

Joel M. Topf to Be Given Robert G. Narins Award for Contributions in Education



Joel M. Topf, MD

Joel M. Topf, MD, will receive the Robert G. Narins Award on Saturday, Nov. 4, for his innovative efforts to incorporate the latest forms of electronic communication and social media into medical education. Dr. Topf is partner at St. Clair Nephrology and an assistant clinical professor at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine in the Detroit metro area.

He became involved in medical education before he even graduated from medical school. During his third year at Wayne State University medical school, he and fellow student Sarah Faubel wrote a microbiology study guide for medical students that they sold nationwide. This unexpected success inspired a second endeavor. During his internal medicine and pediatrics residency at Indiana University, he wrote a book about nephrology entitled, *The Fluid, Electrolyte, and Acid-Base Companion*.

After his nephrology fellowship residency at the University of Chicago, Dr. Topf returned to Detroit and began working at St. Clair Nephrology. In addition to his hospital rounds, clinic time, and dialysis duties, he continued to teach. In 2008, he started one of the first nephrology blogs, *Precious Bodily Fluids*, named after the obsession he shared with one of the characters in Stanley Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove*.

As the number of nephrologists interested in online education grew, in 2011 he joined with Kenar D. Jhaveri, MD, FASN, and Matthew A. Sparks, MD, FASN, to establish the official blog of the *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*. This landmark event turned blogging and social media medical education from a solo to a collaborative practice.

In 2013, Dr. Sparks and Dr. Topf created NephMadness, an online educational game that leverages the excitement surrounding the U.S. collegiate basketball tournament known as March Madness. NephMadness continues to be a high-profile, social media-based, educational campaign with participants from around the world. It involves dozens of people working to generate educational content.

The next year, Dr. Topf joined with Swapnil Hiremath to create NephJC, a journal club that uses Twitter to discuss the research, guidelines, and editorials that are driving nephrology. The outlet has reviewed more than 70 articles and engages 150 nephrologists with each discussion.

Dr. Topf is currently working with other early adopters to teach social media skills to the next generation of nephrologists through the Nephrology Social Media Collective Internship. He is helping the *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* to incorporate the new medium of visual abstracts. He serves on the ASN Communications and Media Committee.

He is also an assistant clinical professor at the Wayne State University School of Medicine and the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine.

Talk Will Focus on Genetic Factors in Kidney Diseases



Jeffrey B. Kopp, MD

A researcher with decades of experience will examine genetic factors in kidney diseases in the Michelle P. Winn, MD, Endowed Lectureship on Saturday, Nov. 4. Jeffrey B. Kopp, MD, will speak on "APOL1 Risk Alleles and the Podocyte."

Dr. Kopp is chief of the kidney diseases branch at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) in Bethesda, Md. He serves as a consultant on the nephrology service at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center.

Dr. Kopp leads a translational research group studying FSGS and related podocyte diseases. His group's genetic studies contributed to the identification of APOL1 as a major susceptibility gene for kidney diseases in African Americans. He will describe some of the recent highlights of their work, including the discovery that chromosome 22 harbors a major risk locus for kidney diseases in African Americans, including FSGS, HIV-associated nephropathy, and arterionephrosclerosis (hypertension-attributed kidney disease). APOL1 coding variants, which protect against trypanosomal infection, are strongly associated with kidney diseases. Dr. Kopp is continuing this research to try to identify the mechanisms by which APOL1 variants damage the glomerulus. He has published over 290 scientific papers.

He has served on several editorial boards, including those of the *American Journal of Kidney Disease*, *American Journal of Nephrology*, *American Journal of Physiology*, and *Kidney International*. He was the issue editor of an edition of *Seminars in Nephrology* that focused on FSGS.

He has served on the organizing committee for several NIDDK conferences and been on the ASN program committee.

Dr. Kopp began his career at NIH as a medical staff fellow in 1987 and became a senior investigator in 1995. He also serves as an adjunct professor of medicine in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

He holds a commission with the rank of captain in the U.S. Public Health Service and participates in the rapid deployment force to provide a medical response to natural disasters. He attended the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and trained in internal medicine and nephrology at the University of Washington.

Coburn Lecture Will Cover Mineral Metabolism in CKD



Tamara Isakova, MD, MMSc

A pioneer in researching mineral metabolism will deliver the Jack W. Coburn, MD, Endowed Lectureship, entitled "Longitudinal Studies of Mineral Metabolism in CKD," on Saturday, Nov. 4.

The speaker will be Tamara Isakova, MD, MMSc, who is associate professor of medicine in the division of nephrology and hypertension as well as director of the Center for Translational Metabolism at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Dr. Isakova has an active clinical practice, providing care for patients with CKD, kidney stones, and bone and mineral metabolism disorders. She conducts clinical research on disorders of mineral metabolism in CKD. She has published more than 70 original investigations, reviews, and book chapters; her research has been supported by the American Kidney Fund, the American Heart Association, the American Society of Nephrology (ASN), and the National Institutes of Health.

She has received many awards, including a junior faculty award from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and the Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Award from ASN.

She is a member of the editorial board of the *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* and a reviewer for 17 journals. Among her many professional activities, she was abstract category chair for the 2014 ASN annual meeting, a program committee member for the 2015 ASN Kidney Week, a member of the clinical scientist in nephrology committee of the American Kidney Fund, and a member of the National Kidney Foundation expert panel on the role of vitamin D in stage 3–4 CKD.

A graduate of the State University of New York Downstate College of Medicine, Dr. Isakova completed internal medicine training at Massachusetts General Hospital and nephrology training in the combined fellowship program of Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham & Women's Hospital.