

# WIN

# WOMEN IN NEPHROLOGY Newsletter

JUNE, 1997

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve as President of WIN for the next two years. Although there is much work to still be done, the hard work accomplished by those that preceded me has made important strides on which to build.

I have often been asked "What has WIN done for me lately?"

For over 10 years WIN has sponsored a noontime talk at the ASN. For the last three years we have organized and sponsored a symposium on women's health at the NKF meetings. At the present time we are expanding our participation to the Spring clinical NKF meeting. WIN sends an associate representative to the Council of American Kidney Societies, and national meetings on career advancement for women.

Although public visibility is important, most of the activities and accomplishments of WIN go on behind the scenes. Our biggest role is to constantly lobby for and monitor the inclusion of women in all professional activities. In the recent past, WIN presidents have worked closely with ASN and NKF presidents to expand the opportunities for women. As a result of these efforts, women participate in the ASN Council, NKF leadership, and on the Program Committees for both organizations. The number of women participating as abstract reviewers, session chairs, and invited speakers continues to grow. As women are given the opportunity to participate, their capabilities become recognized. Promoting the participation of qualified women continues to be our most important goal.

### • *What can you do?*

Join WIN! Get your friends to join WIN! Get your male colleagues to join WIN!

We need your dues to keep you informed and to defray the costs of travel for council members to participate in activities where we lobby for YOU.

### • *Write to Council members.*

Tell us what you have to offer, what administrative posts you hope to achieve, and what topics you can lecture on. The more we know about you, the better we can promote you.

### • *Volunteer for Committees.*

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Programs                  | Newsletter   |
| Mentor Programs           | Nominations  |
| Women's Health Task Force | Awards       |
| Inter-Society Liaison     | Fund Raising |
| Professional Referrals    |              |

## MY PLANS FOR THE COMING TWO YEARS

### • *Establish a data base.*

One of my goals is to establish a data base that includes detailed information of the special qualifications of each of our members. This can be made available to job fairs, NIH study sections, search committees, program chairs, division heads, etc., so that they can be made aware of the skills we offer. Our biggest difficulty in promoting women is that we don't know each other well enough.

### • *Expand participation of women in practice*

I would like to expand the inclusion of women in practice in WIN activities. The majority of our activities at present are focused in academic settings. Women need to play an active role in reshaping our health care system. The WIN Council needs input



and participation from women in practice. Please volunteer for our committees.

• *Establish a leadership workshop*

Training in leadership skills has been highly effective in other organizations and I would like to bring the opportunity to WIN.

I look forward to getting to know more WIN members over the next two years. Let me hear from you. I need your input and participation.

Christine Abrass, M.D.  
VA Medical Center – Seattle  
University of Washington

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**Report on WIN Luncheon Meeting at ASN 1996**

Dr. Helen Smits, President and Medical Director of HealthRight, Inc. and former Deputy Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration presented an outstanding discussion of "View of Health Reform: 1996" at the WIN annual meeting in conjunction with the ASN in New Orleans. The meeting was well attended by WIN members and other ASN participants. As expected, this important and timely topic generated a lively discussion.

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**CAKS Meeting, June 1996**

**From: Sharon Andreoli, M.D.**  
**Pediatric Nephrology**  
**Indiana University**

One of the first meetings of the Council of the American Kidney Societies Meeting occurred on June 7 and 8, 1996, at the Ritz Carlton, Pentagon City, Washington, DC. To coordinate activities on behalf of the renal communities, the five major kidney organizations met in March to establish the Council of the American Kidney Societies (CAKS). The CAKS is designed to replace the recently disbanded Intersociety Council. CAKS will comprise the President and President-elect of its five major member societies including the American Society of Nephrology, American Society of Pediatric Nephrology, American Society of Transplant Surgeons, the National Kidney Foundation, and the Renal Physicians Association. These five organizations

will constitute the regular members; associate membership was offered to several organizations, including WIN. The June open meeting was attended by Sharon Andreoli as Ulla Kopp was out of the country. Additional associate members included representatives from the American Kidney Fund, the American Nephrology Nurses Association, the Chinese American Society of Nephrologists, the National Association of Nephrology Technician/Technologists, the Maryland State Commission on Kidney Disease, and the Kidney Council of the American Heart Association and the International Society of Nephrology. Chairmanship of the CAKS Council will rotate among the five kidney societies.

