

## President's Corner

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to fall! I hope you all had a safe and uneventful summer. As we move into what will be a fairly busy conference time for many of us, I wanted to remind you that we will be meeting at the ASN meeting in November with around 25 participants and likely an American Board of Pediatrics representative to have a focused summit about a multipronged strategy. Over the course of the summer we have had ongoing dialogue with the American Board of Pediatrics regarding the current Alternative Pathway for Academic Faculty for certification eligibility with some suggested changes. Our intention is to develop a white paper to help guide us with our ongoing workforce challenges and develop some concrete action plans moving forward. We continue to work with our advocacy group and Erika Miller to develop specific language and hopefully legislation that will provide support for developing the Pediatric Nephrology workforce.

As a reminder there are some upcoming meetings that impact on our membership (see below). For the the IPNA meeting, several trainee travel grants have been awarded. Looking forward to seeing many colleagues in Venice!

Thanks for all you do in caring for our community, patients and families!

- 7th Annual ASPN Multidisciplinary Symposium  
September 12 - September 13
- ASPN Board Review Course  
September 13 - September 15
- 18th Congress of the International Pediatric Nephrology Association  
October 17 - October 21
- American Society of Nephrology Kidney Week 2019  
November 5 - November 10

Sincerely,

Patrick Brophy, MD, MHCDS  
President, ASPN  
[Patrick\\_Brophy@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Patrick_Brophy@urmc.rochester.edu)

## ASPEN Corporate Liaison Board



Please send us ([info@aspneph.org](mailto:info@aspneph.org)) announcements and photos of pediatric nephrologists receiving awards, giving important lectures and news of other accomplishments so we can share them in *KidneyNotes*.



# Committee Updates

## Clinical Affairs Committee Update

The Clinical Affairs Committee (CAC) is calling out for volunteers!

1. To gather data on local/regional disaster preparedness policies. Please send us any policy data from your institute or network if you are willing to share.
2. To assist in complying the disaster preparedness information from local institutions and networks. The goal is to create a framework for reference on the website
3. Assist with the general maintenance and update of the ASPN website

Please contact the CAC through ASPN or anyone of us directly.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Twichell ([sarah.twichell@uvmhealth.org](mailto:sarah.twichell@uvmhealth.org)), Kera Luckritz ([keral@med.umich.edu](mailto:keral@med.umich.edu)) and Rita Sheth ([rsheth@llu.edu](mailto:rsheth@llu.edu))



## Public Policy Committee Update

### Administration Announces Kidney Initiative

On July 10, President Trump, HHS Secretary Alex Azar, CMS Administrator Seema Verma, and CMMI Director Adam Boehler announced the **Advancing American Kidney Health Initiative** that will focus on prevention/delaying the onset of kidney failure, increasing home dialysis, and increasing transplants. The **Executive Order** sets forth the framework of the initiative, and a more detailed look at the initiatives is included in this **HHS White Paper**. Other relevant documents include the first **proposed rule setting for the ESRD Treatment Choices** and the **CMS Fact Sheet**.

### Medicare Releases Payment Proposed Rules for CY 2020

On July 29, 2019, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a **proposed rule** that includes proposals to update and make revisions to the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System (PPS) and the ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP) for calendar year 2020. CMS also released a **proposed rule** that includes proposals to update payment policies, payment rates, and quality provisions for services furnished under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) on or after January 1, 2020. Finally, the proposed **Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (HOPPS) rule** included provisions related to Organ Procurement Organizations Conditions for Coverage. Comments for all three rules are due to CMS on September 27 at 5pm.

### Update on Federal Funding

Congress and the White House passed a bipartisan, two-year budget deal to both raise the spending caps, preventing sequestration's deep cuts and suspend the debt limit through July 2021, avoiding the risk of default. In so doing, the bill increases funding for domestic programs like research by \$24.5 billion over current levels, and provides an additional \$5 billion for these programs in FY 2021. Senators will begin consideration of their 12 spending bills when they return to Capitol Hill in September and begin conferencing with the House on final spending legislation. While it is possible that the health spending bill could be enacted before October 1, a short-term continuing resolution is the more likely path forward.



