On behalf of the entire APS Renal Section, I would like to thank Susan Wall for her leadership as Chair of the Section during the past three years. In addition, we have benefited greatly from the pro-active efforts of Bill Welch in helping to develop and implement programming ideas over his term as representative to the APS Joint Steering Committee (JPC) for the past three years. Sue Mulroney is the new junior representative to the JPC. In addition, I am sure that each member of the section is grateful for Jeff Garvin’s dedicated service as Treasurer of the Section. Jeff has done a great job in organizing the Renal Dinner and securing support for our awards portfolio over his just-completed 3 year term of office. Moreover, he has graciously agreed to extend his term by 1 year to allow our recently-elected Treasurer, Lee Hamm (Chair of Medicine at Tulane), to concentrate his efforts on the daunting task of leading his department’s recovery from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. Roger O’Neil and Ryan Morris deserve our thanks for serving as Renal Section representatives to the APS Committee on Committees and the Trainee Advisory Committee, respectively. (Their terms end in December 2005.) The Steering Committee has appointed David Pollock as the new representative to the Committee on Committees, and Jen Pluznick will represent us on the Trainee Advisory Committee.

I also want to thank the members of the Section for giving me the opportunity to serve as Chair for the next three years. During my tenure, I hope to build on the tradition of the Renal Section as one of the strongest and most prominent sections of the APS. One means to this end is to update the Section Operating Procedures (our “bylaws”) to comply with current APS governance and policies and to reflect the actual procedures as they have evolved over recent years. In the coming months, each primary member of the Section will receive the revised document and be asked to vote on its approval/disapproval. We are also embarking on the job of specifying the committee structure of the Section — not only the Steering Committee, but also standing committees and ad hoc committees that contribute importantly to completing the tasks required for our primary activities. The goal is to ensure that the Renal Section operates as a “well-oiled machine.” In addition, we plan to update and expand our website (http://www.the-aps.org/sections/renal/index.htm). I urge each of you to visit our website and offer suggestions as to how it can be improved so that it better serves the needs of the Section membership. Please email me with any suggestions regarding how the Renal Section can better serve our members.

I look forward to seeing everyone at EB2006 (April 1-2, 2006) in San Francisco!
The Pfizer Predoctoral and Amgen Postdoctoral Awards for Excellence in Renal Research are presented each year for outstanding presentations by students and postdoctoral fellows at the Experimental Biology meeting. The awardees were selected from a pool of student and postdoctoral finalists, who were judged on their presentations at the meeting.

There were four awardees in the student category this year. The 1st place award was presented to Omar Itani, for his abstract entitled, "Nedd4-2 isoforms differentially associate with ENaC and regulate its activity". Omar is a doctoral student at the University of Iowa, and his mentor is Dr. Christie Thomas. The 2nd place award went to Romer Gonzalez-Villalobos for his paper entitled "Interaction between Megalin and Angiotensin peptides". Romer is a doctoral student at Tulane University Health Science Center under the supervision of Dr. Timothy Hammond and Dr. Gabriel Navar. Third place winners were Marcela Herrera for her abstract entitled "A high-salt diet dissociates eNOS expression and NO production by the thick ascending limb" and Shivakumar Vasanth with his abstract entitled "Cleavage and nuclear translocation of the cytoplasmic tail of polycystin-1 stimulates STAT6 and P100 dependent transcription". Marcela is a doctoral student at Henry Ford Hospital with Dr. Jeff Garvin, and Shivakumar is a doctoral student at Cleveland Clinic with his mentor Dr. Thomas Weimbs.

There were two first place award winners in the postdoctoral category for 2005 Dr. Mona Opperman for her abstract entitled "Macula densa regulation in mice lacking the B-isoform of the renal Na/K/2Cl cotransporter NKCC2" who is a post-doctoral fellow at the NIH with Dr. Jurgen Schnermann, and Dr. Aaron Kulick for his abstract entitled "Adenosine, type 1 receptors (A1-AR) mediate fluid reabsorption in the proximal tubule and are regulated by salt intake" who is a post-doctoral fellow at Georgetown University with Dr. Bill Welch.

Congratulations to all the awardees for their outstanding contributions to kidney research.
We would like to thank the judges who contribute their time and expertise to evaluate the abstracts and presentations. These individuals support these young scientists and the renal section 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 Christine Maric (Georgetown), Janos Peti-Peterdi (USC), Pablo A. Ortiz (Henry Ford Hospital), James Stockand (San Antonio), Alan Yu (USC), Co-Chair John Imig (MCG), Chair Heddwen Brooks (AZ).

