Why become more involved with ASPN?

In the last issue of Kidney Notes, I explained how easy it is for you to become involved with ASPN activities. Anyone can join an ASPN committee by sending an e-mail to Lisa Thompson. You have your choice of committees (descriptions are on our website): Clinical Affairs and Practice Management, Communications, Member Education, Membership, Public Policy, Research, Therapeutics Development, and Workforce. There are also subcommittees (e.g., ethics) that might interest you. And we welcome ideas for new initiatives. Committees have a rotating leadership structure so becoming a committee leader is open to all; you just need to be an active committee member.

The reasons why members become involved in ASPN certainly vary. The dominant motivation seems to be a commitment to service. Most of the work at ASPN is done by pediatric nephrologists who volunteer to share their time, enthusiasm and expertise. ASPN would not exist without this dedication. Along with serving the society, ASPN activities enable you to improve the medical care of pediatric nephrology patients, enrich the work and personal lives of pediatric nephrologists and advance the field of pediatric nephrology.

Volunteering for ASPN is a great way for you to meet other pediatric nephrologists and to maintain contact with your friends who are pediatric nephrologists. These friendships make attending meetings such as PAS or ASN more enjoyable and provide personal contacts that may help you care for patients or enhance your career. You may also learn a great deal through ASPN committee involvement (e.g., our public policy committee is a wonderful classroom for learning). Finally, ASPN committee involvement may be an important part of your academic promotion given the importance of national roles for promotion at many institutions. To further reward you for your service, this year we began sending official letters to all of the outgoing committee chairs thanking them for their service (and we send copies to division directors/department chairs if requested).

Volunteering for ASPN is easy and rewarding in many ways. Your involvement may begin by attending a few committee meetings by phone or at PAS/ASN, and this is most welcome. We recognize that you may not currently have the time for more. However, when you do have the time, we welcome you to do more and ultimately become a leader within ASPN.

Larry Greenbaum, MD
President
lgreen6@emory.edu
ASPN Research Mentorship Program ~ Approved for MOC Part 4 Activity

“We are pleased to announce that the ASPN Research Mentorship Program’s Quality Improvement effort has been approved as a Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part 4 activity by the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP). The goal of this MOC QI project is to improve the effectiveness of the ASPN Mentorship program, as measured by surveys of satisfaction of participating mentees and mentors. To earn MOC Part 4 credit (25 points), ASPN members will need to demonstrate “meaningful participation” in the QI effort – this includes reviewing survey results, providing ideas for program improvement, and assisting with implementing proposed changes. Survey results will be reviewed twice yearly at in-person meetings (in conjunction with Research Committee meetings as ASN and ASPN), and/or during Research Committee conference calls. Participation in at 2 meetings per year for a period of 24 months will be required to earn MOC credit.

Please contact Erum Hartung (hartunge@email.chop.edu), Co-Chair of the ASPN Research Committee, if you are interested in participating in the MOC Part 4 QI effort.”

American Kidney Fund’s Annual Calendar Kids Art Contest

Help your patients win a great prize in the American Kidney Fund’s annual Calendar Kids Art Contest. Once again they are looking for pediatric kidney patients who like to draw.

Selected artwork will appear on the front cover and on each of the 12 months of the American Kidney Fund’s 2017 calendar, along with photos of the artists. The 13 winners will receive a great prize and multiple copies of the calendar to share with family and friends. The cover art winner will also receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC, with a parent or guardian.

A contest poster and a copy of the entry form are can be found here. Display the poster and encourage your pediatric patients to enter. The poster describes everything you need to know for completing and submitting entries. Please be sure that your patients remember to include their entry forms (feel free to make additional copies) and a recent photograph of themselves (preferably alone; school portraits work well) along with their drawings. Entries must be received by the American Kidney Fund by February 19, 2016.

This is a chance for your patients to be nationwide celebrities all year long! Calendars will be distributed to U.S. kidney treatment centers.

Good luck to you and your young artists. Please contact Ruth Martinez at (800) 638-8299, Ext. 6677 if you have any questions or would like to receive more copies of the poster.

