Transplant Education Can Be a Key for Both Patients and Clinicians

Bertram L. Kasiske, MD

Patients face a variety of barriers to transplantation, and a specialist will talk about the challenges of “Educating Patients and Practitioners About the Benefits of Transplantation” in the Burton D. Rose, MD, Endowed Lecture on Friday, Nov. 8. The speaker will be Bertram L. Kasiske, MD, professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and director of the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR), the federal registry of solid organ transplants in the U.S.

He is former deputy director of the U.S. Renal Data System, former co-chair of Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes, and former director of nephrology at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minnesota.

Dr. Kasiske has served on many elected boards and volunteered on many committees, including serving as medical representative to the board of directors of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and chairing the Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative working group for clinical practice guidelines for the management of dyslipidemia.

He has been a council member of the International Society of Nephrology, on the scientific advisory board of the National Kidney Foundation (NKF), a member of the Renal Physicians Association and ASN working group on guidelines on shared decision-making, on the ASN clinical sciences committee, secretary/treasurer of the American Society of Transplantation, and a member of the NKF task force on cardiovascular disease.

He is the former editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Kidney Diseases and the former associate editor of the Journal of Nephrology.

Among his research interests, he was U.S. principal investigator in the Study of Heart and Renal Protection (SHARP) and has been the principal investigator for many National Institutes of Health grants to study long-term effects of kidney donation and cardiovascular disease in kidney transplant recipients. His research has resulted in almost 350 peer-reviewed articles and more than 200 editorials, reviews, and book chapters.

Among his honors, he received the NKF Garabed Eknoyan Award and an outstanding research award from his university.

Dr. Kasiske received his medical degree from the University of Iowa. He completed his internal medicine residency and fellowship training in nephrology at Hennepin County Medical Center, an affiliate hospital of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. He then joined the staffs of these institutions and spent his career there.

Talk Will Focus on Exome Sequencing in Chronic Kidney Disease

Ali G. Gharavi, MD

A leading researcher in applying DNA sequencing to diagnostics will present the Robert W. Schrier, MD, Endowed Lecture on Friday, Nov. 8. Ali G. Gharavi, MD, will speak on “Diagnostic Exome Sequencing in Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD).”

Dr. Gharavi is the Jay Meltzer Professor of Nephrology and Hypertension and chief of the division of nephrology at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center in New York City. He is also director of the Center for Medical Genetics and Genomics at Columbia University.

Dr. Gharavi’s research is focused on the molecular genetics of kidney diseases. His work has led to the discovery of genes and loci for glomerulonephritis, hypertension, polycystic liver disease, and congenital defects of the kidney and urinary tract. His recent research has demonstrated the utility of sequencing in the diagnosis and management of patients with nephropathy. His ultimate goal is to bring personalized genomic nephrology from the laboratory into patient care.

Dr. Gharavi is the principal investigator of multiple scientific projects funded by the National Institutes of Health. His research has led to the publication of 85 peer-reviewed articles, 25 reviews and editorials, and four book chapters.

He has served ASN in many capacities, including chairing abstract reviews for genetics, molecular genetics, and basic and experimental immunology; co-chairing several oral communications sessions; co-chairing a symposium on genetic tools to study renal function; co-chairing a conference on genome engineering; and serving on the program committee of an annual meeting. He served on the board of directors of the American Society of Hypertension.

Dr. Gharavi has served on the editorial boards of the American Journal of Physiology—Renal Physiology, Kidney International, and JASN. He is currently on the boards of the Journal of Nephrology and Kidney International Reports.

Among his many honors, he received the Judson Daland Prize for Outstanding Clinical Investigation from the American Philosophical Society, the National Kidney Foundation clinical scientist award, and the Kidney and Urology Foundation innovator award. He was elected to the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the American Association of Physicians.

After receiving his medical degree from George Washington University, Dr. Gharavi completed his residency in internal medicine and fellowships in hypertension and nephrology at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. He then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in human genetics at Yale University School of Medicine. He joined Columbia University in 2003.