We look forward to seeing everyone at the EB2006 meeting, April 1-5 in San Francisco CA. In addition to the attractions provided by the locale (tending to lure our attention away from the science), EB2006 provides an excellent opportunity for physiologists to interact with scientists working in other disciplines. The meeting is sponsored by the APS and 5 other societies, with 12 guest societies also participating this year. The wide range of scientific presentations includes a fine program of renal-related sessions, not only reflecting the abstract submissions by our members, but also due in large part to the efforts of our representatives to the APS Joint Program Committee. Darwin Bell and Sue Mulroney have worked diligently to program symposia and featured topics sessions that will attract the interest of Renal Section members, and we thank them for their efforts. In addition to the excellent science, EB2006 offers an array of Career Development Resources and Educational Sessions (including hand-on workshops) that should prove informative to our members, students and trainees.

The annual EB meeting also provides the setting for most of the activities of the Renal Section – including the Renal Dinner (Tuesday, April 4th), where we will present awards recognizing renal researchers of virtually every career stage. These awards and their recipients are highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter. Also, finalists for the 2007 Excellence in Renal Research Awards will be judged at their poster presentations during EB. To my knowledge, these are the only APS student/postdoctoral awards that are judged based on
the presentation at the meeting (rather than the abstract alone), a fact that adds to the prestige of the awards. I urge all members of the Renal Section to make a point of visiting the posters presented by the finalists of the Excellence in Renal Research Awards. These young investigators represent the future leaders of the Renal Section!

Finally, on behalf of the entire Renal Section, I want to thank Jeff Garvin for the fine job he has done as Interim Treasurer, organizing the Renal Dinner on relatively short notice and ensuring that the finances of the Section were duly administered during the past 7 months. I trust that all members of the Renal Section will join me in expressing gratitude to Jeff for his efforts, and will assist Lee Hamm (Chair of Medicine at Tulane) in any way possible when he returns to duty as Renal Section Treasurer in April.

Chair, APS Renal Section

2006 RENAL DINNER

The 2006 Renal Dinner will take place Tuesday April 4, 2006, at Jillian’s @ Metreon, 101 Fourth Street, San Francisco, CA. Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. 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.

All ticket sales will be done through the APS web site this year. Go to the APS web site. Click on the “Sections” button on the left. Click on the “Renal Section”. The remainder is obvious. This should make it easier and more convenient for everyone, especially those coming from out of the U.S.A.

The price is $50 each before March 1, 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 until March 15. After March 15th NO tickets will be sold. No tickets will be sold in San Francisco!

SPACE WILL BE LIMITED THIS YEAR!! Make sure you and your students/postdocs get your tickets early!
Kenneth R. Spring has been named the 2006 recipient of the Berliner/Abbott Award, which recognizes distinguished lifetime achievement in renal physiological research by a living American scientist. Dr. Spring will receive the award at the Renal Dinner on Tuesday, April 4, 2006.

Dr. Spring joined the NIH Laboratory of Kidney and Electrolyte Metabolism in 1975 and was appointed Chief of the Section on Transport Physiology in 1988, a position he held until his retirement in 2002. He is a world-recognized expert on microscopy applications to biological systems, and he published over 130 peer-reviewed manuscripts on the use and application of these techniques to the study of transport physiology. His research focused on the study of salt and water transport in “leaky epithelia” such as the renal proximal tubule, application of optical methods to the regulation of cell volume and, the functional role of the central cilium as a flow sensor in epithelial cells. Dr. Spring trained numerous young scientists who have become leaders in the field of ion transport physiology, and has always been willing to share his expertise in microscopy with investigators from across the world. Following retirement, he went back to his first love of fishing and boat-building. He is now the part-owner and founder of Small Open Boats in Solomons, Maryland, where he builds wooden boats and provides tools, materials, and expertise for others to do the same.

