

Nephrology Division Newsletter

May - June 2019

Announcements

- We bid a fond farewell to **Sally Bae** who left her Assistant CRC position supporting Dr. Elaine Ku to begin medical school. We warmly welcome **Dhiraj Nallaothula** who has started as Dr. Elaine Ku's new Assistant CRC.
- After more than two decades in that leadership role, **Dr. David Lovett** will be stepping down as SFVAMC Division Chief as of July 1st, 2019 to focus on his research. **Dr. Michelle Estrella** will assume the role of interim VA Division Chief.
- **Dr. Brian Lee** will be promoted to Professor as of July 1st. **Drs. Raymond Hsu, Elaine Ku and Meyeon Park** will become Associate Professors, **Dr. Christopher Carlos** Assistant Professor and **Dr. Nikolaos Skartsis** Instructor.
- Thanks to all who participated on June 10th in our annual San Francisco NKF Walk, team "UCSF – Keepin' It Renal"! It was another successful walk around the Embarcadero in very pleasant weather.
- **Drs. Elaine Ku and Kathleen Liu** are both serving on the ASN Grants Review Committee this year, reviewing the grant proposals for the ASN Foundation for Kidney Research's Career Development Grants Program and the Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program.
- **Dr. Deborah Adey** has successfully completed a "Women in Leadership" certificate program offered through Cornell online.
- **Dr. Brian Lee** is senior author of a case report "Bi-organ paired exchange – Sentinel case of a liver-kidney swap." AJT. 2019 12 April [Epub ahead of print], describing how UCSF performed the first liver-kidney swap in the world.
- At the American Transplant Congress (ATC) meeting held June 1-4 in Boston, UCSF Division of Nephrology KTU faculty members presented the following:

- **Dr. Flavio Vincenti** - Oral Abstract, “Outcomes and Clinical Utility of the kSORT Assay in the Prism Prospective Clinical Trial of Highly Sensitized Kidney Transplant Recipients”.
- **Dr. Jun Shoji** - Oral Abstract “The Use of mTOR inhibitors Prevents Acute Cellular Rejection in Kidney Transplantation on Belatacept Therapy” and Poster “HbA1c as a Noninvasive Predictor of Chronic Histopathologic Changes in Living Donors for Kidney Transplantation”.
- **Dr. Sindhu Chandran** - Oral Abstract “IL6R Blockade with Tocilizumab Increases Tregs and Decreases Early Graft Inflammation in Kidney Transplant Recipients: results of a Randomized Controlled Trial.”

Fellowship Program

- **Dr. Chi Chu** was awarded his own F32 fellowship grant DK122629 “Evaluating the Impact of Guidelines on Physician Prescriptions Practices in CKD.”
- **Dr. Sri Lekha Tummalapalli** first-authored a research letter “The Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Self-Reported Kidney Disease”. CJASN. 2019 May 16 [Epub ahead of print] and an editorial “Hyperfiltration: Much Ado about Nothing?” CJASN. 2019 Jun 7;14(6):789-791
- **Adrian Whelan, MD** wrote an AJKD blog on “Peritoneal Dialysis in Patients with Chronic Liver Disease and Ascites” (<https://ajkdblog.org/2019/05/19/nkfclinicals-2019-peritoneal-dialysis-in-patients-with-chronic-liver-disease-and-ascites/>). During this past year, Adrian has been a member of the 2018-9 inaugural class of AJKD’s Editorial Internship Program.
- On June 26th, we will be celebrated the completion of the Nephrology fellowship for **Drs. Patrick Ahearn, Christopher Carlos, Pardis Irannejad, Jason Law, Alan Moreno, Anoop Sheshadri and Nikolaos Skartsis**(from General Nephrology Fellowship) and **Drs. Yasir Alfi and Nicholas Herrera** (from Transplant Nephrology Fellowship).
- At graduation, **Dr. Adrian Whelan** received recognition as the 2017-2018 “Andy I. Choi, MD Memorial Scholarship” recipient. Criteria for selection include: academic promise as well as embodiment of kindness and generosity which we all so appreciated in Andy. And **Dr. Gabriel Loeb** was chosen as the “Clinical Fellow of the Year” for renal by the UCSF internal medicine housestaff.

- Our 2019-2020 new first-year ACGME fellows will be **Dr. Alex Dinh, Debbie Chen, John Demko, Lauren Ng, Omair Alam, and Sepehr Keyhani**. The two Kidney Transplant Fellows will be **Drs. Fadee Abualrub and Faizan Syed**.

Accomplishments and Awards

- **Drs. Chi-yuan Hsu and Meyeon Park** have a new R01 from NIH R01DK120551 “Living donor Extended Time Outcomes (LETO) study.”
- Congratulations to **Debbie Gilman, Kim Gorcyca and Victoria Toussaint** for receiving 2019 SPOT Awards. These awards recognize significant employee achievements and contributions for a specific project or task.
- **Cherie Ros** was the recipient of the 2019 Star Achievement Award, recognizing administrative staff for sustained, exceptional performance and significant contributions. Cherie has continued her professional development by recently completing the DOM Clinical Revenue Management Internship Program and the SOM Leadership Development Program.

Congratulations to all our award-winning faculty, fellows and staff.

For more news and updates, please follow us on Twitter @UCSFNephrology