



KIDney NOTES

Bi-Monthly Membership Newsletter November/December 2002 www.aspneph.com

ATTENTION ASPN MEMBERS

For substantial savings REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 7, 2003 for the May 2003 ASPN Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington.

For additional meeting information and to register, visit the PAS web site at:

www.pas-meeting.org

Be sure to make your reservation at the ASPN headquarter hotel—Grand Hyatt Seattle. The hotel is located directly across the street from the meeting site. Contact the ASPN office at: 317-278-0854 or the PAS office at: 281-419-0052

RESIDENTS PROGRAM FOR 2003 ASPN/PAS MEETING

The ASPN will sponsor residents to attend the upcoming 2003 ASPN/PAS meeting from May 3-6, 2003 in Seattle, Washington.

There will be travel awards (\$750.00 per resident) 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.



YOUR E-MAIL WANTED!!

As a way of communicating with the Membership and to save on ASPN Office expenses, the ASPN Office is not sending broadcast e-mail messages.

WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!!! Please check your address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address on your 2003 ASPN Membership Dues Invoices that were mailed on November 4, 2002.

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 3-6, at the Grand Hyatt Seattle.

The Research Trainee Award includes a cash award, travel stipend, 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.



Nominations must be received from any active member of the ASPN no later than January 15, 2003. Criteria for nominations are: 1) Must be an active or honorary member of the ASPN; 2) Must be greater than 55 years of age; 3) Must have made a significant clinical, scientific and/or leadership contributions to the field of pediatric nephrology; 4) Must have made a significant contribution to the ASPN by promoting its activities to assure a continuing role for its members in science as well as in specialized health care for children with kidney disease. Nominations should include a curriculum vitae from the nominee and a letter describing the individual's contribution. Mail to: ASPN, Founder's Award, Riley Hospital for Children, Wells Research 2600A, 702 Barnhill Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46202.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ASPN Members:

2002 has been a productive year for the ASPN. We have an aggressive plan and well-orchestrated agenda to make 2003 an even more exciting year. I speak for your Council in wishing you and your loved ones a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season and New Year. As Rabban Simeon ben Gamaliel said: "The world stands on three things: truth, justice, and peace...these are interlinked: when justice is done, truth is achieved, and peace is established".

—*Ellis D. Avner, M.D., President*

WASHINGTON UPDATE

The 107th Congress adjourned November 22 without passing 11 of the 13 appropriations bills necessary to keep federal government programs operating in fiscal year 2003, including legislation that funds the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Instead, lawmakers approved a stop-gap funding measure, called a continuing resolution, that allows federal programs to keep operating at their current rate until final appropriations bills are signed into law by the president. Following is a brief description of the events leading up to adjournment, why Congress failed to complete its work, and what the outlook is for 2003.

Budget drives policy

“The dog ate my surplus” probably best describes the forces behind the stalemate encountered during this year’s appropriations process. Ordinarily one of the few “must do” tasks facing Congress each year, the appropriations process this year fell victim to two age-old obstacles in Washington: money and politics.

With the exception of two spending bills—defense and military construction—appropriations for virtually every other federal program are being held in limbo. At the center of the stalemate is the Labor-HHS-Education spending bill that funds pediatric kidney disease and the entire National Institutes of Health.

The Labor-HHS-Education bill is at issue because earlier this year the GOP-controlled House of Representatives adopted an overall spending plan, called a budget resolution, that is consistent with President Bush’s budget request to Congress. In July, House conservatives sensed that plans were afoot to exceed that budget plan, so they insisted that the largest spending measure—the Labor-HHS-Education bill—be held to the president’s level of \$130 billion. To ensure that outcome, they blocked consideration of any other federal spending bills until this one was voted upon.

The Democrat-controlled Senate, in the meantime, set a spending target that exceeded the president’s by \$8 billion. Moreover, the Senate was prepared to spend \$4 billion more than the House for health and education programs. Hearing that, several House lawmakers—most notably Republican moderates—argued that spending levels envisioned by conservatives, particularly spending levels for social programs, simply were not enough to fulfill commitments for a number of domestic priorities including No Child Left Behind education programs, medical research and energy assistance

for the poor and elderly. (All of which were funded at higher levels by the Senate.) For those moderates, forcing them to vote on these high-profile issues just weeks before election day was tantamount to political suicide.

Their refusal to vote effectively froze the appropriations process in its tracks for the remainder of the legislative session.