ASPN Pathology Webinar Series

Monday, November 7th, 3PM ET

7 YEAR OLD GIRL WITH MALIGNANT HYPERTENSION

ASPN members will recieve an email with details on how to connect in!
Seeking Participants for Affiliate Mentorship Program

Based on feedback from our recent survey, we would like to start an Affiliate Mentorship Program. The idea of this program is to pair newer practitioners with an experienced practitioner in the same discipline. The mentor and mentee can correspond by phone and/or email as desired, and can meet in person at the annual symposium, if desired.

The mentor-mentee relationship is beneficial for both parties. Each mentor would receive and official ASPN certificate verifying their leadership role as mentor in this program.

If you would be interested in participating in this program as either a mentor or a mentee, please email me directly and let me know at ksgambat@childrensnational.org.

Kristen Sgambat
Affiliate Member Chair

Support the ASPN Foundation While You Shop!

We have recently joined Amazon Smile, which will donate 0.5% of what you spend on Amazon.com to the ASPN Foundation. This is a very easy way to support the ASPN while just going about your daily life.

AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.
JELF UPDATE: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The John E. Lewy Fund for Children’s Health (JELF) and the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology Foundation (ASPNF) are pleased to announce the 7th Advocacy Scholar’s Program. The purpose of this program is to develop a pipeline for the next generation of leaders in pediatric nephrology with specific expertise in governmental and regulatory processes affecting children’s health care and advocacy for pediatric nephrology, and to educate future leaders in the conduct and application of advocacy. To achieve this mission, we currently offer a two-year immersive experience for leadership and advocacy skills development.

For more information, please visit the two links below.

Information
Application

Applications are due on November 23, 2016. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact David Hains (dhains@uthsc.edu).

Our current JELF Scholars are visiting the NIH on October 27. Expect updates at this year’s ASN Kidney Week on all our Scholars’ latest efforts.

4TH ANNUAL ASPN MULTI-DISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM ~ ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS!!

We are excited to announce that the 4th Annual ASPN Multi-Disciplinary Symposium held in Cincinnati, Ohio this past week on 10/20 & 10/21, was a huge success. With the help of a local host group from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital we were able to bring in world class speakers to present to our group of approximately 70 attendees.

Thank you to all of our sponsors; Cincinnati’s Center for Acute Care Nephrology, Mead Johnson Nutrition, Abbott, Alexion, Genentech, COTA, Raptor, PDI Communication Systems, Vitalfo, Spacelabs Healthcare, Local Chapter of NKF, and Guts Gear.

Also a big thank you to our planning committee, local host group and conference planner who spent endless hours on conference calls perfecting the program and finalizing details.

Planning Committee
Ewa Elenberg MD, MEd (Co-Chair), Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
Lynn Puma LCSW (Co-Chair), Carolinas Healthcare System, Charlotte, NC
Laura Broome RN, CPN, Children’s of Alabama, Birmingham, AL
Marisa Juarez, MPH, RD, LD, Texas Children’s Hospital, Houston, TX
Lisa Palm RN, MS, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA
Patti Ring RN, PNP-BC, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin
Kim Squires, RN, MS, CPNP, University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics

Host Committee
Stuart Goldstein, MD
Ebony Washington
Susan Tulley, RD
Colleen Klosterman, NP
Surani Guneratne, LSW
Chrisy O’Connor, RD

Conference Planner
Bonnie Freshly, MEd, CMP

As our 4th conference, we are beginning to get the hang of things. Here is some of the feedback we received:

“Excellent conference, very well organized and great presenters!”
“ Took valuable information from all presenters”
“Felt overall program was multi-faceted with wonderful variety of topics”
“Very informative! Would definitely plan to attend future conferences”

Keep your eye out for next year’s information...Dallas 2017! If anyone is interested in joining our planning committee for next year please reach out to myself, lynn.puma@carolinashhealthcare.org or Dr. Elenberg at exelenbe@texaschildrens.org.

Lynn Puma, MSW, LCSW
**POLICY ISSUES OF INTEREST**

**NOT-OD-17-001  NIH Operates Under a Continuing Resolution**
The continuing resolution continues government operations through December 9, 2016 at 99.504 percent of the FY 2016 enacted level. NIH will issue non-competing research grant awards at a level below that indicated on the most recent Notice of Award (generally up to 90% of the previously committed level). Upward adjustments to awarded levels will be considered after FY 2017 appropriations are enacted.

