

WIN

WOMEN IN NEPHROLOGY *Newsletter*

SEPTEMBER, 1995

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the new President, I first would like to thank the WIN Executive Council under the leadership of Josie Briggs for their outstanding work on behalf of women in ASN in general and more specifically Women in Nephrology.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the two new Councilors to the Executive Council of WIN, Sharon Andreoli, M.D., James Witcomb Riley Hospital, Indiana University Medical Center, Indianapolis, IN and Barbara Cole, M.D., Department of Pediatric Nephrology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO.

Some of you may have wondered what WIN does in addition to sponsoring a luncheon seminar at the annual ASN meeting. To hopefully answer at least some of your questions, this issue of the Newsletter is devoted to the different committees that were formalized during the tenure of Josie Briggs. The chairperson of each committee has written a short description of the tasks that concern the committee in question. I urge each of you who is interested in participating and contributing to the issues dealt by these committees to contact the chairperson of these committees or myself.

As you will notice when you read the report from the Nomination Committee, a number of positions on the Executive Council are coming up for election this year, including President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and two Councilors. We would like to hear from YOU! Don't hesitate to nominate yourself or someone you know who would like to play an active role in WIN.

Last but not least on behalf of all of us in WIN, I would like to thank Agnes Fogo for her excellent work with the Newsletter. THANK YOU, AGNES!

Please let me hear from YOU.

Ulla C. Kopp, Ph.D.

* * ASN PROGRAM NOTES * *

WIN Luncheon

From: Ulla C. Kopp, Ph.D.

**University of Iowa College of Medicine
and Nancy B. Cummings, M.D.
NIDDK**

Regarding the WIN luncheon speaker, we are very happy that Nancy Cummings was able to invite Dr. Jordan Cohen, President of AAMC to give a seminar on current concerns in the academic medical community. Unfortunately, the ASN council voted NO to have the WIN lecture announced in the "DAY-AT-GLANCE" portion of the program book (the blue pages). The WIN lecture will only be announced in the Special Function section as it was last year. Please check for announcement of meeting room at the ASN.

Dr. Jordan J. Cohen, president of the Association of American Medical Colleges, and a nephrologist who is currently editor of *Kidney International's* Nephrology Forum, will speak at the Women in Nephrology's sponsored meeting at the annual American Society of Nephrology meeting in San Diego on Affirming Women Leaders in Academic Medicine Monday, November 6, 1995, 12:15-1:30 PM. Dr. Cohen has served as Dean of the Medical School, SUNY Stony Brook; Professor and Asso-



ciate Chair of Medicine, University of Chicago-Pritzker School of Medicine; and has held medical faculty appointments at Harvard, Brown and Tufts during his thirty years as a medical educator. He is a member of the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine.

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AMA Summit on Women in Medicine and Women's Health

**From: Sandra P. Levinson, M.D.
Medical College of Pennsylvania**

The Second AMA Summit on Women in Medicine and Women's Health is being planned for the fall of 1995. I attended a recent planning meeting with representatives from the AMA, AMWA, the Federated Council in Internal Medicine and AMA student and resident representatives. The proposed meeting will continue to address the issues of the professional development and advancement of women physicians and improvement in health care for women.

All the attendees appreciated the differences in the cultures of the various subspecialty societies and the range of programs available. It was apparent that some women's subspecialty societies were much more successful than others. This was not related to the age of the organization but rather to the support by the parent society and secondly to the availability of funding for programs. Several societies received substantial support for educational programs from pharmaceutical companies. One women's subspecialty society held a professional development workshop for interested members on a regular basis. In the worst case scenario the women described alienation from their parent professional society and a lack of access to leadership positions. There was unanimity that the networking and exchange of strategies and information was very helpful.

The upcoming meeting will emphasize areas omitted by other advocacy groups. There is the hope to develop a resource guide to help organizations build on the successful strategies of other women's subspecialty organizations. Subspecialty organizations like WIN will soon be requested to develop a report for this resource guide on our goals

and achievements. Eventually a report will be generated to be presented to the parent organization (e.g. ASN). The report can be used as a benchmark for the parent organization to assist their women colleagues. In addition, successful strategies in advancing women's health through research, patient care and education in gender differences will also be described in this report.

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Joint Symposium: Women in Nephrology and National Kidney Foundation

**From: Dr. Josie Briggs
University of Michigan Medical Center**

Women in Nephrology was again invited to co-sponsor a symposium on Women's Health Issues during the Annual National Kidney Foundation meeting next November. The program was developed in consultation with the Women's Health Task Force and the Program Committee of the NKF.

The focus is, "Women's Health Issues Important for the Practicing Nephrologist." Our speakers will be:

- **Dr. Cecil Coggins**, Massachusetts General Hospital. His talk, entitled "Progression of Renal Disease in Women: Lessons from the MDRD Study," will bring us some new insights into the influence of gender on progression of renal disease. He has been one of a committee participating in a re-analysis to assess the effect of gender on the data accumulated during the MDRD study. Two years ago, as some of you will remember, Sharon Anderson addressed the topic of the effect of gender on progression of renal disease at the ASN meeting. Her summary of the available data, which at that time consisted largely of experimental studies in rats, suggested that female gender was an advantage and androgens a disadvantage. Now we'll learn whether this difference is being confirmed in humans.
- **Dr. Wendy Bloembergen**, University of Michigan. Her talk, entitled "Gender Differences in Treatment and Outcome of ESRD," will bring us a variety of insights into management of ESRD in women. The data come from the US Renal/Data Survey. Her data raise the important





question—are we doing everything possible to insure that there are no inequities in the access of women and minorities to all modalities of treatment for ESRD? Is there fairness in access to transplantation, or is it true, as some have suggested, that women give more and get less?