The major focus of the CAKS organization will be to unite the leadership of all nephrology into one effective voice for the nephrology community. The Council's goals and bylaws are currently being developed. It is anticipated that associate members will be able to attend the first day of open meeting while the regular members of the five societies will meet the following day in closed sessions. Meetings will occur approximately three times per year in the spring, fall, and winter before the budget goes to Congress. It is anticipated that all of the meetings will occur in Washington, DC.

At the first meeting, presentations were made by Dr. Gary Striker from NIDDK-KUH; Dr. Walt MacDonald, Executive Vice-President of the American College of Physicians; Phil Gorden, Director, KUH; Christine Williams, Director, Agency for Hospital Care Policy and Research (AHCPR); and Dr. R. Goldstein, Director of Transplantation, from the NIAID. Each representative reviewed the current activities in their division organization.

In summary, this first open meeting was directed at establishing communications and relationship with various individuals within the NIH and leadership in other associations.

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**Elections of ASN Councilors: REMEMBER TO VOTE**

Since Josie Briggs resigned as Secretary-Treasurer of ASN, there are no women members of the ASN Council. You will receive ballots for election of a new councilor in August. Relatively few



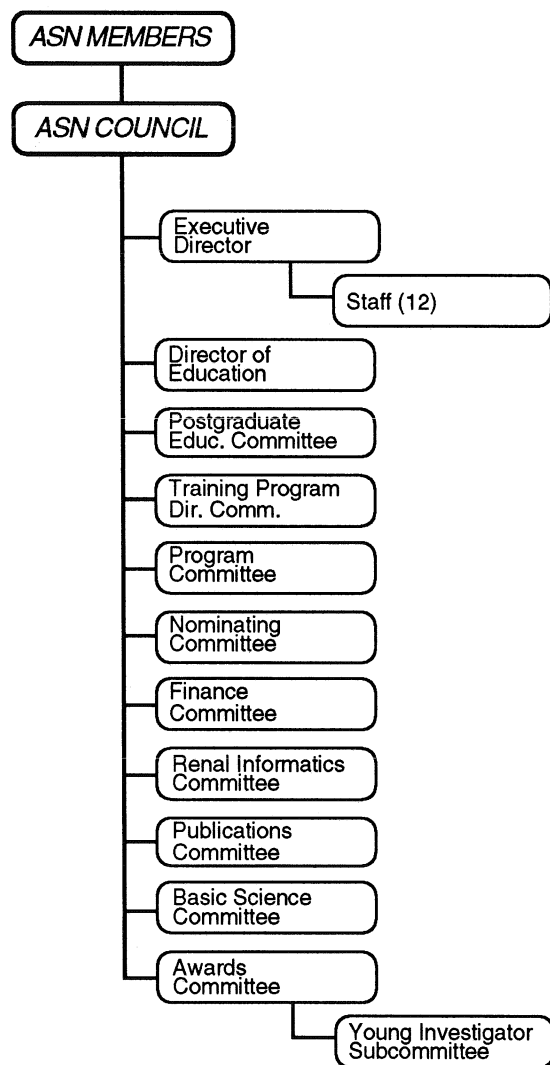


ASN members actually exercise their right to vote. YOUR vote counts. It is very important to return your ballots.

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### The ASN Organizational Structure

The ASN organization has many talented and dedicated members contributing to its success. This organizational chart shows you that the members ARE the organization! However, active members have more impact than those who are not! Please let WIN (and ASN) know your views, and volunteer your energies and talents to these organizations.



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### New WIN Officer

Last fall, the membership elected Dr. Susan Bagby, Associate Professor and Assistant Chief of Nephrology at the Portland VA Medical Center &

Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, OR as the new treasurer for WIN. We thank outgoing treasurer, Dr. Sharon Anderson for her dedication and long service to WIN as treasurer, and congratulate Dr. Bagby.

