The Renal Section is having another productive and successful year. David Weiner and Jennifer Pluznick (Joint Programming Committee) have prepared an excellent slate of topics and presentations, and abstract submissions to the Renal Section topics have increased. Thank you for your consistent support, the Renal Section is its members, and ours are engaged and enthusiastic.

**New Positions Elected to Steering Committee:** Congratulations to our new Treasurer, Don Kohan (University of Utah, Health Sciences Center) and Joint Program Representative, Paul Welling (University of Maryland, School of Medicine), who were elected by the members of the Renal Section. Paul will start his term in January 2013; Don’s term begins immediately post-EB 2012. These are important positions for our section; let’s thank them for volunteering their time.

**Renal Section Awards:** The Renal Section will present awards on April 23rd at the Renal Dinner. The major award winners are: Robert W. Berliner Award: Doug Eaton; Carl Gottschalk Lecture: Michael Caplan; the Young Investigator Award: Núria Pastor-Soler. Each awardee’s achievements are provided in detail below. We would particularly like to thank Bill Noonan and Abbott Laboratories for their continued support of the Renal Section’s premier award, the Berliner award. Additional congratulations to Gaby Navar who is this year’s APS Walter B. Cannon Award Lecturer.

**2012 APS Format:** This year the Renal Section will again present all of its sessions in 3 days, April 22, 23 and 24 in the new “Clustering” format. This is still an experimental schedule (for three years) and its success will depend on the members’ acceptance of this format. Input is helpful, so please let the Steering Committee members know about your experiences or concerns, positive or negative.

**Awards Nominations:** The awards presented by the Renal Section are initiated by the membership. I would like to remind everyone to access the submission pages on the APS website if you want to nominate someone for these awards. The leadership of the Section relies on your input.

**2012 Berliner Award for Excellence in Renal Physiology**

**Dr. Douglas Eaton** is the 2012 Robert W. Berliner Awardee. Doug is an outstanding physiologist who has made numerous insightful contributions over the course of his career, and served in major leadership roles within the American Physiological Society and Emory University. He has published over 150 studies in outstanding journals and has trained many successful scientists.

Doug received his undergraduate degree from the California Institute of Technology in 1967 and his Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of California at San Diego in 1971. His early studies focused on transport properties of the squid axon. This work resulted in publications in Science and Nature demonstrating that specific amino acid residues have roles in sodium channel inactivation. It was at this time that he began his studies of epithelial ion transport, which initially focused on the properties of mammalian urinary bladder in collaboration with Simon Lewis and Jared Diamond. The advent of epithelial cell culture systems allowed Doug to begin to address fundamental questions regarding the cellular mechanisms involved in the regulation of ion channels in epithelia, which has been the major focus of his career. Doug was the first to apply the patch clamp technique to characterize the epithelial Na channel (ENaC) at a single channel level in a classic AJP publication. Subsequent studies laid the groundwork in elucidating cellular signals that modulate ENaC, such as protein kinase A, protein kinase C, tyrosine kinases and eicosanoids.
Doug is a proven leader in academics and in biomedical research. Approximately sixteen years ago Doug formed a research center at Emory University that is focused on cellular and molecular signaling. He currently serves as Chair of the Department of Physiology, Director of the Center for Cell and Molecular Signaling, and is a Distinguished Professor of Physiology at Emory University. He served as President of the American Physiological Society, President of the Society of General Physiologists, and chaired two NIH study sections. He is the Editor of *Frontiers in Physiology: Renal and Epithelial Physiology* and served as an Associate Editor of the *American Journal of Physiology: Cell Physiology* and of the *American Journal of Physiology: Renal Physiology*. Doug presented the APS Hugh Davson Distinguished Lecture of the Cell and Molecular Section in 2008. He was the 2011 recipient of the Bodil Schmidt-Nielsen Distinguished Mentor and Scientist Award from the American Physiological Society.

Doug’s interpersonal interactions with colleagues, collaborators, and students are exceptionally strong, and he has earned the respect and admiration of his peers. Given his research accomplishments and contributions to the American Physiological Society, the APS Renal Section is honored to recognize Doug with the 2012 Robert W. Berliner Award.

The Robert W. Berliner Award Committee was composed of Heddwen Brooks (Renal Section Chair), Thomas Kleyman (Editor, AJP Renal Physiology) and Brooks Robey (Renal Section Awards Chair).

