Message from Renal Section Chair

We hope to see everyone at the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS) 2005 meeting (March 31 to April 5, 2005, in San Diego, CA). IUPS is being organized by the six member societies of the U.S. National Committee of the IUPS, including APS, the Society for Neuroscience, the Microcirculatory Society, the Society of General Physiologists, the Biomedical Engineering Society and the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. It should be an exciting scientific program. Remember to purchase your ticket to the Renal Dinner prior to the meeting (see information from Jeff Garvin elsewhere in this newsletter, or contact him at: jgarvin1@smtpgw.is.hfh.edu for information or tickets). The APS renal dinner will be held at the Ulysses S. Grant Hotel on April 4.

The Renal Section Steering Committee has been doing an excellent job. Jeffrey Garvin, Ph.D. from Henry Ford Hospital is now serving as Treasurer. David Ellison M.D. from Oregon Health & Science University has replaced David Pollock, Ph.D. as Secretary. Program Representatives include P. Darwin Bell, Ph.D. from Vanderbilt and Bill Welch Ph.D. from Georgetown. The Awards Committee includes John Imig Ph.D. from The Medical College of Georgia and Hedwenn Brooks, Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. Gabriel Navar, Ph.D. from Tulane is Senior Physiologist. Renal Section Representative for the Committee on Committees is Roger O’Neil Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Houston.

Each Renal Section member should receive a ballot shortly for our fall elections.

We have extremely qualified people running for each position. Please be sure to cast you votes!
Chair:
David Pollock, Ph.D., Medical College of Georgia
Pam Carmines, Ph.D., University of Nebraska

Treasurer:
L. Lee Ham, M.D., Tulane
I. David Weiner, M.D., University of Florida

Program Representative (to work with P. Darwin Bell):
Paul Welling, M.D. University of Maryland
Sue Mulroney, Ph.D., Georgetown
Gerardo Gamba, M.D., Ph.D. Instituto Nacional de la Nutricion
Salvador Zubiran, Mexico

Susan M. Wall
Chair, Renal Section

James Schafer: the recipient of the 2004 Robert W. Berliner Award for Excellence in Renal Physiology sponsored by Abbott Laboratories

The Renal Section is proud to announce that the 2004 Robert W. Berliner Award for Excellence in Renal Physiology, sponsored by Abbott Laboratories, was given to James Schafer, Ph.D. from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. This award is given to a senior renal physiologist based on his or her lifetime contribution to the field of renal physiology. Dr. Schafer’s research contributions include studies of the effect of aldosterone and vasopressin on NaCl and water absorption in the cortical collecting duct. He has been the recipient of many distinguished research awards, such as the Homer Smith Award of the American Society of Nephrology and the Gottschalk Award of the Renal Section of APS, and served as APS President from 1996 to 1997. The Berliner award was presented to Dr. Schafer at the Renal Dinner on April 20, 2004, at the EB 2004 meeting in Washington D.C.

The Renal Section needs your nominations for the Berliner Award for the April, 2005 meeting. To make a nomination, please send a nominating letter and a copy of the nominee’s CV to Susan Wall (smwall@emory.edu) by November 1, 2004.

* Recognizing that we have the kind of blood we have because we have the kind of kidneys we have, we must acknowledge that our kidneys constitute the major foundation of our philosophical freedom. Only because they work the way they do has it become possible for us to have bones, muscles, glands and brains. Superficially, it might be said that the function of the kidney is to make urine; but in a more considered view one can say that the kidneys make the stuff of philosophy itself.*

Homer Smith
The Awards for Excellence in Renal Research are presented each year for outstanding presentations by students and postdoctoral fellows at the Experimental Biology meeting. The award-ees were selected from a pool finalists, who were judged on their presentations at the meeting.

There were two awardees in the student category this year. The 1st place award was presented to Jennifer L. Pluznick, for her abstract entitled, “Role of the BK-beta 1 subunit in flow-induced K+ excretion in the mammalian cortical collecting duct (CCD)”. Ms Pluznick’s is a doctoral student at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and her mentor is Dr. Steven Sansom. The 2nd place award went to Minolfa Prieto-Carrasquero for her paper entitled “Angiotensin II stimulates renin protein expression in cortical collecting duct cells”. Ms. Prieto-Carrasquero is a doctoral student at Tulane University Health Science Center under the supervision of Dr. L. Gabriel Navar.