**APS-Sponsored Renal Section Awards**

Renal Section Research Recognition Awards were presented to Dr. Rong Ma (University of North Texas) and Dr. Pernille Hansen (University of Southern Denmark). The APS New Investigator Award for 2005 was given to Dr. James Stockand (UT San Antonio). The Astra Zeneca Young Investigator Award went to Janos Peti-Peterdi (University of Southern California). Both of these awards were sponsored by the American Physiological Society.

Effective this year (EB 2006), a change in APS policy means that all awards will be applied for on-line when the abstracts are submitted. We are once 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 is submitted. We remind all Renal Section members to encourage their students and postdoctoral fellows and new investigators to apply and participate in the Renal Section Awards Program. Instructions for applying for all Renal Section awards are provided in the EB 2006 call for abstracts and through the APS Renal Section Website.
The American Society of Nephrology will hold its annual meeting in Philadelphia this year, from November 8-13, 2005. We expect this to be another great program and hope that many of the Section members will be able to attend.

Trainees Report

I’d like to thank everyone who responded to the trainee survey which has been instrumental in directing the efforts of the Trainee Advisory Committee (TAC). Among the issues identified by the survey, several specific areas of professional skill development were identified by trainees as skills they would like to know more about: particularly managerial and interviewing skills. There are several workshops and symposia on the APS program at the 2006 EB meeting which address some of the issues identified in the trainee survey:

- Transitioning from Postdoc to Junior Faculty: Surviving the Initial Years. Ortiz and Bavis
- Mastering the Juggling Act: Laboratory Life and Leadership Roles. Schreihofe, Damon, and Nisenbaum
- Navigating the Interview: How to Make it Work for You. McHugh and Galey

Also, look for a TAC page to open soon on the APS website (www.the-aps.org) to help guide trainees to relevant skill development material.

Ryan Morris
Trainee Advisory Committee Representative
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Robert W. Berliner Award for Excellence in Renal Physiology

Sponsored by Abbott Laboratories

The Robert W. Berliner Award for Excellence in Renal Physiology is the most prestigious award of the APS Renal Section. The award recognizes distinguished lifetime achievement in renal physiological research by a living American scientist. The recipient will be honored at the 2006 Renal Dinner, and will participate in the Renal Section’s “Meet the Professors Reception” at EB2006. Candidates should satisfy the following criteria:

- A world-renowned, distinguished scientist who has been a major contributor to the field of renal physiology over a lifetime, including accomplishments in research, teaching, training and activities within the APS.
- U.S. citizen, at least 60 years of age.
- Must be able to attend EB2006.

To nominate an individual for the 2006 Berliner Award, e-mail PDF files of a nomination letter and the candidate’s curriculum vitae to Heddwen L. Brooks, Renal Section Awards Committee Chair (brooksh@email.arizona.edu). The nomination letter should summarize the candidate’s qualifications for the Award. The nomination deadline is November 7, 2005. Nominations from previous years are automatically carried forward for consideration in the following years. The Berliner/Abbott Award Committee will meet at the ASN meeting to select the 2006 award recipient. The committee is composed of the Renal Section Awards Committee Chair (Heddwen L. Brooks), the Chair of the Renal Section (Pamela K. Carmines), the Editor of AJP-Renal Physiology (Jeff M. Sands) and a representative from Abbott Laboratories (Glenn A. Reinhart).

| Recipients of the Robert W. Berliner Award |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1993 Carl W. Gottschalk | 2000 Thomas E. Andreoli |
| 1994 Gerhard H. Giebisch | 2001 Joseph S. Handler |
| 1995 Heinz Valtin | 2002 Floyd C. Rector |
| 1996 Maurice B. Burg | 2003 Donald J. Marsh |
| 1997 Franklyn G. Knox | 2004 James A. Schafer |
| 1999 Erich E. Windhager | 2006 ???? |
Message from the Renal Section ‘Sage’

As newly anointed “Sage” for the Renal Section, I am expected to impart guidance and wisdom in the tradition of my predecessors. Allison, Katrina, and Rita have certainly made me much wiser. I’d like this first communication in my new role to tell you some of what I’ve learned from them.

Four years ago, flooding from Tropical Storm Allison devastated the Texas Medical Center in Houston, causing evacuations of hospitals, temporary closure of the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Baylor College of Medicine, and the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer, and tremendous disruption of research and educational activities in the basic and clinical sciences. My laboratory, like many others, lost tens of thousands of dollars in reagents, supplies, equipment, and animals, and was effectively out of operation for six months. At UT-Houston, we have just now opened up the ground floor of the Medical School and started construction of a replacement research building. Recovery has been an excruciatingly slow process. At the time, my colleagues and I were overwhelmed with the instantaneous generosity of other investigators and educators in the region who shared their laboratories, supplies, and classrooms, and the NIH, who quickly responded with extended funding of our research programs. I learned then of the strength of the community of scientists and science educators in our region, but also how much we underestimated the length of the recovery process.