## Research Committee Update

Mark your calendars – **November 6 from 5-7pm** the ASPN Research Committee will be hosting its annual **Grant Review Workshop**. This is a great opportunity for anyone, particularly junior faculty, to get an expert review of grant materials prior to submission. So, if you are working on a mentored grant award for the NIH, a foundation grant, an institutional grant – any grant – and would like content experts and seasoned, funded clinician scientists to review and critique your proposal, we want to hear from you!

To participate, we request at a minimum a Specific Aims page, but the more grant materials the better (drafts of Research Strategy, as well as Career Development Plan for K-awards, are encouraged).

To provide the most thorough, thoughtful review the sooner we receive your materials the better. This gives us time to identify appropriate reviewers and gives the reviewers time to review your materials. **Please let the ASPN research committee co-chairs know of your interest in participating, your research topic/field, and any preliminary materials you may have by mid-September**. Final grant materials for review should be submitted by the first week of October.

## Committee Updates

Also – don't forget to update your NIH biosketches and eRA Common's personal profiles to include the words Pediatrics and Nephrology in the job titles. This will allow Program Officers to track the success of pediatric nephrologists and for Scientific Review Offices to assign expertise in pediatric nephrology to study sections for grant review.

We look forward to seeing you all at Kidney Week in Washington, DC!

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or if you would like to be involved with the ASPN Research Committee.

Tammy Brady ([tbrady8@jhmi.edu](mailto:tbrady8@jhmi.edu)), Brad Dixon ([bradley.dixon@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:bradley.dixon@childrenscolorado.org)), Michelle Denburg ([denburgm@email.chop.edu](mailto:denburgm@email.chop.edu)), ASPN Research Committee Co-Chairs



### Workforce Committee Update

The ASPN Workforce Committee is pleased to announce our next clinical practice webinar scheduled for Tuesday September 24th, 2019 at 3 pm EST focused on implementing a program for ambulatory blood pressure monitoring in your nephrology practice. The webinar will be moderated by Dr. Susan Halbach and feature Dr. Joseph Flynn and Dr. Khurram Faizan as content experts.

Webinar Title: **ABPM Program Implementation**

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this learning activity, participants should be able to:

- 1) Develop a plan to start an ABPM program
- 2) Establish policies and procedures for staff to follow when applying and processing ABPMs
- 3) Use appropriate diagnoses and billing codes for ABPM

## ASPN Webinars

We are continuing the Nephrology Part II pathology and imaging webinar series, which allows members to have the opportunity to claim MOC 20 Part II points. Please note, claiming credit for the 2017 webinar series has closed and we will move forward with the 2018-2019 Academic Year webinar series. ASPN members will continue to have access to the content through the ASPN website.

If you are interested in claiming MOC 20 Part II credit in the upcoming 2018-2019 academic year series, you must complete 10 webinars and answer a total of 50 question/answers (5 per webinar) via REDCap. For this series, unlike the previous one, you will be required to remit payment of \$50 (credit card or cash) to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (to cover the cost of managing the MOC points). The REDCap link will be available on the webinars as well as the ASPN website in the Members Only version of the Member Education Committee page. Please address any questions to Rebecca Ruebner, and Ben Laskin, emails: [rruebne1@jhmi.edu](mailto:rruebne1@jhmi.edu) and [LaskinB@email.chop.edu](mailto:LaskinB@email.chop.edu).

### ASPN Pathology Webinar

**Date:** Monday, September 9, 3pm-4pm ET

**Topic:** 13 Year Old with Edema

The ASPN Member Education Committee invites all members to attend our monthly renal pathology interactive webinars/discussions. These will feature a new case each month with pathology presented by Dr. Patrick Walker of Nephropath and a content expert from the ASPN membership. The sessions will typically be the 1st Monday of each month at 3PM Eastern. Watch for an email from ASPN with call-in details.

