ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fifth Basic Sciences Symposium of the Transplantation Society
The Fifth Basic Sciences Symposium of the Transplantation Society will be held at the Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY, on September 6–11, 1997. Distinguished plenary speakers will update the most relevant topics of transplantation biology, which will be enhanced by oral and poster presentations by interested participants on the following subjects: T-Cell Stimulation and Co-stimulation, T-Cell Signalling Mechanisms, Immune Privilege, Tolerance, Chimerism and Bone Marrow Transplantation, Immunosuppression, Alloreactivity and Rejection, and Newer Experimental Models. The deadline for submission of abstracts was January 31, 1997. For further information, contact R. Cunningham, Ph.D., The Ernest Witte-Sky Center for Immunology, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, 232 Sherman Hall, 3435 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214-3078. Telephone: 1/562 2901; fax: 1/562 2158; e-mail: rcunning@umdbd.buffalo.edu.

Second Congress of BANTAO (Balkan Cities Association of Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation and Artificial Organs)
The Second Congress of BANTAO will be held September 6–8, 1997, in Struga, Republic of Macedonia. The Congress is sponsored by the European Society for Artificial Organs (ESAO), the International Faculty for Artificial Organs (INFA). The primary topics of the Congress will be epidemiology of renal diseases; acute renal failure (etiopathogenesis and treatment); renal replacement therapy; systemic disease and renal involvement; progress in nephrology (invited symposia); and drugs and the kidney. For further information, contact Prof. M. Polenakovic, Department of Nephrology, Clinical Centre, Medical Faculty, Vodnianska 17, 91000 Skopje, R. Macedonia. Telephone: +389 91 112 179; fax: +389 91 614 486; e-mail: maknepfo@lotus.mpt.com.mk.

Second Congress of the Macedonia Society of Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation and Artificial Organs
The Second Congress of the Macedonian Society of Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation and Artificial Organs will be held September 8–10, 1997, in Struga, Republic of Macedonia. The Congress is sponsored by the European Society for Artificial Organs (ESAO), the International Society for Artificial Organs (INFA). The primary topics of the Congress will be: epidemiology of renal diseases in the Republic of Macedonia; acute renal failure (etiopathogenesis and treatment); dialysis; pregnancy and the kidney; urinary tract infections; primary and secondary glomerulonephropathies; hypertension; ultrasounds in nephrology; and renal transplantation. For further information, contact Prof. M. Polenakovic, Department of Nephrology, Clinical Centre, Medical Faculty, Vodnianska 17, 91000 Skopje, R. Macedonia. Telephone: +389 91 112 179; fax: +389 91 614 486; e-mail: maknepfo@lotus.mpt.com.mk.

15th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Blood Purification (ISBP)
The 15th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Blood Purification (ISBP) will be held September 11–13, 1997, in Florence, Italy. Topics will include symposia on the myocardium in chronic renal failure, the present status of peritoneal dialysis, and novelities from erythropoietin developments. Free oral/poster communication presentations will be offered on clinical, technical, immunological and metabolic aspects pertaining to all types of blood purification methods. For further information, please contact Prof. Q. Maggiore, Nephrology Unit, S.M. Annunziata Hospital, 50011, Florence, Italy. Fax: +39 55 6449223; e-mail: q.maggiore@trident.nettuno.it.

Renal Biopsy in Medical Diseases of the Kidney
Renal Biopsy in Medical Diseases of the Kidney will be held September 24–27, 1997, at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, New York, NY. The accredited sponsor for the course is the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University. Program directors Gerald B. Appel, M.D., Vivette D. D’Agati, M.D., Conrad L. Pirani, M.D., and Fred G. Silva, M.D. will be joined by guest lecturers Charles E. Alpers, M.D., Robert B. Colvin, M.D., William G. Couser, M.D., Agnes Fogo, M.D., Eli Friedman, M.D., Gloria Gallo M.D., Gary S. Hill, M.D., J. Charles Jennette, M.D., Marc A. Pohl, M.D., Helmut G. Rennke, M.D., Burton D. Rose, M.D., Fred G. Silva, M.D., and C. Craig Tisher, M.D. The intensive course is designed for pathologists, nephrologists, internists, and other physicians interested in both a systematic review and an update on advances in diagnostic problems in medical renal diseases. The course should be of special interest to physicians who are preparing for their specialty Board Examinations in Pathology and Clinical Nephrology. Clinico-pathological correlations will be emphasized. The format includes lectures, question-and-answer sessions, and the study of case problems. An optional 4-hour renal pathology laboratory exercise is available on Saturday afternoon after the conclusion of the formal lectures. Tuition fees are $595 for physicians, and $395 for fellows and residents in training. These fees include the academic presentations and laboratory session, course syllabus, Kodachrome slides, electronmicrographs of “classic” renal lesions, daily continental breakfast, luncheon, and refreshments. The course qualifies for CME credits of 27.5 credit hours in Category 1, A.M.A.’S Physician’s Recognition Award. For further information, contact the Center for Continuing Education, College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University, 630 West 168th Street, Unit 39, New York, NY 10032. Telephone: 212-781-5990; fax: 212-781-6047.

