

2002 ASPN ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

In this issue of KIDney Notes, we want to feature a few more pictures from our 2002 ASPN Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Also included in this issue, are details of the 2003 ASPN Annual Meeting. Turn to page 2 & 3 for more information on the 2003 ASPN Annual Meeting that will be held in Seattle, Washington from Saturday, May 3 (8:00 a.m.) - Monday, May 5 (7:30 p.m) 2003.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Gail Rodich, 2002 Research Trainee Award winner pictured with ASPN member, Dr. Ruth McDonald.



Pictured left to right: Drs. John Bissler (ASPN member), Leigh Ettinger (Fellow), Patricia Casteneda (Fellow), Robert Woroniecki (Fellow), and Laura Dettner (Resident).



Pictured left to right: Dr. Ben Hoffman, Dr. Karen Papez (Resident from Phoenix Children's Hospital) and ASPN member, Dr. Mark Joseph.



Pictured left to right: ASPN President, Dr. Ellis Avner with three residents: Drs. Christine Bellow, Matthew Wigder, and Scott Wenderfer.

ASPN Members:

Fresh on the heels of our successful 2002 ASPN meeting in Baltimore, Council met in scenic Indianapolis on July 12-14 for our annual strategic planning retreat. In addition to review and revision of all ASPN Committee charges and composition, Council identified the following priorities for 2002-2003:

1. Continued evolution of the Annual Meeting as part of the Pediatric Academic Societies Affiliate Program;
2. Public Policy focus on promoting our NIH research agenda, maximizing reimbursement and mandating pediatric representation in all national research, educational, and practice initiatives concerning patients with kidney disease;
3. Continued development of new and existing initiatives to promote nephrology as a career.

You will be regularly updated during the year on our progress in these areas through the newsletter, our website, and regular communications from the ASPN central office in Indianapolis.

We have completed the preliminary program for our 2003 Annual Meeting in Seattle, and have incorporated your feedback and program ideas into our plans. Save the dates: Saturday, May 3rd through Monday, May 5th – many more details to follow. Council joins me in wishing you and your loved ones a restful enjoyable summer.

Sincerely yours,

Ellis D. Avner, M.D., ASPN President

SAVE THE DATE!!!
2003 ASPN ANNUAL MEETING ~ May 3-5, 2003
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

ASPN 2003 Headquarters Hotel: Elliott Grand Hyatt

The ASPN Headquarters Hotel is located across the street from the PAS/ASPN meeting site. The PAS meeting will be held in the Seattle Convention Center. **For further information, see the PAS web site at: www.pas-meeting.org**

ASPN 2003 Annual Meeting Program will include:

- 2 ASPN Combined Symposia
 - Topics: Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury
 - Pediatric Solid Organ Transplantation in the 21st Century
- 4 ASPN Symposia
 - Topics: Hot Topics in Renal Genetic Diseases
 - Hypertension—Related Target Organ Damage in Children
 - Nutrition and Growth in Pediatric Kidney Disease
 - Genomics and Proteomics in Renal Development and Disease
- 1 ASPN Workshop
 - Topic: Primer on Renal Coding and Billing

ASPN 2003 Membership Breakfast and Awards:

Breakfast: Monday, May 5th, 7:00-8:00 a.m., Elliott Grand Hyatt

Awards: Monday, May 5th, 8:00-9:30 a.m., Elliott Grand Hyatt

More details ►►

ASPN 2003 Membership Reception: Columbia Tower Club

Join us at the 75th Floor of the Columbia Tower Club for the ASPN Reception. The reception will be held on Saturday, May 3rd, 8:00 p.m. The view is spectacular!!

2003 ASPN RESEARCH TRAINEE AWARD NOMINATIONS

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to nominate your fellows for the ASPN Research Trainee Award. This award is given to trainees who have submitted a basic or clinical research abstract to a national/international meeting. The ASPN Research Committee determines the awardee(s), and the award will be presented at the 2003 ASPN Annual Meeting to be held in Seattle, Washington, May 3-5, at the Elliott Grand Hyatt.

The Research Trainee Award includes a cash award and the meeting registration fee. Abstracts submitted to any national/international scientific meeting held between May 2002 and May 2003 are eligible for consideration.

Submission Deadline: February 1, 2003. Send a copy of the abstract(s) to the ASPN office at: *ASPN Office, Research Trainee Award, James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children, Wells Research Center 2600A, 702 Barnhill Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46202, Fax: 317-278-3599 or email: sandreol@iupui.edu.* We emphasize that as many abstracts as have been produced this year can be submitted.

Further details will be provided in upcoming newsletters and through membership broadcast e-mail messages. It is expected that the awardee(s) will be present in Seattle to accept the award.

RESIDENTS PROGRAM FOR 2003 ANNUAL MEETING

The ASPN will sponsor residents to attend the upcoming 2003 ASPN/PAS meeting from May 3-5, 2003 in Seattle, Washington.

There will be travel awards to attend the meeting and the awards will be given on a competitive basis. In addition, the ASPN will pay the meeting trainee registration fee. Applicants must be 4th year medical students who have been accepted into a pediatric or med-peds ACGME accredited program at the time of the meeting, 1st or 2nd year pediatric residents (PL1-PL2), or a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year med-peds resident (PGY1-PGY3) in an ACGME accredited pediatric residency program.