# Transplantation Update

## OPTN/UNOS NEWS:

The Kidney Committee of UNOS/OPTN, in collaboration with representatives from the pediatric community, has put out for public comment **Eliminate the Use of DSA and Region in Kidney Allocation Policy**. The proposal in its entirety can be found at <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/governance/public-comment/eliminate-the-use-of-dsa-and-region-in-kidney-allocation-policy/>. This proposal will **completely eliminate of the use of DSA (donor service areas) and Regions in allocation policy** at the direction of HRSA in order to be compliant with **The Final Rule** <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/governance/about-the-optn/final-rule/>. The important issues for our patients will be a **projected increase in kidney transplant rates for all age children** (0-5, 6-10 and 11-18 yr olds). Additionally, in Sequence A and B, the children will be placed higher in allocation sequence. Currently pediatric kidney deceased donor candidates are placed after multiorgan transplants, sensitized patients (cPRA 98-100%) and prior living donors. In the proposal out for public comment, children will still be after multiorgan transplants, prior living donors and sensitized patients, **BUT** only patients with cPRA of 100% will come before children in the 500 NM circle around the donor hospital. The reality is that most of the increased benefit for children will come from the larger distribution area (500 NM) rather than the change in Sequence A and B but every little bit helps. Another very important predicted consequence of this proposal with potentially negative effects on our patients will be an increase in Kidney Pancreas transplants nationwide by 300 per year (Figure 12 in the proposal). We already have centers whose pediatric DD kidney candidates are being adversely affected by busy adult KP programs that preferentially take kidneys out of the pool. These kidneys tend to be from young healthy donors with KDPIs < 35 that would have otherwise been offered to our patients. This negative effect on our patients should prompt strong public comment from our community. UNOS has plans to take up the issue of multiorgan allocation separately and “soon” but this problem is “now” and will only become worse with implementation of this proposal. I would be happy to go into further detail regarding this concern. You can provide public comment at <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/governance/public-comment/>.

## Pediatric Transplant Program Requirements:

Your transplant administrators should have by now all received notice that your center will be getting your application. The application period begins September 3<sup>rd</sup>. You will have 90 days to complete, with the last day for completion December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The applications will then go through review by the Members and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) and then go to the BOD for final approval. The earliest possible Board approval of applications and implementation of bylaws will be December 2020. Your program should continue to operate normally until then. An implementation “toolkit” can be found at <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/resources/pediatric-transplant/>. You are also encouraged to contact the UNOS Membership Team: 833-577-9469 or [MembershipRequests@unos.org](mailto:MembershipRequests@unos.org). There has been one significant change that will affect and simplify the application process for some. If already approved as primary physician at your program, you do not need to document that you meet current primary personnel requirements. You will need to document that you meet the additional pediatric kidney specific requirements.

## KAS 4 yr results:

The Pediatric Kidney Committee has completed an analysis of the effects of KAS on children at the 4 yr mark. As you know, the implementation of KAS December 2014 led to children receiving a lower percentage of the total DD kidney transplants done and in the first 2 years of implementation

the actual number of children being transplanted decreased. We are in the process of putting together the manuscript now but the key items of concern from the 4 yr KAS analysis for children are: a decrease in the DD transplant rates for the 0-5 yr olds and for pediatric candidates with cPRA 80-98, longer wait times to transplant for all children but particularly the 0-5 yr olds, and increased DGF rates for 6-18 yr olds. We also looked at pediatric donor kidneys to see where they are going. The calculation of KDPI unfortunately gives kidneys from pediatric adolescent donors a KDPI > 35 which means that 99% of kidneys from adolescent donors are allocated to adults under KAS. prior to KAS, 96% of these kidneys were allocated to adults.

## UNOS/OPTN call for nominations:

The OPTN is seeking nominations for vacancies beginning July 1, 2020 on the **Board of Directors** and **Committees**. Committee members are all volunteers, representing a variety of professional disciplines and personal experience and expertise in organ transplantation. The organization values diversity and strives for a committee system that represents the community we serve. Committee members may be donation or transplant professionals, transplant candidates or recipients, living donors, donor families, and/or members of the public. We strive to have the overall composition of the committee reflect diversity in opinions as well as race, ethnicity, and gender. Committees which have openings and that are specifically looking for pediatric expertise include the Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Advisory Committee, the Ad Hoc International Relations Committee, the Histocompatibility Committee, the Living Donor Committee, the Minority Affairs Committee, the Operations and Safety Committee, the OPO Committee, the Transplant Administrators Committee, the Vascularized Composite Allograft Transplantation Committee, and the Pancreas Committee. The Pediatric Transplantation Committee will have openings for a pediatric regional rep (any organ) for Regions 3, 7, 9, 10 and 11. They will also have 3 “at large” openings on the Pediatric Committee. If you wish to be considered for a Board or Committee volunteer position beginning July 1, 2020, complete the online **Biography Form** no later than **September 30, 2019**. To learn about volunteer responsibilities and the selection process, visit <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/members/get-involved/>. If you have questions about volunteering on the Board or Committees or have questions about your application, please contact [volunteer@unos.org](mailto:volunteer@unos.org).