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Join us in celebrating our own Dr. L. Gabriel (Gaby) Navar, as he receives the American Physiological Society’s highest honor, the Walter B. Cannon Memorial Award at this year’s Experimental Biology meeting. As author of over 200 original articles and almost 150 book chapters, reviews and editorials, Gaby has made a major contribution to our understanding of the control of renal hemodynamics and glomerular filtration rate, and of the intrarenal actions of angiotensin II. After obtaining his Ph.D. at the University of Mississippi Medical Center under Dr. Arthur Guyton, Gaby rose through the ranks first there, and later at the University of Alabama at Birmingham before taking up his current position of Chairman and Professor of the Department of Physiology at Tulane University in 1988. Gaby has trained many of today’s leaders in the field of the renal microcirculation. His outstanding contribution to mentoring earned him the Bodil M. Schmidt-Nielsen Distinguished Mentor and Scientist Award in 2006. In addition, he has won many major awards both within the APS, notably the Berliner and Gottschalk Awards, as well as outside the society. A past president of the APS, Gaby has served on a truly impressive number of committees and in leadership positions in numerous scientific organizations relating to his central interests of renal physiology and hypertension. Dr. Navar will kick off Experimental Biology 2012 with *Physiology in Perspective – The Walter B. Cannon Memorial Award Lecture on Saturday April 21 at 5:30 pm in Ballroom 20A*. We hope to see you there!

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Michael J. Caplan, M.D., Ph.D. has been selected as the Carl W. Gottschalk Distinguished Lecturer of the American Physiological Society Renal Section for 2012. Dr. Caplan will deliver his lecture, “Playing in Traffic: Sorting and Signaling in Renal Epithelial Cells” at Experimental Biology 2012 on Monday, April 23 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 24. Dr. Caplan will also be honored at the Renal Section Dinner later that evening.

Dr. Caplan received his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University in 1987, and he joined the Department of Cellular and Molecular Physiology at Yale as a faculty member in 1988. He is currently the C.N.H. Long Professor and Chairman of Cellular and Molecular Physiology, and Professor of Cell Biology. Dr. Caplan has made major contributions to the field of renal physiology, and has published over 140 manuscripts, invited reviews, and book chapters. His interests center on protein sorting in
epithelial cells in health and disease, as well as on the trafficking and behavior of the proteins implicated in polycystic kidney disease. He has made key contributions to our understanding of the trafficking and behavior of the Na⁺,K⁺-ATPase, NKCC2, CFTR, PKD1, and many others.

Dr. Caplan is known as an excellent mentor and educator, and he was selected as the first recipient of Yale University’s Postdoctoral Mentoring Prize in 2010. He has mentored 19 Ph.D. students and over 30 postdoctoral fellows, many of whom have gone on to productive independent careers. Dr. Caplan is an exceptional scientist who continues to make key contributions to the field of renal physiology, and the Renal Section is honored to have him present the Gottschalk Distinguished Lecture for 2012.

The Gottschalk Selection Committee was composed of Bill Welch (Chair, Renal Section), Thomas Kleyman (Editor, AJP Renal Physiology), and David Weiner (Joint Programming Committee representative).

**2012 Young Investigator Award Winner**

**Dr. Núria Pastor-Soler**

Núria Pastor-Soler, M.D., Ph.D. is the recipient of the 2012 Young Investigator Award for Excellence in Renal Physiology. Dr. Pastor-Soler will deliver her award lecture on **Sunday April 22nd at 3:15 pm in Room 27** at Experimental Biology. Núria received her M.D. and Ph.D. from Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA; her Ph.D. studies were with Dr. David Wenger. She completed her Nephrology Fellowship at the Brigham and Women’s and Massachusetts General Hospital combined training program. Her research training during fellowship was in the laboratories of Drs. Sylvie Breton and Dennis Brown. Núria is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Cell Biology and Physiology at the University of Pittsburgh. In 2009, she was awarded the American Society of Nephrology Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant and the New Investigator Award of the Renal Section. Her studies focus on the regulation of acid secretion in the kidney and in the male reproductive tract by the vacuolar H⁺-ATPase (V-ATPase) and regulatory kinases. The V-ATPase has an important role in modulating the milieu of ductal fluids within the epididymis, which in turn affects sperm maturation and viability and in the kidney plays a critical role in renal H⁺ secretion. Her recent studies have focused on regulation of the V-ATPase by protein kinase A (PKA) and by an AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK), identifying a PKA phosphorylation site that plays an important role in plasma membrane expression of the V-ATPase in intercalated cells.