The award winner in the post-doctoral category for 2004 went to Dr. Reena Rao for her paper entitled “Role of cyclooxygenase 2 induction in lithium-induced polyuria”. Dr. Rao is a postdoctoral fellow at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, under the supervision of Dr. Matthew Breyer. Congratulations to all the awardees for their outstanding contributions to kidney research.
We’d like to thank the judges who contribute their time and expertise to evaluate the abstracts and presentations. These individuals support these young scientists by their efforts both before and during the meeting. The success of this year’s program is a tribute to their commitment. This year’s judges were Chair, Ed Inscho, PhD, Co-Chair Heddwen Brooks, PhD, Magdalena Alonso-Galacia, PhD, Christine Maric, PhD, Janos Peti-Peterdi, PhD, Steven Sansom, PhD, Dr. Pablo A. Ortiz.

In addition, the Renal Section Research Recognition Awards, sponsored by the American Physiological Society, were presented to Dr. Pablo A. Ortiz (Henry Ford Hospital), Thomas Pannabecker (U. of Arizona), Xiaoming Zhou (NHLBI, NIH) and Alan Parrish (Texas A & M). The APS New Investigator Award for 2004 was given to Dr. Christine Maric (Georgetown University).

Following last year’s change in policy, which increased the number of students and fellows who participated in the awards program, we are again inviting students and postdoctoral fellows to submit their first author, kidney related abstracts to the Renal Awards Program, regardless of the Programming topic to which the abstract was submitted. We remind all Section members to encourage their students and post-doctoral fellows to apply and participate in the Awards Program. Instructions for applying for all awards are provided in the EB 2005 call for abstracts booklet and through the APS Renal Section Website.

PROCTER & GAMBLE PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY AWARDS

The Renal Section also sponsors P&G Awards for outstanding pre-doctoral abstracts. The recipient received $500 and complimentary registration to EB2004. This year’s Awardee was Jennifer L. Pluznick, University of Nebraska.
Soren Nielsen: the Gottschalk Lecturer for IUPS 2005

This year’s Gottschalk Lecturer is Soren Nielsen, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Nielsen’s laboratory has made seminal contributions to our understanding of water channels and Na\(^+\) and Cl\(^-\) transporters. His work on the physiology of these transport proteins has greatly expanded our understanding of the molecular regulation of diabetes insipidus and the molecular mechanism of NaCl and water retention during hypertension and congestive heart failure. He is now Professor of Cell Biology and Pathophysiology and Director of the Water and Salt Research Center in the Institute of Anatomy at the University of Aarhus in Denmark.

The Renal Section needs your nominations for the Gottschalk Distinguished Lecturer for the April, 2006 EB meeting. Previous lecturers have been Peter Agre, Steve Hebert, Mark Knepper, L. Gabriel Navar, Walter Boron, Dennis Brown, Heini Murer, Jim Schafer, Bliss Forbush III, William Arendshorst and Thomas Jentsch. The Gottschalk Lecturer should be a trend-setter in the field of renal physiology. Ideally, the Lecturer should be a good speaker with a good story to tell. The nominee does not necessarily need to be an American or an APS member. To make a nomination, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter, or otherwise provide all the necessary information, and send it to Susan Wall (smwall@emory.edu) by April 30, 2005.

Ryan Morris joins the Steering Committee of the Renal Section of APS as Trainee Liaison

Ryan Morris, Ph.D. is the new Trainee Liaison of the Renal Section of APS. Ryan’s graduate studies explored the regulation of the epithelial sodium channel, ENaC while in the laboratory of James Schafer, Ph.D. As a post-doctoral fellow in the Laboratory of Mark Knepper, M.D., Ph.D., Dr. Morris is now extending his study of the regulation of renal Na and K transport using mouse models.
Call for nominations for APS Standing Committees

Send your nominations to fill vacancies on various APS committees to Roger O’Neil (Roger_G.Oneil@uth.tmc.edu). You could also nominate yourself by sending the form, available on the APS website directly to APS headquarters. Nominations are usually due by January 10th of each year. The APS website contains descriptions of the functions of the APS standing committees and current committee members.