## AST Fellows Symposium 2019:

Registration for the 2019 Fellows Symposium on Transplantation remains open for a few remaining spots. The AST highly values this meeting, as it helps fuel the careers of the next generation of transplant professionals. If you have fellows that may be interested in attending this meeting, please encourage them to [apply](#).

## AST Grant Submission:

The submission window for the 2020 career development grant cycle is now open. Applications are accepted in basic, clinical, and translational research. More information may be found at the [AST website](#).

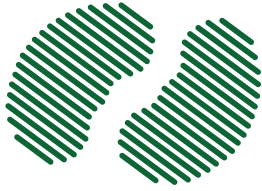
## ASPN TIG (Transplant Interest Group) at ASN:

We are hoping to meet on Friday November 8<sup>th</sup> in the morning. Details forthcoming.

## SAVE THE DATE:

Next IPTA meeting 4/17-4/20 2021 in Prague!

Respectfully submitted, Sharon M. Bartosh, MD, [smbartosh@wisc.edu](mailto:smbartosh@wisc.edu)



# American Society of Pediatric Nephrology FOUNDATION

## **Dr. José Strauss honored by gift to the ASPEN Foundation**

The ASPEN Foundation gratefully announces a ten-year gift from the family of Dr. José Strauss, an icon in the field of pediatric nephrology, to create opportunities for trainees from Latin American countries to attend important ASPEN-affiliated pediatric nephrology meetings, including: the Miami Pediatric Nephrology Seminar, ASPEN meetings, and IPNA congresses. Individuals from countries represented in ALANEPE are eligible, whether trained in the United States or abroad. Information about the implementation of the grant will be announced soon.

If you would like to expand this travel fund in honor of Dr. Strauss and increase opportunities for trainee travel, make your tax-deductible contribution to the ASPEN Foundation through the ASPEN Website and indicate that it is for the José Strauss Pathways Travel Grants fund.

## **José Strauss Pathway Travel Grants**

In memory of Dr. José Strauss, Founder and Chairman of International Pediatric Nephrology Seminars (1974-2006), his family and friends are making Pathway Travel Grants available for Latin American Pediatric Nephrology Trainees (trainees currently in the US or abroad) to participate in ASPEN-affiliated and IPNA meetings and develop stimulating professional relationships.

As a high school student in northern Argentina, José received support to represent his rural province, Santiago del Estero, at a national education conference. That experience influenced his understanding of the impact that gatherings can have on one's development and worldview.

As an immigrant physician in the US, he became dedicated to creating opportunities for beginner pediatric nephrologists to be exposed to the best in the field and be part of exchanges of ideas that could spark each other's imagination.

Globally, Dr. Strauss exemplified and fostered excellence in medicine and pediatric nephrology by helping others continue to see the field of medicine as an exciting and meaningful social service for patients, their families, and communities.

# Announcements

## Call for Nominations:

### 2020 AAP SONp Henry Barnett Award

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section on Nephrology (SONp) will recognize one individual for lifetime achievement in the field of pediatric nephrology. Any pediatric nephrologist meeting the following qualifications can be nominated for this award:

- Dedication to teaching nephrology
- Contributions to advocacy for children
- Distinguished service to the field of pediatric nephrology

Access the nominations form [here](#) and additional information is on the [website](#). Please submit the necessary information to Suzanne Kirkwood at [skirkwood@aap.org](mailto:skirkwood@aap.org) by **September 30, 2019**.