Applications must include the following:

- Recommendation by a member of the ASPN who agrees to accompany the resident to the meeting
- Recommendation by the chair of the department of pediatrics at the applicant's institution
- Applicant's curriculum vitae along with a 1-page statement from the applicant describing his/her interest and possible career plans in pediatric nephrology.

Applicants must commit to attend the 3-day meeting if selected. **Applications must be submitted by February 1, 2003** to: *Kristie Matteson, ASPN Office, ATTN: Resident Program 2003, James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children, Wells Research Center 2600A, 702 Barnhill Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46202.* If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the ASPN Office.

Further details will be provided in upcoming newsletters and through membership broadcast e-mail messages.

WASHINGTON UPDATE

Senate committee boosts NIH funding; highlights pediatric kidney research

ASPN is pleased to report that legislation now making its way through Congress underscores the need for more targeted research on pediatric kidney disease.

On July 18, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved an omnibus health spending bill for fiscal year 2003 that includes \$27.2 billion for the National Institutes of Health, enough to complete the five-year doubling commitment made by Congress in 1998. The same legislation also rejects a proposal by the Bush administration that would have reduced graduate medical payments to children's hospitals. Instead the committee voted \$290 million for GME, an increase \$5 million over current funding.

At ASPN's encouragement, the committee called NIH's attention to pediatric research issues. The spending bill recommends \$1.6 billion for NIDDK, a \$171 million increase over this year's appropriation. In its report, the committee notes its disappointment that "children were not included in a prospective cohort study of chronic renal insufficiency," then goes on to urge NIDDK to undertake research into the history and treatment of (1) cardiovascular problems in children suffering from chronic kidney disease, giving careful consideration to the role of hypertension, lipid abnormalities, obesity, cardiovascular calcification and cardiac arrhythmia, and (2) neurocognitive and developmental deficits including learning disabilities, with related issues of chronic neurological, intellectual and emotional impairment; poor linear growth; and abnormal bone formation.

Similarly, the committee strongly urges NICHD "to undertake research to identify factors responsible for poor linear growth, abnormal bone formation and cognitive deficits in children; epidemiological studies designed to quantify the magnitude of the problem and identify which kidney diseases present the highest risk; and initiatives aimed at maximizing the academic potential of children with kidney disease."

The legislation, referred to as the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, must now be voted on by the full Senate. The House will take up its version of the bill in early September.

ASPN endorses expanded immunosuppressive drug coverage

ASPN recently joined with NKF and other organizations in calling upon the Senate to adopt a legislative proposal to remove the current Medicare 36-month limit on coverage for immunosuppressive drugs.

The legislation, sponsored by Senators Mike DeWine (R-Ohio) and Dick Durbin (D-Illinois), would eliminate the 36-month time limitation for kidney transplant recipients whose Medicare coverage is based solely on their ESRD status. The measure would provide Medicare coverage beyond three years for immunosuppressive medications only; all other Medicare benefits would end 36 months after the transplant. In addition, Medicare would become the secondary payer for immunosuppressive drugs after 36 months.

In a joint letter sent to members of the Senate Finance Committee, lawmakers were reminded that "with the severe and increasing shortage of organs available for transplantation, it makes no sense and is not cost effective to risk a successful transplant and donor's gift because of the Medicare program's limitation on immunosuppressive drug coverage."

ASPN calls for quick action on organ donation bills

Writing to the chairman of the House health subcommittee, ASPN President Ellis D. Avner called upon Congress to expedite legislation that would increase organ and tissue donation as well as improve the coordination of organ donation and recovery. Two measures now pending in the House, H.R. 953 and H.R. 4086, seek to improve the recovery rates for organs in hospitals and organ procurement organizations by, among other things, providing funding for staff positions for organ coordinators, who would be responsible for coordinating organ donation and recovery at a hospital, groups of hospitals, and/or organ procurement organizations.

— ***Domenic Ruscio, Cavarocchi, Ruscio, Dennis Associates/ASPN Washington Representative***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dialysis Exception Window May Open Again in 2003

The U.S. Congress is considering Medicare legislation that includes a proposed increase in the dialysis facility composite rate starting in the year 2003. The House of Representatives has already passed a version of the bill that includes a 1.2% increase. The Senate is still in deliberation over its version of the legislation, and the outcome is uncertain. A Senate compromise bill is unlikely to achieve passage before November or December 2002, if at all. But, if a Medicare provider package does pass the Congress, then the window for applying for exception for facility reimbursement as a pediatric dialysis facility will automatically open and could occur as early as January 1, 2003. Usually the window lasts for about 6 months. A pediatric dialysis facility is defined in the proposed legislation as a "renal facility at least 50 percent of whose patients are individuals under 18 years of age." If your unit qualifies and you are considering applying for an exception at the next window, it is time to start preparing now by reviewing your facility Medicare yearly cost reports and making sure they are correct. Your exception composite rate request will be based on your actual costs as stated in those cost reports. The ASPN is working now to get up-to-date information to try to develop a fact sheet that may be helpful to the members in proceeding with the exception process. The ASPN Public Policy Committee will keep you posted on further developments as soon as they arise.

