

DIVISION OF NEPHROLOGY

WELLER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017



WELCOME FROM THE CHIEF

It is my pleasure to lead off this inaugural alumni newsletter and update you on some of the exciting changes that have occurred at Michigan over the past year. First, I was honored to succeed longtime Division Chief Chip Brosius in 2016. Although it is always difficult to follow in such giant footsteps, Chip established this as a preeminent division and I am proud to carry on our strong tradition of excellence (see below for a way to help honor Chip's achievements). Second, you may notice that we are now "Michigan Medicine". This new name for our medical center became official this past January, and reflects our ongoing tripartite mission of patient care, education and research. Third, we have continued our steady climb in the U.S. News and World Report ranking of hospitals. Our division of nephrology is now ranked #13, while the health system overall came in at #6. These rankings are our highest in a decade, and reflect our ongoing commitments to clinical safety and excellence.

In this newsletter, you find updates on our faculty, fellowship program, clinical ventures and research endeavors. While changes have occurred, at our core we retain our key values of cutting edge research, innovative patient care, and teaching excellence. We hope these updates bring back great memories of your time in Ann Arbor, and help to strengthen connections among the Michigan nephrology family. We also hope you will find some time to connect with us at the upcoming ASN Kidney Week.— **Sub Pennathur, Division Chief**

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Kudos: In 2016, **James Shayman** was awarded the Distinguished University Innovator Award for his development of a novel compound (eliglustat) to treat lysosomal storage diseases. In addition, he was recently appointed as an Associate Editor for the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology (JASN). There he will be reunited with former Michigan faculty member Josephine Briggs, who will be serving as Editor-in-Chief.

Carrying on an Epidemiologic Legacy: **Rajiv Saran** and his team at UM-KECC continue to lead the United States Renal Data System (USRDS), which was first developed at Michigan 20 years ago and returned in 2014. The 2017 Annual Data Report will be released at this year's ASN. Please be sure to stop by the USRDS booth in the convention center to chat with USRDS team members.

Breakthrough Innovation: **Matthias Kretzler** champions our division's efforts to understand molecular pathways that contribute to kidney disease, laying the foundation for future innovative therapies. He and his team recently received a major NIH award to develop a Kidney Precision Medicine Center at Michigan.

ANNUAL ASN WELLER SOCIETY MEETING

We will once again hold an ASN Reception for faculty, fellows, friends, and alumni of the University of Michigan Division of Nephrology.

When:
Friday, November 3, 2017
from 6:45p-8:45p

Where:
Hilton New Orleans
Riverside, Rooms
Port and Starboard.

Please join us!

THE WELLER SOCIETY

The Weller Society brings together alumni, faculty and friends of the University of Michigan Division of Nephrology.

The Society is named after Dr. John Weller, who served as the first Chief of Nephrology at University of Michigan from 1964-1977.

FELLOWSHIP UPDATES

The nephrology fellowship at the University of Michigan continues to grow from strength to strength. In 2013, the number of fellows was increased from 4 to 5, bringing the total number of fellows in the two year program to 10. Despite the national trend for decreasing number of nephrology fellowship applications, the University of Michigan has consistently filled all fellowship spots with high quality candidates since the match started in 2008. In 2014, **Laura Mariani** was recruited as the associate fellowship program director, and has played a key role in updating the fellowship curriculum and career mentoring.

We constantly strive to improve the training program. A popular introduction has been Swartz Rounds, named after venerable Professor Emeritus **Rick Swartz**, a consummate clinical nephrologist at Michigan for the past 4 decades. These rounds are conducted in morning report format: an interesting case is presented by the fellows to the participating faculty, who then leads an educational (and often lively!) discussion.

The reach of Michigan nephrology continues to grow with each graduating class, with about half of graduates choosing private practice and half academic careers. Recent fellows have successfully joined practices across the country, from Maine to Texas to California. Others have pursued academic careers at Michigan, University of Arizona, UC Davis, Oregon Health Sciences University and other institutions.



