provides the most comprehensive, multidisciplinary educational opportunity for professionals caring for the chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients across all stages including transplantation. The Clinical Meetings are hands-on workshops, interactive sessions and lectures designed to provide cutting-edge knowledge in the field of nephrology for physicians, nurses, dietitians and social workers.

The National Kidney Foundation is a major voluntary health organization dedicated to preventing kidney and urinary tract diseases, improving the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by these diseases, and increasing the availability of all organs for transplantation.

Announcements

2005 CERTIFYING EXAMINATION IN PEDIATRIC NEPHROLOGY

Examination Date: November 29, 2005.

Registration for first-time applicants: February 1, 2005, through May 2, 2005.

Registration for re-registrants: March 14, 2005, through June 16, 2005.

The final month of each registration requires payment of a late fee.

Applicants must complete applications online during the registration periods for new applicants. The requirements for online applications are found on the ABP Web site: **www.abp.org**. Additional information including eligibility requirements is found on the ABP Web site. Each application will be considered individually and must be acceptable to the ABP.

AMERICAN BOARD OF PEDIATRICS

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Bi-monthly Membership Newsletter of the
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

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Please contact committee chair(s) with suggestions or concerns:
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Public Policy: Eileen Brewer, John Foreman, Rick Kaskel
Research: Vicky Norwood, Lisa Satlin
Training/Certification: Bruce Morgenstern, Kathy Jabs
Workforce: Uri Alon, Elaine Kamil

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT E-MAIL ADDRESS!

The KIDNEY NOTES NEWSLETTER is NO LONGER being sent to the ASPN membership through the US Postal Service. The newsletter will ONLY be available through a broadcast e-mail message that will be sent to the membership and on the ASPN web site (www.aspneph.com).