**NOT-OD-16-134  Revised: Projected FY 2017 Stipend Levels for Postdoctoral Trainees and Fellows on Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA)**
The projectd new stipend levels reflect recognition of the significant contributions of postdoctoral researchers and align with the spirit of the Department of Labor’s recently issued revisions to the rules on paid overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The projected new stipend levels are planned to be effective December 1, 2016. The exact stipend levels and the actual date of implementation are subject to the availability of FY 2017 appropriations and implementation of the new FLSA threshold for professional workers to be eligible for paid overtime.

**Notice Announcing the New Policy on Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA) for Clinical Trials  NOT-OD-16-147**
NIH will require that all applications involving one or more clinical trials be submitted through a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) specifically designed for clinical trials. This means that the NIH will no longer accept clinical trial applications through "parent" FOA announcements or through other FOAs that are not specifically designed to accept clinical trials. The purpose of this policy is to improve our ability to identify proposed clinical trials, ensure that key pieces of trial-specific information are submitted with each application, and uniformly apply trial-specific review criteria.

**NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST**


For a more complete list of funding opportunities, check the NIDDK website [https://www.niddk.nih.gov/research-funding/current-opportunities/Pages/FO.aspx](https://www.niddk.nih.gov/research-funding/current-opportunities/Pages/FO.aspx) or the NIH Guide.

Marva Moxey-Mims, MD
KUH Deputy Director for Clinical Research
Director, Pediatric Nephrology and Renal Centers Programs
E-mail: mm726k@nih.gov

NIH...Turning Discovery Into Health®

Would you like patients and referring physicians to know about your practice? ASPN is trying to help.

The currently available ASPN website now includes a section called "White Pages" where you may list yourself, or your practice and any desired contact information. Just go to "My Public Profile" after you login - the process is simple!
CONGRESS PREPARES FOR POST-ELECTION LAME DUCK SESSION

Congress’ September legislative session was a short one as they addressed must pass legislation before heading home to campaign in advance of the November elections. While they were in town, they passed a 3-month continuing resolution (CR), funding the government through December 9 and providing funds to address Zika, and the House passed the ESRD Choice Act, which removes government restrictions that prevent ESRD patients from enrolling in Medicare Advantage plans.

Upon their return after the election, there will be just 12 working days before the CR expires. Congress will once again have to pass legislation to fund the government for the remainder of FY 2017 and it is unclear what form this legislation will take. Speaker Paul Ryan has attempted to rule out an omnibus bill that would wrap all the appropriations bills into one package, claiming that this vehicle allows for excessive, wasteful spending. The Speaker’s preference is to move a series of “minibuses,” each would include a bundle of regular spending bills.

However, House Democrats are concerned that if the minibus strategy is pursued Republicans would pass a few of the more popular appropriations bills, like the Defense bill, and end up passing a yearlong CR for the rest, including the Labor-HHS bill.

Also, there is still hope that a deal on 21st Century Cures could be reached before the end of the term. However, we expect to see changes to the legislation that passed the House last year. The bill makes changes to the way the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves drugs and devices and provides mandatory funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Offsets for the legislation are still being worked out. We also expect a cut in the mandatory funding provided to NIH from $9 billion over 5 years to $4 billion.

CMS RELEASES MACRA FINAL RULE

After reviewing thousands of comments on the proposed rule to implement the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released its final rule implementing the new physician payment system that is replacing the sustainable growth rate (SGR) and it includes major changes from the agency’s original proposal.

As proposed, physicians were required to opt to participate in the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), which requires reporting on quality measures, those related to the use of EHR technology, new clinical practice improvement activities, and cost formerly known as resource use, or an alternative payment model on January 1, 2017. However, CMS is allowing physicians to pick their pace and use 2017 as a test year. As long as physicians report one piece of quality data, they will not be subject to a penalty in 2019. Physicians can still choose to report for the full year or some portion thereof and potentially earn a bonus.