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### WIN luncheon speaker for ASN 1997 set: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The WIN luncheon speaker for ASN 1997 has been set for Monday, November 4, 1997 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. David Orentlicher, J.D., currently on sabbatical from Indiana University Law School, will discuss "Physician-Assisted Suicide." The Supreme Court is expected to hand down its decision on physician-assisted suicide just prior to the ASN meeting in San Antonio. This will be an exciting symposium and we look forward to seeing you there.

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### WIN invited to edit an issue of *Seminars In Nephrology*

WIN will edit an issue of *Seminars in Nephrology* to be published in March of 1999. This issue will include articles on the history of WIN, mechanisms for improving career opportunities for women in Nephrology, issues of women's health relevant to Nephrology, and feature articles by women scientists. The WIN Council is excited about this important endeavor. We invite members to suggest topics and contribute articles for this seminal issue of *Seminars in Nephrology*. Call Chris Abrass if you have questions.

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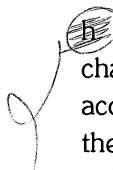
### News of/from Members

h Dr. Josie Briggs, one of our past presidents, has been selected to be the new Director of the Division of Kidney, Urological and Hematological Diseases at the NIDDK at the NIH, effective May 1, 1997. Dr. Briggs writes that she is "quite excited at the challenges of this position, and hopes to be an effective advocate for the research enterprise in our disciplines in this new role. I am also quite gratified at the confidence in me reflected by my selection for this position, and I hope to justify this confidence."

Congratulations to Josie!





 Dr. Wendy Brown has been serving as NKF chairman since her election in November 1995. Her accomplishments were the focus of a recent article in the NKF newsletter "Partners in Health." Not only is Wendy the first woman to chair the NKF, she is the first physician to be named chair—a post usually occupied by a lay leader. She has appointed a Health Policy Leadership Task Force, a task force which has launched the NKF into cyberspace (The Electronic Kidney is on the Internet!), and in April, 1997 the NKF debuted Cyber Nephrology at its Spring Clinical Meetings. She continues to urge input and involvement from our membership in issues in nephrology.

Sandra Sabatini, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Physiology and Internal Medicine at Texas Tech University Health Science Center is the first Texas Tech faculty member to be named Councilor of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation. Councilors, along with the president, president-elect and secretary, form the officers of the organization. The Southern Society for Clinical Investigation, founded in 1946, encourages research in various sciences and the establishment of a forum from which new ideas may be presented to the medical profession at large.

Dr. Sabatini serves in many organizations and has received numerous honors. She is currently a Councilor in the Association of Chairmen of the Departments of Physiology, serves as Chair of the

Scientific Advisory Board of the National Kidney Foundation and is a member of its National Advisory Board, the USMLE/NBME Committee and consultant for the U.S. Olympic Committee. Her research focuses on calcium, acid-base and drug-induced renal diseases.

We congratulate Dr. Sabatini on her accomplishments!

And, although she is not a member, it is NEWSWORTHY to note that the NIH Division of Research Grants is now headed by a woman! On January 2, Dr. Elvera Ehrenfeld, Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry and Dean of the School of Biological Sciences at the University of California at Irvine, became the first DRG director recruited from outside the NIH bureaucracy or the Public Health Service. One of her major priorities will be to revise and revamp the peer review process. She aims to get input from extramural scientists in devising and instituting necessary changes. She plans to attend a number of professional society meetings to try to get good input from the scientific community.

**SUMMARY**—We have extraordinarily accomplished women in leadership positions both in science in general, and in nephrology. It is important to continue to actively participate and give input to processes which affect us—please share your views and talents with your elected representatives!

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PLEASE SHARE YOUR NEWS with us for the next WIN Newsletter. We want to continue our Good News column in the next issue, with information about such items as promotions, moves, invited talks, sabbaticals, fellows trained, or other items of interest. If you know of a potential news item, either concerning yourself or a woman nephrology colleague, please let us know. Mail or fax to Agnes Fogo, MCN C3310, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN 37232; fax (615) 343-7023.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

My news items: \_\_\_\_\_

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