*Our most recent graduates! From left: **Jason Watts** ('17) is continuing his basic science research here at Michigan; **Amit Singh** ('17) is doing a transplant fellowship at Michigan; **Pandu Rao**; **Mohammed Elshayeb** ('17) joined a practice in Kentucky; **Andrea Oliverio** ('17) is continuing her clinical research career at Michigan; **Laura Mariani**. Not pictured: **Gurvinder (Gary) Bhardwaj** ('17) who joined a practice in Wisconsin.*



*2016 Annual Weller Society Meeting /
ASN Kidney Week Reception*

FACULTY & ALUMNI UPDATES

In 2017, **Silas Norman** ('02) was elected to the Department of Medicine's Clinical Excellence Society.

In 2017, we congratulated **Diane Cibrik** as she left to become the Medical Director for the Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program at the University of Kansas Medical Center. To help continue building our transplant programs, we recently recruited **Mona Doshi** (from Wayne State) and **Eman Shaban** (from Northwestern). Both have made immediate positive impacts!

Earlier this year, **Balazs Szamosfalvi** was recruited from Henry Ford. He brings extensive critical care nephrology and dialysis experience, and with **Leo Yessayan** (recruited in 2016) has helped anchor our new ICU nephrology consult service.

OUTPATIENT CLINICS

We are continuously working to improve the outpatient experience for our patients and our referring physicians. Over the past few years several initiatives have been underway to expand access and to tailor patient care in order to optimize timely and expert general nephrology and specialty nephrology care.

Our primary site for General Nephrology visits remains the Taubman Center on the main Michigan Medicine campus. But over the past 5 years we have expanded our footprint by opening nephrology clinics at the East Ann Arbor, Northville, and Briarwood locations. In 2018, we will expand further as the new Michigan Medicine Brighton Health Center opens.

We have also developed several subspecialty clinics, allowing patients to access the most appropriate experts for their specific issues. And to improve accessibility for new patients with urgent needs, we have created weekly Acute Outpatient Consult Clinics that allow patients to be seen within a few days of referral.

» Subspecialty Clinics:

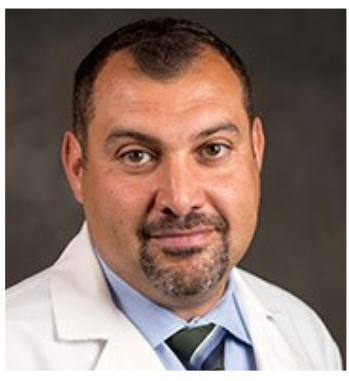
Glomerular Diseases, Inherited Kidney Diseases, Young Adults (Transition)

» Multi-Specialty Clinics:

Stone, Geriatric Nephrology, Lupus, Multidisciplinary CKD

The expansion of our clinics has helped us increase both the number of people we can serve and to direct each patient to the most appropriate provider. We continue to work diligently to improve our access and care for both patients and referring physicians.

INTERVENTIONAL NEPHROLOGY



In October 2017, we were pleased to welcome **Alexander Yevzlin** into the fold as our new medical director for the interventional nephrology program. Alex is a past president of the

American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology, and a nationally recognized leader in vascular access research and clinical care. He partners with **Matt McGuire** ('15) and **Charles Boyer** to provide advanced interventional services. Looking ahead, Alex is working to develop a formal 1-year interventional training program, with the first fellow coming as early as July 2018.

ACUTE DIALYSIS

Earlier this year, **Lenar (Leo) Yessayan** succeeded Michael Heung ('05) as Medical Director for the Acute Dialysis Program. Leo was recruited from Henry Ford in 2016, and brings unique perspective from being dually-trained in nephrology and critical care. He has been working diligently to continue process improvements in the CRRT program, as well as to develop innovative clinical trials in the area of critical care nephrology.



In response to the growing number of critically ill patients with kidney disease, the Division of Nephrology launched a dedicated nephrology-ICU consult service in July 2016. The first year of this ICU nephrology service was a tremendous success and lauded by our intensive care colleagues for providing high quality, timely and safe care for critically ill patients. The service has also garnered enthusiastic praise from rotating nephrology and critical care fellows.