The Renal Section’s Berliner Award Committee was composed of Heddwen L. Brooks (Renal Section Awards Chair), Pamela K. Carmines (Renal Section Chair), Jeff M. Sands (Editor, American Journal of Physiology Renal Physiology), and Glenn Reinhart (Abbott Laboratories).
Peter Igarashi has been named the 2006 Carl W. Gottschalk Distinguished Lecturer. Dr. Igarashi will deliver the lecture, entitled “Transcriptional mechanisms of renal cystogenesis,” on Sunday, April 2, 2006 at 3:15 pm during the EB2006 meeting. He will also be honored during at the Renal Dinner on April 4, 2006.

Dr. Igarashi is a product of the University of California system, earning the M.D. degree from UCLA in 1981 and completing internship and residency training in at UC-Davis. During his nephrology fellowship at Yale, he trained in Peter Aronson’s laboratory. Dr. Igarashi served on the faculty at Yale until 1999, when he accepted the position of Chief of Nephrology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. His research focuses on kidney development, kidney-specific gene regulation, and polycystic kidney disease. He has been working to define the genetic pathways that regulate normal kidney development and to identify alterations in the pathways that are responsible for cyst formation in polycystic kidney disease. In particular, his studies are probing the roles of hepatocyte nuclear factor-1β and renal cilia in the pathogenesis of cyst formation. This work uses biochemical and genetic approaches in transgenic, knockout, and conditional knockout mice to identify and characterize the transcription factors that regulate clinically relevant genes.

The Renal Section’s Berliner Award Committee was composed of Hedwenn L. Brooks (Renal Section Awards Chair), Pamela K. Carmines (Renal Section Chair), Jeff M. Sands (Editor, American Journal of Physiology Renal Physiology), and Glenn Reinhart (Abbott Laboratories).

Hurry: Nomination Deadline March 17, 2006:
2007 Carl W. Gottschalk Distinguished Lectureship of the APS Renal Section

To place a name in nomination, email the following information to pcarmines@unmc.edu:

Your name, the proposed Candidate's name, Candidate's email address, Candidate's institution, and a 1 sentence summary of the Candidate's contributions relevant to renal physiology.
News from the APS Joint Program Committee

We hope that you will agree that we have an exciting program for EB2006. Below is a list of sessions that are sponsored by the Renal Section or that may be of interest to our group.

Sat  Advanced Techniques in Imaging: From Cell to Animal (workshop)

Sun  Carl W. Gottschalk Distinguished Lectureship - Peter Igarashi
      Symposium - Regulation of Glomerular Function by Podocytes

Mon  Featured Topics Session - Young Investigator Award – Sylvie Breton

Tues Symposium - Tubule Perfusion: 40 Years Old and Still Going Strong
      Featured Topics Session - Regulation of Renal Transporters
      Featured Topics Session - Regulation of Renal Hemodynamics

Wed  Symposium - Obesity and Renal Disease

Several sessions in the “Physiology in Focus” and symposiums sponsored by the Epithelial Section should also be of interest to our group.

There is still time to submit Symposium proposals for EB2007!

Download a Symposium Form from the Experimental Biology section of the APS website (http://www.the-aps.org/meetings/eb.htm). Once you have completed this form, e-mail it to one of the Renal Section representatives to

CONGRATULATIONS!

Pablo Ortiz (Henry Ford Hospital) has been named the recipient of the 2006 Lazaro J. Mandel Young Investigator Award, and Hedwinn Brooks (Univ. of Arizona) won the 2006 Renal Section New
Investigator Award. Pablo and Heddwen will be recognized at the Renal Dinner in San Francisco.

**RENAL SECTION AWARDS**

The Renal Section is proud to have the opportunity to support and honor the careers of young investigators and trainees. The number of applicants who submitted their work for Renal Awards was outstanding once again for EB 2006. We received abstracts from 18 pre-doctoral students and 25 post-doctoral fellows. Finalists will undergo a second round of evaluation during the presentation of their posters at the EB 2006 meeting. Each day of the meeting, the Renal Section will post a placard in the aisles listing the poster numbers and presentation times for the student and postdoctoral finalists.

