



WOMEN IN NEPHROLOGY

REACHING FOR THE FUTURE

Newsletter

January 2021

WIN President's Message:

Dear WIN Members and Supporters,

As this year will be my first as WIN President, I thought I would take a moment to introduce myself. I am an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). I am a basic scientist, and my lab studies the effect of sex and age as modifiers of protection in animal models of acute kidney injury. I received my PhD in cell biology from the University of Florida and began a postdoc there before my husband was recruited to UAB. A postdoc at UAB turned into a faculty position. As with many of us in academics, the "five-year academic plan" at UAB has turned into 17 years and counting! At home, my husband and I are raising our two middle-schoolers with all the attendant work-life integration hurdles. I have served as a Councilor on the Executive Council of WIN, President-Elect and now President. In that time, I have found WIN to be an organization of women and men who face some of the same challenges as I face. I have found mentors, colleagues and friends. I have enjoyed my time on the Executive Council, and I am looking forward to the next two years serving as your President.

As 2021 begins, I am gratified to be able to report that WIN is positioned to have another exciting year! There are many plans, and we will roll them out as they become "ready for prime time". I am looking forward to several continued events and a few new ones as well. Our **WIN Leadership Conference**, our Kidney Week activities, including the **Annual WIN Dinner** and the **Dr. Nancy E. Gary Luncheon Lecture**, are among the continued events I hope to see happen in person. I also hope to initiate our first **Dr. Li-Li Hsiao Leadership Fellowship Award** recipient to honor **Dr. Li-Li Hsiao** for her leadership of WIN as Councilor and President (2015-2016) and her innovation and leadership in the field of nephrology.

In closing, I am excited about where WIN is headed, and I look forward to another successful year! Please follow our activities on our website (www.womeninnephrology.org) and our social media. I welcome your suggestions to improve WIN. We are small, but we are mighty, and we are determined to serve our mission of *"promoting professional development for women and men in nephrology and advocating for education and research relevant to women's health"*.

With kind regards,
Lisa M. Curtis, PhD



Lisa M. Curtis, PhD
WIN President, 2021-2022

Executive Council of WIN 2021

Lisa M. Curtis, PhD
President

Ellie Kelepouris, MD
Past President

Michelle Rheault, MD
Secretary

Cybele Ghossein, MD
Treasurer

Leslie Gewin, MD
Councilor

Susanne Nicholas, MD
Councilor

Natasha Dave, MD
Councilor

Liz Lightstone, MBBS FRCP
Councilor

Nisha Bansal, MD
Councilor

Mala Sachdeva, MD
Councilor

WIN Highlights

Recap of 2020:

This past year has been a challenging one and not what we had planned. We have faced professional and personal challenges. It goes without saying that women and men in nephrology in the clinical sphere met the critical need of patients suffering with COVID-19 on the front lines. These personal sacrifices have involved exhaustion and fear, yet these women and men stepped up when asked to engage in the quintessential role of healer. We honor their contributions. We appreciate them immeasurably. Those in research, while not necessarily risking illness themselves, also faced daunting challenges of stopping – and then restarting – laboratories with concern for the wellbeing of trainees and staff and their families. These difficult times elicited perseverance, a hallmark of those who ‘re-search’. We recognize their contributions and their tenacity.

As an organization, we have also had to meet new paradigms with tenacity and innovation. The women who serve in the leadership of WIN pulled together and made 2020 an amazing year of opportunities. Our members have stood with us as they have over the last 35+ years. This commitment bodes well for the longevity of WIN.

2020 had many firsts. While we had hoped to hold the **Inaugural WIN Leadership Conference** in person in Philadelphia, PA, through the leadership and vision of **Dr. Ellie Kelepouris** (WIN President 2018-2020), WIN successfully held this conference, virtually, on September 24th. Four exciting speakers discussed the critical topics of *Leading Through Transitions* (**Dr. Eleanor Lederer**), *Leading through Adversity* (**Dr. Amy Williams**), *Implicit Bias* (**Dr. Alan G. Wasserstein**), and *Threats to Diversity among Health Care Leaders* (**Dr. Deidra Crews**). These sessions were well attended, and the discussions were very robust. A [recording](#) of these sessions is available on our website. The meet and greet held before and after were well received as well. Survey responses indicated a very positive outcome from participants.

