ASN Kidney Week—New in 2018

Transforming Nephrology through Precision Health

Early Programs
ASN offers 10 Early Programs on Tuesday, October 23, and Wednesday, October 24, preceding the Annual Meeting (October 25–28).

Here are the new or biennial Early Programs:

› Advances in Research Conference: -Omicss, Organoids, and Organs-on-Chips: Innovation Through Collaboration
This year’s conference presents critical recent advances in the biology of organoids and organs-on-chips as they relate to the human kidneys. The conference will include descriptions of how these in vitro systems can incorporate pharmacogenetics, gene expression profiles, multiple “-omics” technologies, and biomarker discovery and translation, all for enhanced molecular understanding of the human kidneys in health and disease.

› Clinical Nephro-Pharmacology Across the Spectrum of Kidney Diseases
This program is designed to review fundamental issues related to clinical pharmacology in kidney diseases, as well as to improve knowledge and skills in the areas of drug dosing and pharmacology across the spectrum of kidney function and disease states. Special focus is given to anticoagulants and the toxicity of cancer medications.

› Evaluation and Management of Kidney Stones
Nephrologists are often called to evaluate and manage patients with recurrent kidney stones. This program reviews the current state-of-the-art with respect to evaluation and management of all forms of stone disease. Topics include the role of stone imaging modalities, as well as indications, risks, and benefits of various surgical approaches for stone removal.

› Polycystic Kidney Disease: Translating Mechanisms into Therapy
Recent advances in the pathophysiology and therapeutics for PKD will be the focus of this program. Reviews of recently completed clinical trials, including pharmacogenetics receptor antagonists, will be discussed, as well as new strategies to assess risk for ADPKD progression, which will likely play a key role in identifying patients who may benefit from therapeutic interventions.

Environmental Pollutants
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Associated with worse kidney outcomes.”
Fan Fan Hou, MD, PhD, a researcher at Southern University of Science and Technology in Guangzhou, China, noted that the findings add to previous studies on PFAS compounds.

“The increase in environmental pollution, a result of accelerated industrialization and urbanization worldwide, has become a global health challenge. Although there is evidence for the association between exposure to PFAS and kidney cancer, the impacts of PFAS exposure on non-cancer kidney outcomes are inconclusive,” said Dr. Hou, who was not involved with this research. “Large prospective cohort studies with accurate exposure measurement and long follow-up period are required to better understand the renal adverse effect of PFAS.”

Disproportionate effect on children, ethnic and racial minorities
Experts also stress that it is concerning that children are exposed to PFAS agents to a greater extent than adults. Life-course studies will be critical to understand the long-term health impact of this exposure.

“The study of the kidney effects of perfluorinated chemicals is especially relevant in pediatrics,” said Howard Trachtman, MD, who is a pediatric nephrologist at NYU Langone Health. “Because of the persistence of these chemicals in the body for extended periods of time and the association between exposure and reduced GFR that we have documented in healthy pediatric participants in NHANES, children and adolescents may be especially vulnerable to the adverse renal consequences of exposure to perfluorinated chemicals over a lifetime.”

Environmental risk factors contribute to the development and perpetuation of health disparities around the world. Dr. Langone and his team noted. Contaminants have been linked to higher burdens of chronic diseases and cancers, maternal and neonatal mortality, and developmental toxicity. Dr. Langone was not involved with the study.

Studies are needed to understand the role that environmental exposure to PFAS chemicals may play in driving kidney disease disparities, Dr. Langone said.

“Chronic kidney disease, which affects more than 30 million people in the United States and more than 500 million people across the world, disproportionately burdens ethnic and racial minorities and people living in poverty; yet exactly what causes these disparities is not fully known,” he said.