

# ASN NEWS

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## **ASN Appoints New Board of Advisors**

ASN President Norm Siegel, on behalf of the entire ASN Council, invited 14 individuals to serve on the newly formed Board of Advisors. Members of this new Board include: Christine Baylis, West Virginia University; Arnold Berns, Chicago, IL; Roland Blantz, University of California at San Diego; Joan Blondin, Shreveport, LA; Jonathan Himmelfarb, Maine Medical Center; Charles Jennette, University of North Carolina; Paul Kimmel, George Washington University; Stuart Linas, University of Colorado; Barbara Murphy, Mt. Sinai Medical Center; Patricia Preisig, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center; Mark Rosenberg, University of Minnesota; Lisa Satlin, Mt. Sinai Medical Center; Sudhir Shah, University of Arkansas; John Stokes, University of Iowa; and Donald Wesson, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

The Board of Advisors was formed in response to the recognition that continuation as a leading professional organization in the field of nephrology requires that the ASN have a governance structure that is adaptable and consistent with the broad diversity of its membership. Decisions that are made by the Officers and Council of the ASN must be informed by and representative of the varied aspects of the discipline and must be representative of all of the constituencies of the Society. Therefore, the Board of Advisors will have direct and frequent interaction with the Council and will play an important decision-making role in the governance of the Society.

The ASN Board of Advisors will function in a unique advisory capacity for the Society and will: (1) provide advice and counsel on matters dealing with research, education, publications, government relations, and patient care; (2) maintain an active liaison with all ASN committees and advisory groups to promote interactions and the development of new programs and initiatives; (3) help to formulate responses and position papers on issues that affect the discipline of nephrology and the care of patients with renal disease; (4) anticipate and recommend new activities and services to meet the needs of the members of the ASN; (5) assist in the assessment of existing programs and new endeavors of the ASN, as well as collaborations with other societies and interactions with industry.

The ASN Board of Advisors will meet formally twice per year; each meeting will be held with the full Council of the American Society of Nephrology to provide a free and complete interchange of ideas between members of the Board of Advisors and the elected Council and Officers of the Society. It is also expected that the Board of Advisors will solicit input from committees and advisory groups as well as the membership of the Society as appropriate. For this reason, it is anticipated that the Board of Advisors may also need to communicate by conference call several times during the year.

## **ASN Seeks New Director, ASN Post-Graduate Education**

As announced earlier, Bob Narins will be stepping down from his position as the first full-time Director of PGE. While the ASN intends to continue to keep Bob *very* busy for the next year and a half, we have begun this recruitment process to ensure an overlap and training period once a successor has been identified.

ASN members with an interest in this position are encouraged to apply. The successful applicant must be a Board-Certified nephrologist who has been active in the practice of the specialty and who has distinguished him/herself as an educator. Prior experience in medical education as well as in the design and delivery of educational programs is essential, as are demonstrated administrative and leadership abilities. Key responsibilities will include the development and marketing of educational programs, as well as interactions with the Society's professional staff, leadership, corporate sponsors, and general membership.

For additional details about job responsibilities and a complete job description, please visit the ASN web site.

## **Board Review Course Registration**

You still have a few weeks to register for the 8th Annual ASN Board Review Course & Update, August 23–29, 2003, at The Palace Hotel in San Francisco, California. Visit the ASN web site ([www.asn-online.org](http://www.asn-online.org)) to register, reserve your housing, and review the program for the 8th Annual ASN Board Review Course & Update.

## **Renal Week 2003: Register NOW**

ASN's Preliminary Program, which includes registration, housing, and all program information, is now available online for Renal Week 2003 in San Diego, CA, November 12–17, 2003. Visit us at [www.asn-online.org](http://www.asn-online.org) to register, reserve your housing, and obtain all necessary information for Renal Week 2003.

## **Renal Week: Official Evening Symposia**

At the 2001 World Congress of Nephrology in San Francisco, the ASN initiated its "Official Evening Dinner Symposia." Previously, evening satellite symposia were all planned and executed by industry, and the ASN had essentially no role in selecting the content or the faculty. Like all elements of the Renal Week program, however, these new Official Dinner Symposia are fully developed by the ASN's Postgraduate Education and Program Committees. These official programs will be the only dinner sessions presented during Renal Week. As with all parts of the meeting, educational grants for the symposia may be provided by various sponsors.

## **Pocket PC Version of UpToDate Tested by ASN Member**

Recently, Ali Abu-Alfa of Yale University had the opportunity to test the new Pocket PC version of the popular *UpToDate* program for ASN. He reported that it is a welcome addition to the already existing platforms used to access this valuable resource: “The PocketPC version encompasses most of the features of the full desktop or online versions while offering needed mobility and instant accessibility. These attributes bring *UpToDate* closer to the point of care than ever before, thereby increasing its value as both a time-sensitive and a time-saving tool. The availability of information, literally at one’s fingertips, provides the practitioner with answers without delay. I found it quite useful when rounding in the dialysis unit or reviewing care at weekly conferences. This is especially true when clinical problems not primarily related to renal care are encountered or raised. Quick access to the wide range of topics covered in *UpToDate* proved to be very valuable on such occasions.”

## **New Joint ASN-RPA Coordinating Committee is Formed**

The ASN just entered into a new agreement with the Renal Physicians Association (RPA) to form a Joint Coordinating Committee, which is designed to assist with the identification of and response to issues related to clinical practice and physician reimbursement that are of interest to both organizations. The committee is co-chaired by John Stokes and Allen Nissenson, with additional members equally representing ASN and RPA on the committee. This new structure replaces the previous committee structure of four focused joint committees, and it is hoped that this new committee will be able to respond expeditiously when critical issues are identified for collaborative response.