CATCH UP WITH US AT ASN IN NEW ORLEANS!

Come see friends and colleagues as they present during Kidney Week:

» **Michael Heung** ('05) is serving as a co-director for the Critical Care Nephrology pre-course on 10/31 and 11/1. He is also giving a talk entitled "Promoting Kidney Function Recovery After AKI" (Tue 10/31, 5-5:30pm).

» **Mona Doshi**, one of our new transplant faculty, will moderate "Cancer and the kidney: examining the connection" (Thu 11/2, 10:30a-12:30p).

» **Lenar (Leo) Yessayan** will moderate "Dialysis in the ICU: once glove does not fit all" (Thu 11/2, 2-4p).

» Division Chief **Sub Pennathur** will be moderating "Top-down proteomics: looking at the big picture" (Thu 11/2, 2-4p) and "Fatty acids and signaling pathways: sticky issues in diabetic nephropathy" (Sat 11/4, 2-4p).

» **Farsad Afshinnia** ('12) will present "Cholesterol uptake and efflux in CKD" (Thu 11/2, 3-3:30p).

» **Markus Bitzer** is moderating "Long and short of RNAs in diabetic nephropathy" (Thu 11/2, 2-4p).

» **Anna Mathew** will moderate the session "Breaking it down: metabolic pathways in AKI" (Sun 11/5, 10a-12p).

» **Rachel Perlman** ('03) will present "Contemporary anemia management in peritoneal dialysis patients: results from PDOPPS" (Thu 11/2, 4:42-4:54p).

» **Andrea Oliverio** ('17) will showcase her research "Renal complications during pregnancy before and after glomerulonephropathy diagnosis" (Thu 11/1, 5:30-5:42p).

» **Laura Mariani** will present her research "Tissue transcriptomic profiles perform similarly to clinical and pathology features for nephrotic syndrome outcome prediction" (Fri 11/3, 4:54-5:06p).

» **Jennifer Harder** ('10) will talk about "Defining cellular ontologies in inducible pluripotent stem cell-derived kidney organoids by mapping into human nephrogenesis via scRNAseq" (Fri 11/3, 5:54-6:06p).

» **Julie Wright** is presenting her research on "Disease-specific stress experienced by patients with CKD" (Sat 11/4 5:18-5:30p).

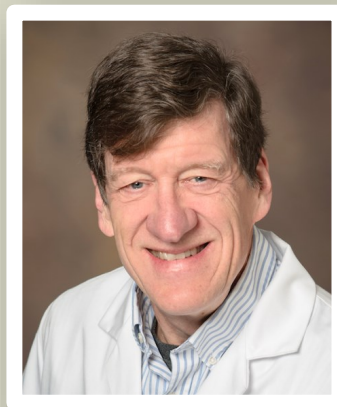
» **Chip Brosius** will moderate "The kidney as a metabolic organ in diabetes" (Sun 11/5, 10a-12p).

BROSIUS PROFESSORSHIP

As announced at last year's Weller Society gathering at ASN in Chicago, we are thrilled to have kicked off a campaign to establish the **Frank C. Brosius M.D. Collegiate Professorship** in Nephrology. After serving many years as the Fellowship Program Director, Chip went on to be Division Chief from 2004 until 2016, all while maintaining a highly successful research career. We hope to permanently honor his many achievements and contributions to the University through this professorship. The professorship will provide ongoing financial support for a faculty member to pursue innovative work, and allow Michigan to remain at the forefront of nephrology research.

Thanks to a few early and generous donations, we have already eclipsed the \$100,000 mark. However, there is a long way to go towards the necessary target of \$500,000 to endow the professorship. If you haven't already, please consider making a contribution.

<https://leadersandbest.umich.edu/find/#!/give/basket/fund/799814?keyword=799814>



CONTACT US

Please be on the lookout for Weller Society updates! In future issues, we would like to spotlight some of the current activities of our alumni. If you wish to share any information, or have suggestions for other future content, please contact **Michael Heung** (mheung@med.umich.edu).