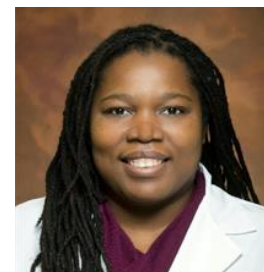
Our WIN events at ASN Kidney Week 2020 Reimagined were also very successful. While the virtual format was not what anyone anticipated, WIN pulled it off. The format didn't allow for our WIN dinner, but we did hold a virtual meet and greet as well as some of our annual events. If you didn't get a chance to join us at Kidney Week, take a moment to check out the career development videos that some of our councilors prepared (<https://www.womeninnephrology.org/career/>). Again in 2020 we also continued our **Annual Dr. Nancy E. Gary Lecture** held on Saturday of Kidney Week. **Darilyn Moyer MD FACP**, who is Executive Vice President and CEO of the American College of Physicians, gave an engaging talk, “Negotiating as if your life depended on it.....And getting to JEDI Healthcare Environments”. Her insights on challenges women face in medicine was right on target and engendered a robust discussion in the “simulive” event.

Our immediate Past President, **Dr. Ellie Kelepouris** showed poise in the face of challenge and with vision and enthusiasm led us through a trying year. Her steadfastness will infuse WIN with stability as we move into a new year in 2021.

Finally, we say thank you to our outgoing Councilors, **Drs. Scherly Leon, Silvi Shah, and Manisha Singh**. Their efforts have grown our portfolio of activities and fostered our collaborative efforts. We are grateful for their efforts and we will continue to call on their institutional memory and expertise.



Ellie Kelepouris, MD



Scherly Leon, MD MS



Silvi Shah, MD MS



Manisha Singh, MD

WIN in 2021

Our **two new Councilors** are **Dr. Nisha Bansal** and **Dr. Mala Sachdeva**. They will serve for three years. Dr. Bansal is an Associate Professor and the Arthur Stach Family Endowed Professor at the University of Washington. She also serves as the Director of the UW Kidney-Heart Services and as Associate Director of the Fellowship Program. Her clinical research is focused on adult nephrology and the interplay between CKD and CVD. Dr. Sachdeva is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. Her expertise lies in adult nephrology where her clinical research is focused on CKD, obstetric nephrology and home dialysis.



Nisha Bansal, MD MAS



Mala Sachdeva, MD

These women will provide expertise to advance the mission of WIN to enhance professional development and satisfaction of women and men in the field of nephrology. They join our continuing Councilors, **Drs. Leslie Gewin, Suzanne Nicholas, Liz Lightstone and Natasha Dave**. In their roles as Councilors this year, each councilor will take on a specific effort. **Dr. Bansal** will work on an initiative to increase our outreach to fellows and **Dr. Sachdeva** will lead our initiative on mentoring. **Dr. Gewin** is leading the efforts on our **2021 WIN Leadership Conference**, and **Dr. Nicholas**, in addition to assisting with the Leadership Conference, is leading our effort to grow our leadership and advance women and men by identifying and promoting awareness of national and international awards in nephrology. **Dr. Lightstone** has been tasked with growing WIN's presence in the UK and Europe. She has spearheaded a collaborative effort with the International Society of Nephrology and WIN will have a presence at the **2021 World Congress of Nephrology** virtually. **Dr. Dave** will be working on the development of a novel Professional Development opportunity for our members. In addition, she is maintaining our website and assisting with social media outreach along with WIN Secretary, **Dr. Michelle Rheault**.