It was thus with a very heavy heart that I witnessed the destruction and disruption that Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused not only for the affected communities, but also the academic medical centers in the Gulf Coast region. In Houston, drawing inspiration from the actions of renal investigators and educators in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, we worked tirelessly to help those displaced by Hurricane Katrina, only to find ourselves in the crosshairs of Hurricane Rita. We closed our medical schools for several days and suffered more from the evacuation than the actual storm.

I have learned from these experiences that during such impending or actual catastrophes, a certain temporal sequence of response and recovery tends to occur at academic medical centers. The most immediate and intense focus is, appropriately so, on patient care. A second wave of action occurs as the medical and graduate schools seek to restore educational activities in classrooms, clinics, and hospitals. The least organized and effective activity in this sequence concerns the salvage and recovery of basic laboratory research and training. Given the fiscal constraints faced by most medical and graduate schools and the contraction of extramural funding, academic scientists and physician-scientists are in a particularly precarious position, and are ill-, and perhaps least-equipped professionally to weather such a storm. Obviously, these people will need a great deal of our help, sustained long after this initial crisis. The APS, ASN, and other renal and scientific organizations have already helped and have pledged ongoing support. We are fortunate that several of those who have led our efforts in the APS, such as Lee Hamm and Gabriel Navar, are also leading the recovery efforts for investigators in New Orleans.

After all this, it seems to me to be especially prudent for our community of renal scientists and educators in the APS to develop more formal and effective
regional and national emergency preparedness plans that extend beyond our particular medical centers to minimize disruption of the professional activities of those affected by the next catastrophic hurricane, blizzard, earthquake, or terrorist attack. Such strategy would include function-based planning, an analysis of critical functions likely to become disrupted in a disaster, the actions, resources, and policies needed to remedy the problems, and the feasibility of responses from “off-site” investigators and teachers. Recommendations for improved preparedness would be developed. In essence, these plans would provide organization and effectiveness to the generosity and collegiality that naturally swells in these calamities. The formation of an advisory committee within our Section to address this goal would be a good first step.

Finally, the incredible suffering we have witnessed in these disasters and the wonderful wave of collaboration we currently ride provides us with guidance in our research and training in keeping with the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research. Human disease is now even more vividly on display and demands more disease-centered basic and translational investigation, and new interdisciplinary collaborations have been forged that may help to model the research teams of the future.

I promise future missives will be brief.

Bruce Kone
Renal Section Sage
to AJP–Renal in 2004 were the highest since the start of APS Central, and submissions in the first 9 months of 2005 are 10% higher than for the same period in 2004. 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. 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 Garvin
Interim Treasurer

Jeff Sands
Editor, AJP–Renal
jeff.sands@emory.edu

2006 RENAL DINNER

Those of you who just can’t wait to order your Renal Dinner ticket for EB 2006 will have to wait a little longer. The tentative date is Tuesday, April 4th; however, as of October 6th, we have not been able to find a suitable venue. The good news is that the APS office will handle all ticket sales and you will be able to use your credit card through the web! Be sure to get your ticket early, as it looks like we will have to limit the number of attendees this year.

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2007 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, 2007 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 2007 Young Investigator Award recipient is March 15, 2006. 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 CVs 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
Interim Treasurer
Preview of Experimental Biology 2006

Carl W. Gottschalk Distinguished Lectureship of the Renal Section: Peter Igarashi

Renal Section Young Investigator Award (also a Featured Topic): Sylvie Breton

Symposia

- Tubule Perfusion: 40 Years Old and Still Going Strong. Maurice Burg and Jeff M. Sands
- Regulation of Glomerular Function by Podocytes. David Bates and Bill Deen
- Obesity and Renal Disease. Lisa M. Harrison-Bernard and Christine Maric

Physiology in Focus

- Integrating Cellular Functions: The Role of the Primary Cilium in Cell Proliferation & Kidney Disease. Arlene Chapman and Winfield Sale

Workshops

- Live Animal/Human Imaging. P. Darwin Bell and Janos Peti-Peterdi

Featured Topics

- Control of Renal Function and Blood Pressure in Metabolic Syndrome and Diabetes. Michael W. Brands and Carolyn A. Ecelbarger
- Gender Differences in Renal and Cardiovascular Disease. Kathryn Sandberg

Symposium Proposals for EB 2007 (and beyond)

We are actively soliciting symposium proposals for future meetings. To be considered for 2007, proposals should be submitted no later than February 1, 2006. Please include topic, speakers, titles, and a brief description of the overall aims of the symposium. Submission of proposals that could be co-sponsored with other sections (cross sectional symposia) is also encouraged.

Please forward proposals to either of the Renal Section Representatives to the APS Joint Program Committee:

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