**Finalists for the predoctoral category are:**
- Lavanya Balasubramanian, University of South Florida
- Emily Cordas, Dartmouth Medical School
- Rebecca Falin, Case Western Reserve University
- Monica Sandberg, USC Keck School of Medicine
- Norman Taylor, Medical College of Wisconsin

**Finalists for the postdoctoral category are:**
- Jennifer Bomberger, Dartmouth College
- Danielle Cruthirds, Medical College of Georgia
- Marcela Herrera, Henry Ford Hospital
- Licy Yanes, University of Mississippi Medical Center
- Ming-Jiun Yu, LKEM, NIH

Congratulations to the finalists. Awards will be presented during the annual Renal Dinner and each finalist will receive a complimentary ticket to attend and participate in the evening activities. We encourage everyone to drop by the presentations, and to come to the Renal Dinner to support these young investigators.

In addition we had 12 junior faculty/senior post-doctoral fellows apply this year for the Renal Research Recognition Award. We gave four awards, and these went to:
- Hayo Castrop, University of Regensburg
- Guangping Chen, Emory University
- Minolta Prieto-Carrasquero, Ponce School of Medicine
- Damian Romero, University of Mississippi Medical Center
All applicants, who applied for a renal section award, are invited to a casual “Meet the Professors” reception sponsored by the APS Renal section on Saturday April 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 5.30-7pm at the Marriott Hotel (Marriott Pacific E). It will be a great opportunity to meet with the Carl Gottschalk Distinguished Lecturer, Peter Igarashi; the Renal Section Young Investigator, Sylvie Breton and the Berliner Award Winner, Kenneth Spring. Mentors please remind your students who applied to attend this reception. We look forward to seeing you there.

Heddwen Brooks
Awards Chair

SAGE THOUGHTS FROM THE SAGE:

I closed my last “Sage” treatise about the Katrina/Rita catastrophe and response by urging engagement with the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research. Having recently participated in an NIH study section review of grant applications in which I learned that the payline for the previous grant cycle was approaching single digit percentages, I realized that we’re going to need more than just engagement to identify funding sources and fertile projects, particularly given the announcement of the competitive application process for the Roadmap’s Clinical Translational Science Award (CTSA). Don’t let the title fool you, CTSAs will also include significant basic research and informatics components, as well as streamlined opportunities for bench-to-bedside science.

CTSAs are Dr. Zerhouni’s plan to re-engineer the clinical research enterprise at academic health centers by way of NIH-supported initiatives. They represent a very radical change in the way we have trained, conducted, and evaluated clinically related science. NIH will be phasing out the various clinical research training grant programs - M01 (General Clinical Research Centers), K12, K30, and and T32 - by 2012, with the goal of more effective training mechanisms within the CTSA framework. GCRCs have been around since I was born, so this is definitely not business as usual. Even with the GCRC-equivalents within the CTSAs, there will be a significant reduction in overall number. The half billion dollars proposed for the CTSA program is a large slice of the current NIH budget for all of clinical research, which mostly is awarded to fund scientific research rather than training scientists to be clinical researchers. These concerns are most troubling to the less fully differentiated institutions that will be at a clear competitive disadvantage for funding. This may
prompt some movement of investigators from institutions on the have-not end of the scale to those on the have side of the scale.

The CTSAs will require a very different culture --- an undoubtedly more productive culture --- that calls for a cross-institutional commitment, both of the different components of the academic health center and of the clinical, research, and educational missions. Some of this integration already occurs at most institutions, but now the selection pressure for specialization, communication, and collaboration is high enough that integration will come more rapidly. If things go as proposed, CTSAs should optimize the sharing of information, techniques, and reagents, as well as ensuring the most efficient use of personnel, core facilities, and information technology. This integration should dramatically improve the pace of discovery and the translation of that knowledge to benefit patients.

The comprehensive integration of the component elements of clinical investigation clearly offers additional, stronger support for those currently doing translational research and those training in this field, but also offers new opportunities for basic scientists, provided they quickly learn and engage the new culture. It will be a very different world in 2012, the target date for full implementation of the CTSA mechanism; to remain scientifically, regardless of scientific discipline, CTSA are four letters we will all need to know.

