

CJASN: A Premier Nephrology Journal

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In just 5 years since the first issue was published, *CJASN* has emerged as a premier nephrology journal. I feel privileged to assume the position of Editor-in-Chief of *CJASN* and am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead the journal through the next stages of growth. Before describing our vision and plans, I want to thank the many talented and dedicated individuals responsible for the successful establishment of *CJASN*. Bill Bennett, as founding Editor-in-Chief of *CJASN*, worked tirelessly to launch a new journal. Bill has been an inspirational leader, and I welcome the responsibility to continue and to expand on his work. In his new role as Editor-in-Chief, Emeritus, I am grateful that Bill has agreed to serve as a special advisor to maintain his involvement with *CJASN*. The impressive success of *CJASN* can also be attributed to the devoted effort and attention of the Deputy Editors Harv Feldman and Mo Sayegh, as well as the panel of superb associate editors and other editors.

Transitions present new opportunities; thus, it is with great enthusiasm that I welcome the new Editorial Team. These individuals compose a carefully selected and highly respected group of practicing nephrologists and outstanding clinical investigators. We all will benefit from the leadership of Dr. Paul Palevsky, who will serve as the Deputy Editor. Paul is a world renowned physician-scientist, who exemplifies the high scientific standards we will use as a benchmark for articles published in *CJASN*. The exceptional group of associate editors, with their diverse backgrounds and expertise, will oversee the process of selecting manuscripts for publication. Members of this Editorial Team will bring their individual perspectives, maintain balance, and ensure the journal's receptiveness to the newest and most exciting work in all subject areas. In addition, they will further the mission of *CJASN* as a leading resource in the field of nephrology by ensuring that accepted manuscripts are clearly written and add substantively to the existing literature. The new associate editors are Drs. Michael Allon, Lakhmir "Mink" Chawla, Jeff Fink, Linda Fried, Susan Furth, David Goldsmith, Braden Manns, Barbara Murphy, Mark Perazella, Katherine Tuttle, and Elaine Worcester. The new International Editors, who will assist in expanding the global perspective and impact, are Drs. Angela Wang and Nestor Schor.

CJASN is a 24/7 operation, deftly managed by highly talented and skilled individuals who keep the workflow moving smoothly. We are grateful that Bonnie O'Brien, with her experience and dedication,

will continue as the managing editor and ensure that the Editorial Team, reviewers, and submitting authors remain on track and on time. American Society of Nephrology staff members Adrienne Lea and Bob Henkel play critical roles for *CJASN* and have been instrumental in the design and implementation of the planned changes for the journal. Manyee To, my valued assistant for the past 3 years, will take on the additional responsibility as the new editorial assistant.

I have high hopes and expectations for the next 6 years. A priority will be to enhance the quality of all of the material we publish. We will devote substantial attention to clarity of presentation. Our high standards will require that authors present their work in a way that enables our readers to interpret easily the text, figures, and tables and to demonstrate clearly how their study adds to the current literature. Because nephrologists are continuously exposed to large amounts of new information, our goal is to publish in *CJASN* compelling material that will make an important contribution to the evidence base.

CJASN will solicit and publish high-quality reviews and will continue several popular series. Over the next year, we will launch several innovative new series that are timely and directly relevant to clinicians and clinical investigators. Public policy affects us all, yet there is a general lack of understanding and appreciation of its impact. We are fortunate to welcome the thoughtful and experienced Dr. Robert Rubin as editor of our Public Policy Series. *CJASN* will use its electronic publishing capability to disseminate rapidly timely, topical commentaries on public policy relevant to our audience.

A fundamental component of *CJASN's* mission is education. The audience for *CJASN* is diverse; thus, an individual with the experience and passion to expand the educational impact of *CJASN* is vital to our success. We are delighted that Dr. Jeff Berns, an experienced educator and practicing nephrologist, will serve as editor of our Education Series. The first feature to be launched will be Attending Rounds, which promises informative and thought-provoking discourse for both aspiring and established nephrologists.

We will take an exciting and creative new approach to the traditional journal club, which is held weekly in renal divisions and clinical practices around the world. During preparation for the presentation of an article and during journal club discussions, questions

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frequently arise that only the authors can address. Previous options, such as letters to the editor, were suboptimal because they were time limited and did not allow for ongoing, broad-based discussion. To enhance the value of journal club and to address these limitations, we will select one or more articles in each issue and invite the authors to participate. Through the *CJASN* web site, the authors will respond to posted questions soon after the article is published and even long after if new questions arise. This novel approach is the brainchild of Dr. David Goldfarb, a consummate teacher and investigator, who will be our eJournal Club Series editor.

From the urinalysis to pathology, nephrology is a visual specialty. We have designed a new *CJASN* cover that will present each month an image that challenges our readers to answer, "What's the diagnosis?" Inside, a brief description of the image and discussion of the clinical significance will be provided. We gladly welcome submissions.

As you may have noticed when *CJASN* arrived in your mailbox or your inbox, we have modernized the journal's exterior and interior. We hope these changes improve your overall experience when reading *CJASN*.

Technology provides tremendously exciting opportunities. Articles in *CJASN* will soon be more interactive and useful to the reader and will allow authors to post novel supplemental material. We will implement improved formatting to ensure compatibility with various reading devices, acknowledging the movement to expanding use of electronic versions. Links will be imbedded within the text, making articles dynamic and more educational. Podcasts will provide our audience with yet another option to stay abreast of the literature.

Our review process will be enhanced in several ways. We will maintain our focus on rapid and high-quality reviews. This will be facilitated by our outstanding Editorial Board members, who have com-

mitted to performing reviews for *CJASN* on a regular basis (see the new list of Editorial Board members in this issue). Given the expected continued increase in the number of submissions, we will work expeditiously while carefully considering each manuscript. We will continue to strive to make the process, from submission through peer review and final publication, as smooth as possible.

Concerns about conflicts of interest have garnered considerable attention in the lay press, casting a shadow of skepticism over the medical literature. Interactions between academic centers and industry can be beneficial for science and patients, but these relationships should be public and transparent. Going forward, we will ask all authors to complete the ICMJE conflict of interest form as part of the submission process. Furthermore, in our commitment to increased transparency, completed ICMJE forms are available on the *CJASN* web site for all members of the Editorial Team (*i.e.*, editor-in-chief, deputy editor, and associate editors) as well as Editorial Board members. Not unexpected, many of these experts do have relationships with the private sector; we hope the disclosure and availability of these relationships will reduce concerns about conflict of interest. Of course, members of the Editorial Team will recuse themselves whenever there is a potential conflict.

I am eager to hear your ideas, and I encourage you to contact me directly at GCurhan@partners.org. In the near future, we will perform a reader survey to determine how we can better serve our audience.

As clinicians and clinical investigators, we strive to prevent the development of disease and to improve the care of individuals with renal-related conditions. I am confident that *CJASN* will continue to play a vital role in achieving these goals.

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