Dr. Foley’s study was performed as a deliverable under a National Institutes of Health contract. Dr. Foley has received consulting fees from Amgen; Abbott, and Shire, Inc., and has received grant support from Amgen, Inc.

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Disclosures:
Prof. Adeney, principal investigator of the National Institutes of Health contract, has received consulting fees from Genzyme, Abbott, and Shire, Inc., and has received grant support from Amgen, Inc.

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The findings in healthy adults also remain to be confirmed. However, even if the relationship isn’t a causal one, high-normal phosphate might become an important addition to cardiovascular risk screening.

Dr. Foley agreed: “Even if you don’t have a single mechanism tying it all together, you certainly have a group of people at higher risk, after you take into account their other classic risk factors. At least you have another high-risk group that might benefit from intervention.”

Kestenbaum agreed: “It is premature to infer that phosphorus itself is the cause of cardiovascular events and especially premature to infer that lowering phosphorus will beneficially impact health.”

The newsmagazine will cover ASN news and provide other information supporting all aspects of the work of kidney specialists, information that is important but not necessarily appropriate for a peer-reviewed journal. ASN Kidney News will also provide a venue to expound upon scientific and clinical advances, with more commentary and speculation than a scientific journal can allow.

Since taking on this endeavor, I have been asked a number of questions by colleagues in the kidney world. Here are ASN Kidney News FAQs:

Who are you?
I am a pediatric nephrologist at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. I have done a bit of everything during my career: patient care, bench and clinical research, education, administration, patient and research advocacy, and editorial work. In short, I’ve experienced what this magazine will cover! I also deal with kidney disease on another level. Our family cat has stage 3 chronic kidney disease (CKD), a leading cause of death in elderly felines. Who knew there were stages of CKD based on estimated glomerular filtration rate for cats! ASN Kidney News will include some regular features, and others may be added at your request. The following will appear regularly in most issues:

Essay and Opinion: Welcome to the kidney soapbox, where controversies and issues can be addressed. Have a strong opinion? Contact us (kidneynews@asn-online.org) and we may give you an audience.

Policy Update: Government regulations affect the care of our patients, the education of our providers, and the funding of our researchers. Conventions for approval of drugs and devices can change as well. Learn about proposed and enacted policies that could alter your world.

Practice Pointers: Delivering excellent care to our patients is everyone’s goal. Sometimes a study or consensus statement will change the standard of care. Others may have developed processes that will improve your practice. Learn ways to improve kidney health care from experts driving the paradigm shifts.

Journal View: Read highlights of cutting-edge biomedical research from the journals of the ASN, as well as other publications. It is impossible for you to read everything in the medical literature, but ASN Kidney News can help you hit the highlights.

Trends in Medical Education: Not just for program directors, this section will include information about maintenance of certification. Issues in fellow education will be included, with contributions from trainees.

Industry Spotlight: Pharmaceutical companies, biomedical supply providers, dialysis units, and even insurance companies employ kidney specialists. Learn more about the issues these people face during the development and delivery of drugs, devices, and clinical care.

The six months we have worked on this inaugural issue have been fast, frightening, and fun. We think you will find this magazine a useful addition to your library. It is a work in progress, and it should be what you, the readers, want and need. Once again, please contact us at kidneynews@asn-online.org with your ideas.

By Pascale H. Lane, MD, editor-in-chief of ASN Kidney News, is the Helen Freytag Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.