

## Pioneering Researcher Jeff Sands to Receive Smith Award



Jeff M. Sands, MD, FASN

Prominent investigator Jeff M. Sands, MD, FASN, will be presented the Homer W. Smith Award on Saturday, November 5. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to understanding how kidneys function in normal and diseased states.

Dr. Sands will speak on “Urea Transport to Nephrogenic Diabetes Insipidus: Using Physiology to Develop Novel Therapy.” He is director of the Division of Renal Medicine and Juha P. Kokko Professor of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine. He has also served Emory as executive vice-chair of medicine and associate dean for clinical and translational research.

Dr. Sands’ research group has made major contributions to our understanding of the molecular physiology

of urea transporters, aquaporins, and the urine-concentrating mechanism.

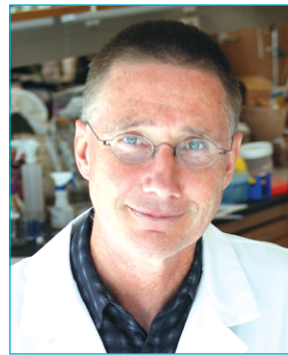
The researchers identified urea transporters and defined how they are regulated in ways that have revolutionized our understanding of how urine is concentrated. Dr. Sands’ team showed that vasopressin, a key hormonal regulator of the urine-concentrating mechanism, not only affects water transport within minutes but also stimulates urea transport using perfused rat terminal inner medullary collecting ducts. His group also investigated whether there are non-vasopressin-mediated pathways that increase urea and water transport as a potential strategy to treat congenital nephrogenic diabetes insipidus—work that led to the discovery of an investigational drug that increases urine-concentrating ability and the formation of a startup company to advance the work on this drug.

Among many examples of his professional service, Dr. Sands chaired an ASN Annual Meeting Program Committee and the American Heart Association Kidney Council and was a member of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Board of Scientific Councilors and president of the American Physiological Society (APS). He also served as editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Physiology-Renal Physiology*.

Dr. Sands has received several honors, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Boston University School of Medicine, the Carl W. Gottschalk Distinguished Lectureship from the APS Renal Section, the Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Heart Association, the Barry M. Brenner Endowed Lectureship from ASN, and an honorary degree from Aarhus University in Denmark.

Dr. Sands is a graduate of Boston University School of Medicine. He completed an internal medicine residency at the University of Chicago, followed by research fellowships at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. He then completed a clinical nephrology fellowship at Emory University, which he joined as an assistant professor in 1989. He was promoted to associate professor in 1993 and to professor in 1998.

## Researcher to Describe Healthy Kidney Development



Andrew P. McMahon, PhD

A leading researcher in mechanisms of organ formation and function will deliver the Barry M. Brenner, MD, Endowed Lectureship on “Developmentally Programming to a Healthy Kidney” on Saturday, November 5.

The speaker will be Andrew (Andy) P. McMahon, PhD, who is the W.M. Keck Provost and a university professor with the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California (USC). He also chairs the Department of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine and directs the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research.

Dr. McMahon’s research has provided fundamental insight into cell interactions that drive the assembly of multiple mammalian organ systems with a focus on the

central nervous system, skeleton, and kidney. Discoveries by the McMahon laboratory have illuminated normal processes of organogenesis and tissue repair as well as the misregulation of developmental pathways in cancer. The McMahon group’s early kidney studies identified some of the foundational signals in induction, patterning, and morphogenesis of the mammalian kidney. Recent studies have extended a developmental understanding from the mouse to the human kidney, promoted human disease modeling through stem cell-derived organoid systems, and identified molecular and cellular processes at play in kidney repair.

Dr. McMahon began his research career in 1984 as a staff scientist at the National Institute for Medical Research in London. In 1988, he joined the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology in Nutley, NJ, as an assistant member. He became a full member and department chair in 1992. The next year, Dr. McMahon became a professor of molecular and cellular biology in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University. During his 19-year career at Harvard, he was a professor of science, chair of the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, founding member of the Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology, and principal investigator of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute. In 2012, he moved from Harvard to his current position at USC.

Among his many professional service positions, he has served on the editorial board of several journals and is currently on the editorial board of *JASN*. Dr. McMahon is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, European Molecular Biology Organization, and Royal Society.

He received his doctorate from University College London, followed by postdoctoral research at the California Institute of Technology.

## Anti-PLA2R in primary MN Serological biomarker aids diagnosis without biopsy

### Anti-PLA2R autoantibodies

- Highly specific serological marker for primary membranous nephropathy (pMN)
- Central parameter in pMN diagnostic algorithm in KDIGO guideline for glomerular diseases
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- Measured using exclusive serological test systems from EUROIMMUN (IIFT, ELISA, ChLIA)
- Complemented by test for anti-THS7DA antibodies, a further highly specific marker for pMN



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For further information contact Yara Bestmann · [autoimmune-pm@euroimmun.de](mailto:autoimmune-pm@euroimmun.de) · Tel +49 451 2032 2192

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