Please provide a short paragraph or list special expertise and previous activities that make this person (or yourself) highly qualified for a particular committee. A candidate’s chance of being nominated by the Committee on Committees is greatly enhanced by letters of support from 4-6 people for each nominee. For additional information or to submit a nomination, contact:

The American Physiological Society
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814-3991
Phone 301-530-7165 or fax 301-571-8305

AJP-Renal: NEWS FROM THE EDITOR

June 30, 2004, marked the end of our first 3-year term as the editorial team for AJP - Renal. I especially want to thank my team of associate editors and our managing editor, Ms. Amy McEver, for making AJP - Renal so successful during these 3 years. Fortunately, Drs. Pam Carmines, Douglas Eaton, Tom Kleyman, and Susan Wall have agreed to continue into our second term. Sadly, Dr. Sharon Anderson decided to end her service on June 30. Sharon has done an outstanding job, and she will be missed. However, I am very happy to announce that Dr. Tom Hostetter joined our team on July 1, 2004. We are very pleased that submissions to AJP - Renal in 2003 were the highest since the start of APS Central, and submissions in the first 8 months of 2004 are well ahead of those for the same period in 2003. We want to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of AJP - Renal, especially the authors who have submitted their papers and the peer reviewers who have provided rigorous, timely, fair, and collegial reviews. As we enter our second term, our goal remains simply to publish the best original Renal research and insightful review papers. We hope that you will continue to make AJP - Renal your first choice for your future submissions.

Jeff M. Sands
Editor-in-Chief, AJP-Renal
Treasurer’s Report

I am happy to report that the budget is now doing exceedingly well thanks to the very generous support of our colleagues in the pharmaceutical industry. The loss of support we had experienced during the past 2 years has been more than completely made up! Amgen will now sponsor the Postdoctoral Renal Research Awards due to the tireless efforts of Jeff Sands. I want to particularly recognize the support of Joan Keiser from Pfizer. Pfizer has committed to support the Student Excellence in Renal Research Awards for at least the next three years! We also need to acknowledge the support of Abbott Laboratories for sponsoring the Abbott/Robert W. Berliner Award for Excellence in Renal Physiology and AstraZeneca for sponsoring the Young Investigator Award. We also would like to thank AstraZeneca and SmithKline Beecham for making it possible for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to attend the 2004 Renal Dinner at a reduced cost. It is rewarding to see that some in industry still have a real commitment to academic science in these very tough economic times. All members should go out of their way to acknowledge the contributions these companies make to the Renal Section whenever possible.

Finally, I want to personally thank all of the members of the Renal Section that generously gave in support of their section. The staff in the APS office was quite impressed with the response to our appeal for donations. As of September 1, 2004 we have received more than $3300. However, I must say that this money was raised from a relatively small number of generous Renal Section members. (I now know how the folks at National Public Radio feel.) I hope that those of you who have not yet made a contribution will heed the call and support the Renal Section. To make a contribution just send a check made out to the APS Renal Section to Linda Allen at The American Physiological Society, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814. This money will go primarily to assure that students and postdoctoral fellows can attend the Renal Dinner and support our awards.

Jeff Garvin
Treasurer, APS-Renal Section

2005 RENAL DINNER

The 2005 Renal Dinner will take place on Monday, April 4, 2005, at the U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway, San Diego, CA. This year’s post-dinner program will feature the presentations of the Abbott/Berliner Award, the AstraZeneca Young Investigator...
Award, Amgen Postdoctoral Renal Research Awards and the Pfizer Student Excellence in renal Research Awards.

To order your tickets, please send a check drawn on a U.S. bank in U.S. dollars made out to: “APS Renal Section” and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Jeff Garvin, Division of Hypertension and Vascular Research, E&R 7126, Henry Ford Hospital, 2799 West Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202, U.S.A. Tickets are available now. Those that can't draft a check on a U.S. bank should contact Linda Allen via e-mail at “Lallen@the-aps.org” to make alternative arrangements.

The price is $50 each postmarked before February 25, 2005 and $25 each for students and post-doctoral fellows. After that, tickets increase to $60 for members and $35 for students and post-docs if available.

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2005 YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD

The purpose of this award is to recognize an outstanding young investigator working in any area of renal physiology. Nominees for 2006 must be less than 41 years old as of April 1, 2006 or less than 15 years beyond receipt of their first doctoral degree. Research qualifying for consideration for this award would include any area of renal physiology, pathophysiology, or hypertension. Evidence that a nominee is working in renal physiology would be publications by the nominee in the American Journal of Physiology: Renal Physiology or similar journals during the preceding 4 years.

The deadline for nominations for the 2006 Young Investigator Award recipient is March 18th, 2005. In a change from the past, individuals must be nominated every year to continue to be considered. This change was implemented because it was unfair to past nominees to have their C.V.’s which could be 2-3 years old compared to those of new nominees that were up to date. To nominate a candidate, e-mail the candidate’s CV, a nomination letter, and a seconding letter in PDF format ONLY to: jgarvin1@hfhs.org.

Jeff Garvin
Treasurer, APS-Renal Section