24th Congress of the European Society For Artificial Organs
The 24th Congress of the European Society For Artificial Organs will be held October 16–18, 1997, in Budapest, Hungary. Main topics will include the pathophysiology of clinical applications of artificial
organs, improvement in material properties as a prerequisite for the development of artificial organs, and the importance of auxiliary treatment in artificial organ therapy. For further scientific information, please contact Judit Walter, MD, PhD, President of ESAO 97, Selyemerdő u. 1., 6300 Kalocsa, Hungary. Telephone: +36/78/462-782; fax +36/78/465-077. For general information by computer, e-mail: Novis@elender.hu; http://www.elender.hu/~novis/esao.

1st International Congress on Immunointervention in Nephrology
The 1st International Congress on Immunointervention in Nephrology, organized by the Department of Nephrology, Ospedale S. Michele, Cagliari, Italy (P. Altieri, M.D.), and the Division of Nephrology, Ospedale Maggiore IRCCS, Milan, Italy (C. Ponticelli, M.D.), will be held April 30–May 2, 1988, in Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy. The meeting will deal with new therapeutic strategies in kidney transplantation and with clinical and therapeutic aspects of lupus nephritis. Tuition is 250 US$. The deadline for abstract presentation is January 15, 1998. For information contact: Paolo Altieri, M.D., Dipartimento di Nefrologia e Dialisi, Ospedale S. Michele, Via Peretii, 09134 Cagliari (Italy). Telephone and fax: ++39-70-542872 or ++39-70-539491.

XVII World Congress of The Transplantation Society
The XVII World Congress of The Transplantation Society will be held July 12–17, 1998, in Montréal, Canada. The deadline for abstract submission is January 19, 1998. For further information, please contact Lucy Felicissimo & Associates, Inc., 12,449 rue Cousineau, Montréal, Quebec, Canada H4K 1P9. Fax: 514-334-5200.
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**Correspondence regarding editorial matters** should be addressed to: C. Craig Tisher, M.D., J. Am. Soc. Nephrol., Division of Nephrology, Box 100224, 1600 SW Archer Road, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32610.

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**Faculty:**
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Although specific diagnostic criteria which reliably differentiate renal graft failure from drug toxicity have not been found, a number of parameters have been significantly associated with one or the other. It should be noted that even 20% of patients may experience nephrotoxicity.

A form of a cyclosporine-associated nephropathy is characterized by serial deterioration in renal function and renal histology. From 5% to 8% of patients will be affected. Usually, cyclosporine will fail to show a reduction in rising serum creatinine despite a decrease or discontinuation of cyclosporine therapy. It is characterized by a progressive increase in blood urea nitrogen, a lowering of creatinine, tubular vacuolization, tubular microcystic dilatation, peritubular capillary congestion, arteriolosclerosis, and a striated form of interstitial fibrosis with tubular atrophy. Though none of these morphological abnormalities were found in the kidneys of patients treated with the microemulsion in this study, a diagnosis of cyclosporine-associated interstitial nephropathy requires evidence of these findings.

When considering the development of cyclosporine-associated nephropathy, it is noteworthy that several authors have reported an association between the appearance of interstitial fibrosis and higher cumulative doses of cyclosporine, particularly in patients who received intravenous cyclosporine. Patients receiving cyclosporine will fail to show a reduction in rising serum creatinine despite a decrease or discontinuation of cyclosporine therapy. It is characterized by a progressive increase in blood urea nitrogen, a lowering of creatinine, tubular vacuolization, tubular microcystic dilatation, peritubular capillary congestion, arteriolosclerosis, and a striated form of interstitial fibrosis with tubular atrophy. Though none of these morphological abnormalities were found in the kidneys of patients treated with the microemulsion in this study, a diagnosis of cyclosporine-associated interstitial nephropathy requires evidence of these findings.

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