Núria serves on the *American Journal of Physiology-Renal Physiology* Editorial Board, is an associate editor for *Frontiers in Renal and Epithelial Physiology*, and serves on the American Heart Association Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease Council Leadership Committee. She is Co-Chair of the APS Epithelial Transport Group Steering Committee and recently served as Councilor for Women in Nephrology. The YIA Committee consisted of John Imig (Renal Section Treasurer), Jennifer Pluznick and David Weiner (Renal Section Joint Program Committee representatives). Photo credit–J. Franzos

This Award recognizes an outstanding young investigator pursuing research in renal physiology, pathophysiology or hypertension. Candidates must be less than 41 years of age or less than 15 years beyond earning their first doctoral degree, and must have published original work in *American Journal of Physiology Renal Physiology* (or similar) during the preceding four years. Candidates will be judged on their nomination letters, funding record and publications. The recipient will present the Young Investigator Award Lecture, organize/chair a featured topic session, participate in the Renal Section’s Posters and Professors Reception and be recognized at the Renal Dinner during EB 2013. Nomination materials must be submitted no later than **March 31, 2012**. Instructions can be found online at: [http://www.the-aps.org/meetings/eb12/awards/renal.htm](http://www.the-aps.org/meetings/eb12/awards/renal.htm)
The APS Renal Section Awards Committee received increased numbers of applications in virtually every category this year. As in previous years, competition was uniformly strong and quality was high.

Finalists for the Pre-Doctoral Award are:
Justine Abais, Virginia Commonwealth University
Di Feng, Medical College of Wisconsin
Teresa Kennedy-Lydon, Royal Veterinary College
Jacob Richards, University of Florida
Ryan Cornelius, University of Nebraska

Finalists for the Post-Doctoral Award are:
Krishna Boini, Virginia Commonwealth University
Richard Grimm, University of Maryland
Elena Mironova, University of Texas, San Antonio
Anne Riquier-Brison, Univ. of Southern California
Ankita Roy, University of Pittsburgh

All finalists for the Renal Section’s pre- and postdoctoral awards above are scheduled to present their work at the Posters & Professors session to be held at 5:30 pm on Sunday, April 22 during EB, and the winners will be announced at the annual Renal Section Dinner.

2012 Renal Section Research Recognition Award Winners:
Michael Butterworth, University of Pittsburgh
Ming-Guo Feng, Tulane University
Young-Hyun You, University of California, San Diego
Mark Parker, Case Western Reserve University

2012 Renal Section New Investigator Award: Congratulations to winner Oleh Pochynyuk (University of Texas, Houston). Oleh and all the other awardees will receive their awards at the Renal Section Dinner on Monday, April 23.

In addition to the finalists and awardees listed above, there were many other highly meritorious applicants that the Committee was unable to recognize individually. As my colleagues will attest, both the level of interest and the overall quality of the applications received from our trainee and young investigator ranks hints at a bright future for both our discipline and our society. A well deserved kudos to everyone participating in this year’s competition.

2012 Renal Section Awards Committee
Brooks Robey (Chair), Dartmouth Medical School
Nuria Pastor-Soler, University of Pittsburgh
Robert Fenton, Aarhus University
Mitsi Blount, Emory University
Volker Vallon (Co-Chair), Univ. of California, San Diego
Alejandro Chade, Univ. of Mississippi Medical Center
Carolyn Ecelbarger, Georgetown University
Alexander Staruschenko, Medical College of Wisconsin

From the Treasurer
Dr John Imig

Renal Dinner - 2012
SOLD OUT!

WHERE: Hotel Solamar – Solstice Ballroom
435 – 6th Avenue at J Street
San Diego, CA 92101

WHEN: Monday, April 23, 2012, 7:00-11:00 pm including after party
We hope are joining us for Renal Physiology’s night of nights – the annual Renal Section Dinner at Experimental Biology. A perennial favorite amongst EB conference goers, this event rapidly sold out once again. Book early next year to avoid disappointment! If you have a spare ticket, please contact John Imig (organizer) – there is a waiting list. Email: jdimig@mcw.edu; Tel: 414-955-4785.