All the best,

Bruce

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 2007 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 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
We want to announce the winners of the "Papers of the Year" for 2005. First, let me remind Renal Section members of the selection process. Candidates for "Paper(s) of the Year" are those original manuscripts selected for an Editorial Focus. I and the associate editors invite an Editorial Focus article for original manuscripts that the reviewers feel contain significant new findings and which receive enthusiastic comments during the review process. The associate editors voted for 5 finalists from those papers selected for an editorial focus. We then asked the Renal Section steering committee and the associate editors to vote for the winner from the list of finalists. Two papers ended up tied for first.

They are:


Congratulations to these authors. The "Papers of the Year" will also be announced at the Renal Dinner during the 2006 Experimental Biology meeting in San Francisco.

I want to thank my team of associate editors (Pam Carmines, Douglas Eaton, Tom Hostetter, Tom Kleyman, and Susan Wall) and our managing editor, Ms. Amy McEver, for continuing to make AJP - Renal so successful. Our Impact Factor in 2004 remained stable at ~4.35. The time from submission to initial decision is approximately 21 days. We are very pleased that submissions to AJP - Renal in 2005 were the highest since the start of APS Central. 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 make AJP - Renal your first choice for future submissions.

Finally, I want to encourage Renal Section members think about who should be considered for the next Editor-in-Chief of AJP-Renal, starting in July, 2007. It is hard for me to believe, but our team only has 15 months left as of the EB meeting. The APS Publications Committee will put out a call for nominations later this spring, so keep an eye out for the call.

Sincerely,

Jeff

APS NEEDS YOU!!

Historically, the Renal Section has been very good at participation on APS committees. In order to continue this tradition of service, we need more people to apply for committee appointments. Although the deadline has past for 2007 appointments, you can submit your name at any time by submitting two simple forms found on the APS web site. The nomination process has been simplified so that you only need to fill out the one page candidate form and have a colleague to submit a one page nomination form. It’s very simple and takes very little time. No need for multiple letters or other information. Here’s the web site:

http://www.the-aps.org/committees/nominations.htm

Did you receive this newsletter too late to buy tickets to the Renal Dinner or to submit award nominations?

E-mail notices (e.g. announcements regarding the business of the Renal Section, links to the electronic version of the newsletter) are routinely sent to members via a ListServ provided by the APS. Hard-copy notices are received by members as much as 6-weeks later!

To ensure that you receive timely notices regarding Renal Section business, you must subscribe to for the Renal Section ListServe. (“Subscribe” is not the default option!)

To subscribe to the Renal Section ListServe (or to check your ListServe status):
- go to the APS website (http://www.the-aps.org/),
- choose the to the Members Only tab,
- log in according to the instructions provided,
- select APS ListServe,
- click the radio button to Subscribe to the Renal Sec ListServ.
NEW

From the APS Liaison With Industry Committee (LWIC)

The APS LWIC is sponsoring a Symposium at EB2006 entitled "Advances in Ion Channel Physiology" on Sunday, April 2 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM in the Convention Center, Room 274/276. This symposium will highlight the development and use of novel technologies, and describe the ways in which these approaches are advancing our understanding of ion channel function and transforming the treatment of a variety of diseases. Look for the full program on-line at www.the-aps.org/meetings/eb06/abs/lwic-martin.htm.

The Novel Disease Model Award will be granted to a graduate student and a postdoctoral fellow who submit the best abstracts at EB2006 that describe a novel disease model. The model can be in vitro or in vivo but should clearly emphasize the potential utility of the system for future research related to a disease. The award is $500 for the graduate student and $800 for the postdoctoral fellow and is sponsored by the LWIC.

You're invited! Come meet and eat with your fellow physiologists who are working in the corporate sector. The 6th Annual Liaison With Industry Committee Mixer at EB2006 is on Sunday, April 2, 5:45-7:15 PM in room Pacific A of the Marriot Hotel.

Craig F. Plato, Ph.D.