In response to public comment, CMS further simplified the reporting options under MIPS and down weighted the cost category in 2017 since a risk adjustment methodology has not yet been finalized. The reporting period for the advancing care information category, formerly known as meaningful use, was reduced to 90 days and its reporting requirements were simplified further.

More information on the final rule will be circulated as we have the opportunity to digest what is included in almost 2400 page rule.

Erika Miller
ASPN Washington Representative

Welcome New Members

Blake Brie
Montefiore Medical Center

Aviva Goldberg, MD
University of Manitoba

Christine O’Connor
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital

Keia Sanderson, MD
University of North Carolina

Leyat Tal, MD
Baylor College of Medicine

Susan Tulley
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital

ASPN WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENEROSITY OF THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING!

~ THANK YOU ~

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Nephropath

PKD FOUNDATION

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**WORKFORCE COMMITTEE**  
**Upcoming Workforce Committee Calls and Meetings:** The next Workforce Committee conference call will be on Monday, November 7, 2016 at 11:00 AM EST. The call number is 1-866-876-6756, number 9173997272. The Workforce Committee will also be meeting at the ASN, on Friday, November 18th at 12:45 at Giordano’s at 1340 S. Michigan Avenue. Please email Patty Seo-Mayer if you plan to attend.

Need a Job? Need a Colleague? The Workforce Committee invites faculty and fellows to participate in the second annual ASN Pediatric Nephrology Speed Mentoring – Job Fair Session, on Saturday, November 19th from 6:45-8:15 PM at the Palmer House Hilton (room TBD), immediately before the pFeNa social event. General speed mentoring of fellows will occur during the first half, and the remainder will be designated for programs with open positions to be able to meet candidates and discuss employment opportunities. Please contact patty.seo-mayer@inova.org, if you would like to participate as a Speed Mentor, or if you have a position available and you would like to be part of the Job Fair.

Patty Seo-Mayer  
**Workforce Committee Chair**

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**RESEARCH COMMITTEE**  
**ASN Meeting updates**  
The Annual American Society of Nephrology meeting will take place in Chicago, IL from Nov 15-20 and we wanted to highlight some of the research committee initiatives and events.

The ASPN Research Mentorship Program will have its grant review workshop (Mentorship Mock Study Section) on Friday, November 18th from 6:45-8:45 PM at the Palmer House Hilton ~ Room Clark 5. We would also like to invite any previous K–awardees who would like to volunteer as grant reviewers for future study sections. The goal of this program is to link junior faculty and fellows with senior level mentors from outside their home institution. The mentees have already submitted drafts of their grant application in advance and at the meeting receive feedback and suggestions for improvement from the reviewers. An exciting update is that we now have approval for MOC Part 4 credits for a Quality Improvement effort for the Research Mentorship program (see story on Page 2).

The ASPN Research Committee meeting will be held on Friday, 11/18 from 6:45am ~ 7:45AM at the Palmer House Hilton ~ Salon 1.

**Looking for funding opportunities?**
These can be accessed at the ASPN website: hover over “Awards & Grants” tab at the top, select “Funding Opportunities” from menu, then click on “More Funding Opportunities”. Funding opportunities are updated twice annually by members of the research committee in February and September.

**Celebrate our research accomplishments**
We would like to celebrate the success of all our new grant awardees by announcing it in Kidney Notes, so please share that information with us.

Daryl Okamura  
**Research Committee Chair**

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**In the Market for New Position?**  
Visit the ASPN Market Place for information about the latest job openings in Pediatric Nephrology!  
http://aspneph.com/MarketPlace/MarketPlaceMain.asp
**Meeting & Lecture Announcements**

**Save the Date!!** May 6 - 9, 2017

ASPN/PAS Annual Meeting ~ San Francisco, CA

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**Nephrotic Syndrome Regional Symposium Series**

NephCure Kidney International, in conjunction with leading medical centers throughout the United States, will be presenting a series of seven regional Nephrotic Syndrome symposia. These CME-accredited conferences will address gaps between research and clinical care and share best practices and recommendations. Find out more [here](#).

March 2 - 5, 2017

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**ASPN Leadership**

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