



ASN 50 years

Kidney News

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Richard Lafayette, MD
Executive Editor: Dawn McCoy
Design: Lisa Cain Design
Communications Assistant: Sara Leeds

Editorial Board:

Joseph Mattana, Winthrop University Hospital, New York, NY
 Linda McCann, RD, RCN, Satellite Dialysis, San Jose, CA
 Andrew King, MD, Scripps, San Diego, CA
 Pascale Lane, MD, FASN, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences
 Edgar V. Lerma, MD, FASN, University of Illinois – Chicago /Associates in Nephrology, SC
 Uday S. Nori, MD, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
 Glenda Payne, MS, RN, CNN, Nephrology Clinical Solutions
 Jeffrey Petersen, MD, Amgen
 Amy Williams, MD, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Advertising Sales:

The Walchli Tauber Group
 2225 Old Emmorton Road, Suite 201, Bel Air, MD 21015
 443-252-0571 Mobile
 443-512-8899 *115 Phone
 christine.kennedy@wt-group.com

ASN Council:

President: Raymond C. Harris, MD, FASN
President-elect: Eleanor D. Lederer, MD, FASN
Past-President: Jonathan Himmelfarb, MD, FASN
Secretary-Treasurer: John R. Sedor, MD, FASN
Councilors: Mark D. Okusa, MD, FASN, Mark E. Rosenberg, MD, FASN,
 Anupam Agarwal, MD, FASN, Susan E. Quaggin, MD

Executive Vice President: Tod Ibrahim
Director of Communications: Robert Henkel

ASN Kidney News is published by the American Society of Nephrology
 1510 H Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005. Phone: 202-640-4660

www.asn-online.org

ASN Kidney News is the authoritative source for analysis of trends in medicine, industry, and policy affecting all practitioners in nephrology. The statements and opinions expressed in *ASN Kidney News* are solely those of the authors and not of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) or the editorial policy of the editors. The appearance of advertisements in *ASN Kidney News* is not a warranty, endorsement, or approval of the products or services advertised or of their effectiveness, quality, or safety. The American Society of Nephrology disclaims responsibility for any injury to persons or property resulting from any ideas or products referred to in the articles or advertisements.

The American Society of Nephrology is organized and operated exclusively for scientific and educational purposes, including enhancing the field of nephrology by advancing the scientific knowledge and clinical practice of that discipline through stimulation of basic and clinical investigation, providing access to new knowledge through the publication of journals and the holding of scientific meetings, advocating for the development of national health policies to improve the quality of care for renal patients, cooperating with other national and international societies and organizations involved in the field of nephrology, and using other means as directed by the Council of the Society.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to *ASN Kidney News*, c/o Customer Service, American Society of Nephrology 1510 H Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005.

Publications mail agreement No. 40624074. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to PO Box 503, RPO West Beaver Creek, Richmond Hill ON L4B 4R6

ASN Kidney News (ISSN print 1943-8044 and online 1943-8052) is an official publication of the American Society of Nephrology, 1510 H Street NW #800, Washington DC 20005, and is published monthly. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, DC and at additional mailing offices. Subscription rates: \$12 per year. To order, please email bhenkel@asn-online.org. Subscription prices subject to change. Annual ASN membership dues include \$12 for *ASN Kidney News* subscription.

Copyright© 2016 All rights reserved

ASN President's Column

By Raymond C. Harris, MD, FASN



Raymond C. Harris, MD, FASN

Nephrologists have always been considered among the best educators in medicine. Our commitment to excellence in patient care and research extends to finding innovative ways to teach students, residents, and fellows about some of the most complex (and interesting) issues physicians and scientists face. Nephrologists also know how to provide complete care for a complex patient population in ways that most other specialties do not.

ASN has always honored its members' focus on training the next generation of nephrologists by devoting resources to educational programs. In the last 18 months, this commitment has included restructuring the Nephrology Match to implement an All-In policy. Last year, 95% of nephrology training programs in the US complied with this policy, and our goal for the upcoming year is 100% compliance.

The All-In policy offers candidates and programs the most fair and equitable Match process. I am pleased that a number of other specialty societies have approached ASN as a leader in this arena, asking for guidance as they begin to implement their own All-In policies.

However, while recognizing that the All-In policy is an important and necessary step for the good of our profession, such a change tends to amplify details of implementation and, temporarily, obscure larger goals and challenges. We are now entering our second year under the All-In policy, and, as educators we must focus on the strategies that optimize our

ability to equip the next generation of nephrologists for the challenges they will face.

- Does the size and scope of the program match the number of slots—is each fellow offered an enriching training experience?
- Does the fellowship advance workforce diversity?
- Does the institution adequately support the program, including program faculty?
- Do graduating fellows find jobs consistent with their career and personal objectives?
- Do program graduates pass the boards on their first attempt?
- Are physician-investigator graduates obtaining independent funding?

These are by no means the only questions we should ask ourselves, but they begin a conversation vital to strengthening both the field and the profession. And yes, we must do a better job attracting the best and brightest students to kidney care. ASN has developed an array of programs aimed at building the pipeline and supporting kidney professionals, and the society recently coalesced all training and workforce efforts in order to provide the most cohesive support for members and future members throughout their careers.

Still, the core of professional excellence in medicine remains providing the most inspired education and training programs to advance research, treatment, and policy. There is increasing awareness of the importance of outstanding educators in medical education, and it should be our goal to develop opportunities for training at all career levels. However, I think that it is especially vital that we provide an outstanding introduction to kidney function and disease to those early in training in order to “imprint” them, to sustain their interest in nephrology.

I encourage you to send me your thoughts (info@kidneynews.org) on how we can encourage and recognize the most inspiring educators, continue to build excellence in educating and training leaders, and continue to advance kidney care. ●

The ASN President's Column also appears in Kidney News Online at www.kidneynews.org.

Follow us on
ASN Kidney News twitter
@KidneyNews