Our Officers, **Drs. Michelle Rheault** (Secretary), **Cybele Ghossein** (Treasurer), **Ellie Kelepouris** (Past President), and **Lisa M. Curtis** (President) will continue this year in guiding this group of accomplished women. We are excited to continue our work to advance WIN and its mission in the coming year.

Please pass the word!
Stay in touch. We want to hear from you!!



>500 followers



>4500 followers



~1000 connections

If you are a member of these platforms, please consider following WIN!

WIN Happenings:

SAVE THE DATE: WIN Annual Leadership Conference: Developing Future Leaders in Nephrology To be held September 24, 2021 in Birmingham AL. All members will be receiving a "SAVE THE DATE" notice with more information by email in the coming months and the event will be advertised on our social media platforms. We look forward to continuing this event as an annual meeting for WIN.



SAVE THE DATE: WIN Leadership Workshop session at ISN World Congress of Nephrology New career development in leadership session offered virtually (April 2021). More information coming soon!



SAVE THE DATE: WIN at Kidney Week 2021 We will begin planning for the 2021 Kidney Week (November 2 - 7, 2021) in the coming months which we hope will be in-person in San Diego CA. We are planning our Annual WIN dinner, the annual Dr. Nancy E Gary Luncheon Lecture as well as new events! Stay tuned!



WIN Speaker's Bureau Members now have a new benefit! Check your email to find out how to get listed. Contact win@womeninnephrology.org for more information.

Dr. Li-Li Hsiao Leadership Fellowship Starting this year! Stay tuned for selection criteria and a call for applications!

Mentor Match One of WIN's missions is to foster mentoring. Mentoring support spans areas of academic, research, career as well as personal growth. If you are already a WIN member, and if you would like to serve as a mentee or a mentor please contact us (win@womeninnephrology.org).

It's time to renew your membership for 2021! Not a member? Join NOW!

Trainees and Emerita/Emeritus members are free. Full memberships are only \$75/year. Renew or join [online](#) (scroll down and click the button) or email (win@womeninnephrology.org) for more information.

Know of someone who would benefit from membership? Have an accolade that you would like to share? Have news that our community would benefit from knowing? Please direct potential members to our website www.womeninnephrology.org and email us at win@womeninnephrology.org with your information.

In Recognition

In Memoriam

WIN is saddened to report the passing of **Dr. Pat Schoenfeld**. Pat passed away December 1, 2020 in San Francisco CA. Dr. Schoenfeld earned a bachelor's degree in Zoology from the University of California at Berkeley. She received her medical degree in 1965 from the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), where she met her husband, Dr. Anthony (Tony) Sebastian, and where she completed her housestaff training. She was predeceased by her husband with whom she was married for 54 years at the time of his passing.

Pat trained with Dr. Frank A. Gotch at UCSF, who was known for his development of Kt/V and standardized Kt/V. After completion of her fellowship, Pat served as Medical Director of the UC Renal Center at San Francisco General Hospital until 1997. Dr. Schoenfeld's work focused on developing optimal dialytic therapies and she was active in training residents and fellows in renal medicine and dialysis as a faculty member at UCSF. As one of the first female nephrologists, she balanced a busy career and a challenging personal home situation. Pat's husband Tony, a UCSF nephrologist with notable scientific achievements, lived with a progressive degenerative neurological disease which resulted in quadriplegia and ventilator dependency in the latter part of his life. She, like him, demonstrated tenacity and determination through a lifetime of fostering the development of trainees and colleagues in nephrology.

Pat was a member of WIN and attended meetings in the 1980's and 1990's. She was an active member providing mentorship and a role model for aspiring nephrologists who trained under her as well as those in the broader nephrology community. More information is contained in her [obituary](#). WIN is proud to have counted her among our members and we celebrate her legacy. Our condolences are sent to her family, friends and colleagues.



What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.

~ Pericles

WIN is a 501c3 organization. Continuing our initiatives requires support from our donors. We are always grateful to them for their generous contributions. If you are considering charitable donations, we encourage you to consider WIN as a worthy recipient.