Trainee Advisory Committee Report
Vanesa Ramseyer

Greetings from your Trainee Advisory Committee (TAC) Representative! The TAC’s charge is to help APS assist and support trainees (students, postdocs, and junior faculty as well as trainee positions in industry and government). Here are some of the activities geared for trainees at EB 2012. We hope to see you there!!

1. Plan on attending the APS Communications Committee Symposium at EB in San Diego “Using Social Media to Communicate About Physiology and You” on Saturday April 21, 3:00-5:00 pm. In addition, don’t forget to buy your tickets for the APS 125th Anniversary Beach Party on the North Embarcadero on Saturday, April 21 from 7:00-10:00 pm when you register!!!

2. Trainees Mixer. After the Renal Dinner, stay with us to celebrate a year of great research, share some drinks with peers and renowned scientists, show your best moves and challenge the reviewers of your last paper to some karaoke!

3. For those who love technology, media and innovation, this year the TAC is presenting a symposium at EB called "E-Media Tools for the Professional Scientist" on Wednesday, April 25, from 10:30 am-12:30 pm.

4. Please remember the special event: Meet the Nobel Laureate Reception!! Mark your calendars for a wine and cheese reception honoring APS Trainees and Dr. Oliver Smithies (pictured), 2007 Recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and Weatherspoon Eminent Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Wednesday April 25, immediately following the APS Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine Lecture (lecture at 3:30 pm in Ballroom 20A).

Many thanks to everyone who submitted abstracts and/or symposia proposals for EB 2012 in San Diego, CA. We continue to encourage the renal community to submit symposium proposals for the Experimental Biology Meetings. This is a great opportunity to organize friends and colleagues working in areas aligned with your interests to give talks highlighting their work. Complementary registration and additional funds to help with travel expenses are part of the package. To initiate the process, a PDF form is available from the APS site at http://www.the-aps.org/mm/Conferences/EB/EB13-Symposium-Form.doc. Please just fill it out and send it to us. We encourage investigators at all career stages to organize sessions, and particularly hope that junior investigators will become involved. Please help keep the exciting and innovative symposia in the pipeline!

We received 135 abstracts for presentation at EB 2012. Current details of the program are available at: http://www.apsebmeeting.org/. There are many excellent sessions on the schedule; the following may be of particular interest to members of the renal community:
RENAL SECTION SYMPOSIA, FEATURED TOPICS AND SPECIAL SESSIONS

Saturday, April 21, 2012
1:00 – 3:00 PM, Room 27
Workshop - Overcoming the Fear of Making Your Own Transgenic and Knockout Mice
Chaired: Donald E. Kohan and Mark de Caestecker

5:30 – 7:00 PM, Ballroom 20A
The Walter B. Cannon Memorial Award Lecture
L. Gabriel Navar

Sunday, April 22, 2012
8:00-10:00 AM, Room 27C
Physiologists in Industry Symposium – MicroRNAs in Human Disease and as Novel Therapeutics
Chaired: Rebecca Persinger and John Liles

10:30 AM-12:30 PM, Room 28B
Renal Section Symposium - The Role of Oxygen Metabolism for the Development of Kidney Disease
Chaired: Fredrik Palm and Pamela K. Carmines

3:30-5:30 PM, Room 27
Renal Section Young Investigator Award
Featured Topic: Regulation of Transport Proteins in Kidney Intercalated Cells
Chaired: Nuria Pastor-Soler (Awardee) and Snezana Petrovic

Monday, April 23, 2012
8:00-10:00 AM, Room 28B
Renal Section Featured Topic - Novel Signaling Pathways in Renal Pathophysiology
Chaired: Jennifer L. Pluznick and Anne D.M. Riquier-Brison

10:30 AM-12:30 PM, Room 28B
Renal Section Symposium - Pendrin: Hearing, Blood Pressure, Thyroid Function and More
Chaired: Susan M. Wall and Shmuel Muallem

3:30-5:30 PM, Room 24
Carl W. Gottschalk Distinguished Lectureship of the APS Renal Section
Michael J. Caplan

Tuesday, April 24, 2012
8:00-10:00 AM, Room 28B
Renal Section Featured Topic - Mechanisms of Blood Pressure Regulation
Chaired: David Weiner and P. Richard Grimm

10:30 AM-12:30 PM, Room 26
Renal Section Symposium - Vasopressin Mediated Phosphorylation and Trafficking of Transporters Involved in Urine Concentration
Chaired: Jeff M. Sands and Mitsi A. Blount
We extend our congratulations to Michelle Monette, Jesse Rinehart, Richard Lifton, and Biff Forbush for their manuscript describing mutations in NKCC2 that are associated with lower blood pressure and impaired processing and transport that was published last year in *AJP-Renal Physiology*. This manuscript was selected by the Renal Section Steering Committee as the *AJP-Renal Physiology* paper of the year. Dr. Monette will receive a certificate in recognition of this award at the Renal Section Dinner. We also congratulate our star reviewers: Warren Hill, Masaomi Nangaku and Jorgen Frokiaer. They will be recognized at our Editorial Boards Meeting at EB.