What’s the practical effect of inaction? As a result of the appropriations stalemate, all research programs, including pediatric kidney disease research, will continue to operate—but at last year’s level.

What’s ahead in 2003?

The new 108th Congress will convene in early January, when newly-elected members will be sworn in and given their committee assignments. In February, President Bush will send Congress his budget request for fiscal year 2004. But before lawmakers can focus on that task they will have to resolve the fiscal year 2003 stalemate.

The GOP leadership will attempt to pass an omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 2003 appropriations bills as quickly as possible. The question is “At what level?”. Preliminary reports indicate that the president will insist that Congress hold the line on spending by passing bills that total at or near his original budget request. Under those circumstances, the Labor-HHS-Education bill will have to be re-written and scaled back. It is too soon to tell the extent to which this exercise will affect funding for NIH programs. Thus far, the president and Congress have held fast to their commitment to complete the doubling of medical research funding this fiscal year. But the possibility remains that NIH could be trimmed back because of overall spending limits.

Congressional staff will develop revised spending bills in December, with the goal of having an omnibus package on the president’s desk shortly before his State of the Union address. If, however, Congress is unable to reach agreement over fiscal year 2003 appropriations by early spring, the press of other business may prompt lawmakers to simply extend the continuing resolution through the end of the fiscal year—forcing programs to operate without any growth.

Either way, the congressional appropriations committees will begin work on fiscal year 2004 spending bills in April or May.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **ASN Awards**

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) is offering once again four achievement awards. ASPN members are encouraged to nominate fellow members. The deadline for nominations are: Young Investigator Award - **The deadline for nominations is February 28, 2003.**

John P. Peters Award, Belding H. Scribner Award, and the Homer W. Smith Award - **Nominations should be sent no later than January 17, 2003. For additional information about any of the above awards, refer to the ASN web page at <http://www.asn-online.org>.**

NIH LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

The NIH Loan Repayment Program has extended the deadline for application to January 31, 2003. **See the NIH web site for additional information (www.lrp.nih.gov).**

MEETINGS CALENDAR

February 28—March 4, 2003

**30th Pediatric Nephrology Seminar
Fontainebleau Hilton Resort & Towers
Miami Beach, FL**

Pediatric Nephrology Seminar XXX is an international forum for pediatricians, general practitioners, pediatric and adult nephrologists, renal pathologists, neonatologists, urologists, pharmacologists, transplant physicians, immunologists, nutritionists and allied health professionals to review relevant subjects and share new materials. Conceptual and practical problems are featured in formal presentations followed by informal discussions. All participants are involved in a dynamic exchange of information, experience, and insight. Topics, faculty, and format are based on suggestions from past Seminar participants and questions of current medical interest.

For additional information contact: Division of Continuing Medical Education, University of Miami School of Medicine, P.O. Box 016960 (D23-3), Miami, FL 33101-6960; 1-800-U-OF-M-CME. Website: <http://pediatricnephrology.med.miami.edu>.

March 8-12, 2003

**Autoimmunity and Tolerance in Organ Injury
Beaver Run Resort, Breckenridge, Colorado**

Presented by The ASN Basic Science Committee

The purpose of this conference is to bring together leading investigators in fundamental immunology and immunotherapeutics with investigators interested in the pathogenesis and treatment of kidney disease. Among the topics to be discussed are new insights into the activation and function of T and B lymphocytes, the means by which the products of T and B lymphocytes contribute to tissue injury, and the control of lymphocyte function in autoimmune disease.

New information regarding effector functions of antibodies and complement, and control of complement activation will be presented. Focus will also be directed at how organs and tissues respond to immune challenges, and how basic immunological mechanisms can be exploited for therapeutic purposes. Emerging from this conference should be insight into new approaches for dealing with autoimmunity and tolerance in the context of kidney disease. **Session Topics will include:** B Lymphocyte Activation and Function; Kidney Responses to Cellular and Humoral Immunity; Anatomy of an Immune Response; Control of Complement, T and Lymphocyte Functions; Molecular Basis of Immune Effector Functions; Lymphocyte Homeostasis; Mechanisms of Tolerance; How is Tolerance Broken?; and Therapeutic Applications of Immune Modulation and Tolerance.

The ASN is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. This activity has been approved for AMA PRA credit. Registration Form (Early Bird Registration Deadline: February 10, 2003)

Abstract Form (Deadline: February 10, 2003)

Travel Grants will be available for this conference. Travel Award Application (Deadline: January 30, 2003)

Visit the ASN website at: www.asn-online.org for additional information.