— *Eileen Brewer, Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee*

Notification of Patient Recruitment

We are actively recruiting patients to participate in a five-year NIH-supported study of treatment of hypertension in ADPKD. The overall hypothesis of the study is that aggressive control of blood pressure with ACE inhibition will be associated with decreased renal cyst growth over a five-year period as compared to less aggressive control. Eligibility criteria include males and females 4-21 years of age with ADPKD and normal renal function who have 1) hypertension; 2) high normal blood pressures (75th-90th percentile); or 3) severe ADPKD (> 10 renal cysts).



The study involves an annual visit to The Children's Hospital in Denver for laboratory studies, 24-h urine collections, abdominal ultrasound, renal MRI, and echocardiogram. Patients will do monthly home blood pressure monitoring and report the results to us. There is no cost to the patient for participation in this study. **If you have further questions regarding the study, please contact Dr. Melissa Cadnapaphornchai at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, PKD Research Center at 303-315-7821 or 1-877-765-9297.**

— *Melissa Cadnapaphornchai, ASPN Member*

2003 Certifying Examination in Pediatric Nephrology

Examination Date: November 17, 2003

Registration for first-time applicants: February 3, 2003, through April 30, 2003 (postmarked).

Registration for re-registrants: March 14, 2003, through June 16, 2003 (postmarked).

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

First-time applicants using fellowship training to qualify for subspecialty examinations may complete applications online during the registration periods for new applicants. The requirements for online applications may be found on the ABP website: www.abp.org or may be obtained by contacting the ABP. Additional information including eligibility requirements may also be found on the ABP web site. Each application will be considered individually and must be acceptable to the ABP. **For more information contact: American Board of Pediatrics, 111 Silver Cedar Court, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-1513; Telephone: 919-929-0461; Fax 919-918-7114 or 919-929-9255.**

ASN Residents

The ASPN Office has been notified that there will be 29 pediatric residents attending the ASN in Philadelphia, PA from November 1-4, 2002. ASPN President, Dr. Ellis Avner will speak to the residents at the ASN welcome luncheon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Cont'd**Grant Announcement**

The "Foundation for Children with Atypical HUS: and the "Nando Peretti Foundation" are proud to announce that a grant is available for organizations interested in performing research on the disease called "Atypical HUS". This \$50,000 grant is being jointly funded for a one year period.

The grant is for "Research which fosters a better understanding of the mechanisms which cause Atypical HUS." Preferential treatment will be given to any study which attempts to find a better method of treatment for Atypical HUS.

Grant application forms may be obtained by e-mail: SaturnRacer1@cs.com or US mail: Foundation for Children with Atypical HUS, C/O Bill Biermann, 7018 Forest Oak Drive, Barnhart MO 63012, Telephone: 636-942-4425.

NEW POSITIONS AVAILABLE

► **Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA**
Position: Chief, Pediatric Nephrology Unit

The MassGeneral Hospital *for* Children is recruiting an Academic Chief of the Pediatric Nephrology Unit. This unit currently includes two full time, and two part time pediatric nephrologists. This individual should have a strong academic reputation in research relevant to pediatric nephrology and well-established research funding. This position includes initial support, and 3,000 sq. ft. of laboratory space in a new research building. The Academic Chief will have overall responsibility for an active clinical practice that includes 1200 outpatient visits/year, and a busy inpatient consultation service. The end-stage renal disease program provides care for an average of 12 infants and children, with approximately 5 in dialysis, and performs an average of 3-4 renal transplants per year. Support will be provided to establish a training program in pediatric nephrology. **Interested applicants should contact: Lewis B. Holmes, M.D., Chief, Genetics and Teratology Unit, MassGeneral Hospital *for* Children, Warren 801, 55 Fruit Street, Boston, MA 02114-2696 or telephone at (617) 726-1742, by email at: holmes.lewis@MGH.harvard.edu or fax (617) 724-1911.**

MEETINGS

The "Fundamentals of Dialysis in Children" course and the 14th Annual Symposium on Pediatric Dialysis will take place from March 1-4, 2003 in Seattle, Washington. The Fundamentals course is a day-long session designed to provide a complete review of the major issues involved in the management of pediatric hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis patients and has proven to be of value to pediatric nephrologists, pediatric nephrology fellows, pediatric dialysis nurses and others who care for children on dialysis. The Pediatric Dialysis Symposium that follows will address a spectrum of topics, both basic science and clinical, and includes a free communications session. Opportunities are available for fellow's case presentations and travel grants. **For additional information, contact Brad Warady (bwarady@cmh.edu), Steve Alexander (sralex@Stanford.edu) or consult the meeting website at: www.muhealth.org/~dialysis**

ASPN Office Address:

Sharon P. Andreoli, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer, ASPN
James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children
Wells Research Center, 2600A
702 Barnhill Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Telephone: 317-278-0854
Fax: 317-278-3599

Email: sandreol@iupui.edu
kmatteso@iupui.edu