- **Dr. Vincent Armenti**, Jefferson Medical College. Dr. Armenti will bring us the latest insights into “Transplantation in Pregnancy.” This is an area of good news. The registries maintained by Dr. Armenti are providing data that suggest pregnancy can be undertaken safely in selected transplant patients with relatively low risks for the graft and the mother, and with improving fetal outcome.
- **Dr. Sharon Moe**, University of Indiana. Dr. Moe, in her talk entitled “Renal Osteodystrophy: Do We Need a Different Approach in Women?”, will address the difficult question of whether gender impacts on renal osteodystrophy and whether we need to develop different approaches to this common clinical problem in men and women.

We believe this will be a highly informative session and hope you will all try to attend.

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Report from the Women’s Health Task Force of WIN

From: Dr. Josie Briggs

University of Michigan Medical Center

The Women’s Health Task Force of WIN is entering into its second year. I was pleased to be asked by Ulla Kopp to chair the group this year. The Executive Council of WIN established this Task Force with the goals of increasing attention to health issues important to women with renal disease and of working to foster both research and educational activities in this area. The group represents individuals with interest in the area and expertise in an area of relevant applied research.

To date the principal activity of the Task Force has been to act as a resource and advocacy group for scientific programming for programs to both the National Kidney Foundation and the American Society of Nephrology Program Committees. The current membership is listed below. A meeting to

review priorities is planned at the time of next year’s ASN meeting.

Josie P. Briggs, M.D., Ann Arbor, MI—Chair
Susan Bagby, M.D., Portland, OR
Chris Baylis, Ph.D., Morgantown, WV
Wendy Bloemberger, M.D., Ann Arbor, MI
Julia Breyer, M.D., Nashville, TN
Nancy Cummings, M.D., Bethesda, MD
Julia Inglefinger, M.D., Boston, MA
Marshall Lindheimer, M.D., Chicago, IL
Fritz Port, M.D., Ann Arbor, MI
Mabel Purkerson, M.D., St. Louis, MO

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National Kidney Foundation

From: Dr. Wendy W. Brown

St. Louis DVA Medical Center

In November I will begin a two year term as the first woman Chairman of the National Kidney Foundation. The NKF is a unique organization, founded 45 years ago by the parents of children with renal disease, that unites patient, professional and lay volunteers, both locally and nationally, to inform the public and health professionals, provide services to patients and raise money for research. The ultimate goal of the NKF is to take kidney disease from treatment to cure. Major initiatives include increased finding for research [in 1994, the NKF awarded 37 \$25,000 Fellowships, 17 \$25,000 Young Investigator grants, and the first Clinician Scientist Award (\$50,000/yr for 3 years)]; collaborative efforts with primary care physicians in early detection and prevention of renal disease; improved quality of care and rehabilitation for those who already have kidney or urinary tract disease; and public and professional education regarding organ donation. The work of the foundation is accomplished through 52 local affiliates and a small cadre of dedicated national staff and volunteers.

I encourage you as a member of WIN to become involved in these efforts at the local and/or national level. The Chair appoints members to national committees that include Annual Meeting, Fund Raising, Patient Services, Personnel, Public Policy, Training, Transplant Games, Planned Giving, Public Education, and Research Endowment. Committees with elected positions include Affiliate Relations, Finance and By-





Laws. There are also a number of Task Forces and other committees appointed each year. If you or someone you know is interested in being considered for appointment, I urge you obtain a nomination form from the National office (30 East 33rd St., NY, NY 10016). Appointments are made about the time of the Annual Meeting in November, but I encourage you to submit names as soon as possible.

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WIN Positions Openings—

Looking for a Few Good Women!

From: Sharon Anderson, M.D.

Veterans Hospital, Portland, OR

Nominations: We are requesting nominations for candidates for our upcoming election. Positions to be elected this fall are: President-elect, secretary, treasurer, and councilor (2 vacancies). Suggested names should be faxed to Sharon Anderson at (503) 721-7810 no later than September 15, 1996. Sharon will then share these names with other members of the Nominating Committee, and contact nominees to ascertain willingness to serve.

Treasurer's Report: (A) A number of members have not yet sent in their membership dues for the current year. If you have not, we would appreciate receiving them.

(B) The annual report for the last fiscal year is attached. Due to vigorous fund raising efforts on the part of some members, our balance now is approximately \$12,800. A major effort in the coming year will be to increase the balance (e.g. fund

raising), and to develop initiatives to use this money in useful ways (travel fellowships to the ASN, for example). Suggestions are welcome.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 1993—SEPTEMBER 30, 1994

PREVIOUS BALANCE.....	\$4,887.24
INCOME	
Dues and lunch fees.....	3,390.00
Pharmceutical company	
donations.....	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total income.....	6,390.00
EXPENSES	
Speaker honorarium	500.00
Hotel (luncheon,	
catering charges)	<u>1,172.24</u>
Total expenses.....	1,672.24
ENDING BALANCE.....	\$9,605.00

Outcome of Last Election: Sharon Andreoli, M.D. and Barbara, Cole, M.D. were elected to Councilor positions. Must be the year of the pediatric nephrologist!

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News of/from Members

Dr. Ulla Kopp was elected Treasurer of the Renal Section of the American Physiological Society last year. Her tenure as treasurer is for three years, 1995-1997. She welcomes input from members of the American Physiological Society on issues of concerns that should and could be discussed by the Renal Physiology Section Steering Committee.

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: _____