The journal currently has calls for papers on the Aldosterone and Epithelial Na⁺ Channels and on Mathematical Modeling of Renal Function. I encourage you to listen to the *AJP-Renal Physiology* podcasts that highlight work published in the journal. Our Associate Editor, Jeff Garvin, recently hosted a podcast discussing future directions in the field of regulation of renal blood flow with Christopher Wilcox and William Arendshorst.

**Committee on Committees Report**

*John Lorenz*

The APS Committee on Committees will meet at Experimental Biology on Saturday April 21 to select new appointments to APS standing committees. There are 15 nominees from the Renal Section in consideration for open positions this year (for the 2013 term) – we thank all of those who submitted their names for nomination. The Renal Section is traditionally well-represented in APS committees, and this year we had 7 new appointees beginning the 2012 term.

It is not too early to be thinking about nominations for the next year’s openings. The EB meeting is a great place to discuss the process with your colleagues. It is vital that the Renal Section be well represented on all APS committees, and positions will be available on many. The charge of each committee is listed on the APS website along with other information regarding the nomination process (http://www.the-aps.org/mm/hp/Audiences/APS-Committees). The process for committee nomination is not difficult and includes filling out a Candidate Information Form and having another APS member to fill out an Endorsement Form for you (EB is a convenient opportunity arrange this as well).

**From the APS Science Policy Department**

NIH Update at EB 2012

Several NIH institutes will report on their research and policy initiatives during EB 2012 in San Diego. “National Institutes of Health: Programs and Policies Update from Institutes” will be presented from 2-4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24 in Room 1A of the San Diego Convention Center. Drs. Susan Shurin of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI); Judith Greenberg of National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS); Richard Nakamura of the Center for Scientific Review (CSR); and Elizabeth Wilder of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI) will share the latest information about research programs and policy priorities.

The session is jointly sponsored by the American Physiological Society, American Association of Anatomists, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, American Society for Investigative Pathology, American Society for Nutrition and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. The session chairs are APS President-elect Susan Barman and APS Science Policy Chair John Chatham.
Important Dates

March 31, 2012  2013 Young Investigator Award and 2013 Carl W. Gottschalk Distinguished Lectureship of the APS Renal Section nomination deadline.

April 20, 2012  Pre-EB2012 Meeting - “Extracellular Nucleotides and Nucleosides in the Regulation of Kidney Functions


April 23, 2012  Renal Dinner

RENAL SECTION STEERING COMMITTEE

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APS Trainee Advisory Committee Representative
Vanesa Ramseyer (01/12-2/14)
Henry Ford Hospital
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Special Announcement: Pre-EB 2012 Meeting
“Extracellular Nucleotides and Nucleosides in the Regulation of Kidney Function”

With about 45 days left for the commencement of the Experimental Biology 2012 meeting in San Diego, CA, we herewith present the final program for the Pre-EB2012 Meeting of the Renal Purinergic Club on “Extracellular Nucleotides and Nucleosides in the Regulation of Kidney Functions”, which is sponsored by the Renal Section of the American Physiological Society. The meeting will be held on Friday, April 20, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina, Room: Solana. Please click on the following link to download PDF file of the program. http://dl.dropbox.com/u/54498325/Pre-EB2012_Program_030112.pdf. There will be a registration fee, the amount of which depends on the number of attendees (~US$25-40). We are making determined efforts to secure industry sponsorship to subsidize the costs of this meeting, and thus keep the registration fee low. If you need a letter of invitation for making your travel arrangements, please contact us as soon as possible with your name, designation and affiliation. We look forward to seeing you at a very exciting meeting in San Diego. Best regards, and please contact us: BK Kishore (BK.Kishore@hsc.utah.edu) & Volker Vallon (vwallon@ucsd.edu)