### Previous Henry L. Barnett Award Recipients

2019 – Joseph Flynn, MD, FAAP  
2018 – Sharon Andreoli, MD  
2017 – Isidro Salusky, MD  
2016 – Barbara Fivush, MD  
2015 – Bradley Warady, MD, FAAP  
2014 – Denis Geary, MD  
2013 – Robert Chevalier, MD, FAAP  
2012 – Sandra Watkins, MD  
2011 – James Chan, MD, FAAP  
2010 – Aaron Friedman, MD, FAAP  
2009 – Julie Ingelfinger, MD  
2008 – Ellis D. Avner, MD  
2007 – William Harmon, MD  
2006 – Jose Strauss, MD  
2005 – Adrian Spitzer, MD  
2004 – Russell Chesney, MD, FAAP  
2003 – Richard N. Fine, MD, FAAP  
2002 – Alan B. Gruskin, MD  
2000 – Shane Roy III, MD  
1999 – John Lewy, MD  
1998 – Malcom Holiday, MD  
1997 – Jay Bernstein, MD  
1995 – Clarke D. West, MD  
1994 – Wallace McCrory, MD

\* Note – Name changed to Henry L. Barnett Award

1993 – Robert L. Vernier, MD

1992 – Henry L. Barnett, MD and Ira Griefer, MD

1991 – Jack Metcoff

1990 – Section on Nephrology establishes “The Kidney Award”

## Quality Improvement Coaching Conference

Atrium Health’s Levine Children’s Hospital is currently accepting applications for our sixth annual **Quality Improvement Coaching Conference (LCH QuICC)** for fellows **October 14 – 16, 2019** in Charlotte, NC. This pediatric QI conference is an opportunity for intensive QI coaching to advance physician knowledge and skills in improvement science, with an emphasis on QI methodology and tools. Fellows will present their current QI projects, get expert critiques, and benefit from collaboration with both QI faculty and participants. The course group is limited to approximately 20 fellows to ensure one-on-one coaching and optimize the learning environment. More than one fellow from your institution may submit an application. The program encourages project submissions at all stages of development; QI novices and/or early projects are welcome to apply. If you are unsure whether your project fits the improvement science framework, please contact Sarah Mabus at [sarah.mabus@atriumhealth.org](mailto:sarah.mabus@atriumhealth.org). The project submissions deadline was May 30, 2019. Please contact [sarah.mabus@atriumhealth.org](mailto:sarah.mabus@atriumhealth.org) with any questions. Invitations to participate will be extended in July. Those fellows selected for presentation will have transportation, lodging (shared rooms assigned), and most meal expenses provided by Atrium Health Levine Children’s Service Line. There is no conference fee. To allow for maximal coaching and to accommodate as many fellows as possible, we require attendance for the entire conference. Arrangements cannot be made for family attendance. Please [click here](#) for the application.

# Meeting & Lecture Announcements

## Upcoming Meeting Dates\*

Meeting	Place	Meeting Dates	Abstract deadline	Online registration opens	Early bird registration ends
IPNA 2019	Venice, Italy	Oct 17-21, 2019	May 31st, 2019	Open now	June 17, 2019
ASN Kidney Week 2019	Washington DC	Nov 5-10, 2019	April 3-May 30, 2019 (2:00 pm. EDT)	June 12, 10:00 am EDT	September 5, 11:59 p.m. EDT

\*Please verify dates on the individual meeting websites as they are subject to change.

### SAVE THE DATE

ASPEN 2019 Board Review Course  
September 13-15  
Nationwide Children's Hospital  
Columbus, OH  
[Registration Now Open!](#)



### ESPN Congress 2020

ASPEN members are warmly invited to the ESPN Congress in 2020 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, September 16-20, with Keynote Speakers, Pierre Ronco and Arvind Bagga. ASPEN Speakers will be announced shortly.  
-submitted by Priya Verghese (ASPEN Liaison to the ESPN)



### PRONA (Pediatric Renal dietitians Of North America)

There will be a PRONA (Pediatric Renal dietitians Of North America) meeting on Thursday, September 12th from 3-5 pm at the Bally's boardroom prior to the ASPEN Multidisciplinary symposium. Contact [clnelms@gmail.com](mailto:clnelms@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



### Pediatric Nephrology Research Consortium (PNRC)

The Pediatric Nephrology Research Consortium (PNRC), formerly known as MWPNC, will hold its inaugural meeting September 20 & 21, 2019 in St. Louis, MO. Hosted by Vikas Dharnidharka, MD & Washington University St. Louis this meeting is our largest to date with attendees representing 66 medical centers/institutions across the US. We are excited for this first official meeting and new beginning as the PNRC and the chance to enjoy our hosts and St. Louis!

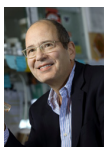
Please plan to join us for this collaborative and informative conference.

Distinguished speakers from leading institutions will highlight best practices in patient care, recent discovery, and ongoing research via interactive seminars and discussion groups.

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Harry C. Dietz III, MD

*Professor of Genetics in the Departments of Medicine, Pediatrics, and Molecular Biology and Genetics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*



To receive updates about conference details, please e-mail your electronic contact information to [mpreddy@med.umich.edu](mailto:mpreddy@med.umich.edu)

No registration fees will be charged. Hotel and ground transportation information available upon request.





## *Meeting & Lecture Announcements*

**ASPN Board Review Course**  
**September 13-15, 2019**  
**Register Now!**



**Nationwide Children's Hospital ~ Columbus, OH**

**7th Annual  
Multidisciplinary  
Symposium  
will be held in  
Las Vegas, NV on  
September 12-13, 2019**

**Registration now Open!**



## Meeting & Lecture Announcements

**Schedule of ASPN Meetings at ASN Kidney Week Meeting  
Washington, DC | November 5-10, 2019  
Grand Hyatt Washington | 1000 H St NW | Washington, DC 20001**

Meeting Name (Chronologically listed)	Day/Date	Time	Room
ASPN Corporate Liaison Board Luncheon	Wednesday, 11/6	11:30AM-12:30PM	Tiber Creek B
ASPN Council Meeting	Wednesday, 11/6	12:30PM-3:30PM	Tiber Creek B
ASPN Workforce Summit	Wednesday, 11/6	4:00PM-7:00PM	Tiber Creek B
Grant Review Workshop - Mock Study	Wednesday, 11/6	6:45pm-8:45pm	Banneker Room
Membership Committee	Thursday, 11/7	12:45PM-1:45PM	Renwick Room
Public Policy Committee	Thursday, 11/7	12:45PM-1:45PM	Banneker Room
Workforce Committee	Thursday, 11/7	12:45PM-1:45PM	Tiber Creek B
Certification Committee	Thursday, 11/7	12:45PM-1:45PM	Bulfinch
ASPN Business Meeting	Thursday, 11/7	6:45AM-8:45PM	Declaration AB
Research Committee	Friday, 11/8	6:45AM-7:45AM	Bulfinch
Transplant Interest Group	Friday, 11/8	6:45AM-7:45AM	Tiber Creek B
Therapeutics Development	Friday, 11/8	6:45am-7:45am	Renwick
Global Health Committee	Friday, 11/8	12:45PM-1:45PM	Bulfinch
Clinical Affairs Committee	Friday, 11/8	12:45PM-1:45PM	Tiber Creek B
Training Program Directors	Friday, 11/8	12:45PM-1:45PM	TBD
Member Education Committee	Friday, 11/8	6:45PM-7:45PM	TBD
Fellow Speed Mentoring	Friday, 11/8	6:45PM-8:15PM	Declaration A
pFeNa Social Event	Friday, 11/8	TBD	TBD
Leadership Development Program	Sunday, 11/10	7:30AM-4:00PM	Banneker Room



program@ipna2019.org  
www.ipna2019.org



## Meeting & Lecture Announcements

Fellows can  
join RPA for  
**FREE!**



When you become a member, you will have access to a special section on our website giving you access to useful and valuable resources and tools:

- Employment Center
- Practice Management resources
- Legislation, Regulation and Compliance information
- Patient Care resources and education



To join, visit [www.renalmd.org](http://www.renalmd.org).

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ASPEN is managed by Degnon Associates, an accredited professional association management company.

## ASPEN Leadership

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## KIDney NOTES

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology