Appreciation, Gratitude, and Looking Forward

Gary Curhan

As CJASN continues to advance and innovate, it is gratifying to see the tremendous growth in the number of high-quality manuscripts submitted for consideration. As a result, the selection of manuscripts for publication has become a privilege and a challenge (our acceptance rate is now 15%).

The success of the journal is directly related to the hard work and devotion of the individuals who make up the CJASN team. We are very fortunate to have two extraordinary Deputy Editors who provide wise counsel and serve as role models for the nephrology community. A long overdue welcome goes to Dr. Kirsten Johansen, a widely recognized and distinguished scientist and clinician, who has been an invaluable addition and brings substantial journal editor experience to our team. Her attention to detail and commitment to quality continue to raise the bar for the articles we publish. Dr. Paul Palevsky, an internationally recognized nephrologist and investigator, cultivates the highest-quality invited material with his scientific acumen and discerning oversight. Paul’s determination and devotion to the new Renal Physiology Series, being launched in the July issue, exemplifies his commitment to education, scientific rigor, and clinical excellence.

We are deeply grateful to Dr. Barbara Murphy, Dr. Braden Manns, and Dr. David Goldsmith for their invaluable dedication and 3 years of service as Associate Editors for CJASN. The contributions of each of these talented individuals are immeasurable. We are thrilled to welcome three very accomplished clinicians and scientists as new Associate Editors. Dr. Roslyn Mannon is a highly respected transplant nephrologist and recent past-president of the American Society of Transplantation. Dr. Ann O’Hare is admired for her extensive research on older adults and end-of-life care in renal patients. Dr. Vlado Perkovic, Executive Director of the esteemed George Institute for Global Health in Sydney, Australia, brings his highly regarded expertise in clinical trials and meta-analysis and shares an international perspective. These three new Associate Editors join the exceptional group of individuals who have served as outstanding Associate Editors for the past 3 years and will continue to serve another 3-year term: Drs. Michael Allon, Lakhirnir (Mink) Chawla, Jeffrey Fink, Linda Fried, Susan Furth, David Goldfarb, Mark Perazella, and Katherine Tuttle. These individuals, who are all practicing nephrologists, serve the most important role in the review of original manuscripts. The quality of our published manuscripts is a testament to their knowledge, experience, and passion for science and clinical care.

The manuscript evaluation process fundamentally relies on, and benefits from, the expertise of the hundreds of reviewers who provide their constructive feedback to the authors and editors, and we are grateful for their considerable time and effort. We are particularly indebted to our outstanding Editorial Board, whose guidance ensures a consistent level of excellence. I would like to give a very special thank you to our dedicated Editorial Board members who have completed their 3-year terms; their wisdom and insight have been invaluable assets. Please join me in welcoming our new members to the Editorial Board, whose names are listed in the front of each issue. We truly benefit from the talents of so many superb professionals.

The journal has benefitted greatly from the skillful management of CJASN Managing Editor, Shari Leventhal, whose focus on continuous quality improvement, timeliness, and “author support” has tremendously enhanced all aspects of the journal.

We are very appreciative of the willingness of the CJASN Editors and Editorial Board to adhere to CJASN’s standards for reporting conflicts of interest. Given the significance of reporting potential conflicts of interest, the CJASN Editors and Editorial Board are asked to update their disclosures on an annual basis, and the full disclosures are posted on the CJASN website. Completion of disclosures is required for participation on the CJASN Editorial Team and Editorial Board. The 2014 disclosures are available on the CJASN website.

As Editor-in-Chief, I find it gratifying to see the great strides the journal has made toward the paramount goal of publishing material that meets the highest standards for quality and clarity. As we reflect on the journal’s past accomplishments and progress, the collective enthusiasm, energy, and creativity of our contributors, editors, and readership inspire our ongoing attention to continued improvement, growth, and expansion while we strive for excellence.

It is with great excitement that we launch several new series. Renal Physiology for the Clinician, edited by the experienced educators Dr. Melanie Hoenig and Dr. Mark Zeidel, will begin in print in July and will ultimately include 18 articles. This series will review key aspects of renal physiology, highlight recent advances in our understanding, and present clinically relevant examples. Our goal for this series is to create a readily accessible review of material that will serve as a valuable resource.
and update for practicing physicians as well as an educational tool for teaching trainees and medical students. The Immunology Series, currently being developed by Dr. Fadi Lakkis, will complement the Renal Physiology Series by reviewing key aspects of immunology. The Education Series, under the leadership of Dr. Suzanne Watnick, will discuss tools, techniques, and challenges related to nephrology education, not only for nephrology fellows but also for residents and medical students. Dr. Robert Provenzano and Dr. Jeffrey Hymes have begun to invite manuscripts for the Role of the Medical Director Series. This series will focus on the role of the medical director and will serve as a resource for practicing nephrologists and for educating nephrology trainees.

We are also pleased to continue with several of the journal’s successful series. Dr. Jeff Berns has done a wonderful job editing Attending Rounds, wherein experts provide their recommendations for the evaluation and treatment of challenging clinical situations. I want to thank Jeff for his tireless work and wish him well as he assumes a new role as president of the National Kidney Foundation. We welcome Dr. Mitch Rosner, who will be taking over for Jeff this fall. I am confident that Attending Rounds will maintain its high quality and broad audience under Mitch’s leadership. I wish to offer heartfelt thanks to Dr. Bob Rubin, who used his government, business, and clinical experience and expertise to launch the well regarded Public Policy Series. We welcome Dr. Alan Kliger in his new role as Editor of the Public Policy Series and look forward to the invited articles, which will appear on a regular basis in CJASN. We are grateful to Dr. Alvin “Woody” Moss, Editor of the ongoing Ethics Series, who has helped our readers recognize and evaluate the many important ethical issues that we face daily.

Dr. David Goldfarb continues to expand the reach of the CJASN electronic journal club (eJC). David’s devotion and enthusiasm have improved the eJC experience, and he has recently begun to engage fellows and junior faculty at a variety of institutions through the recent addition of a monthly host. We hope you will participate in the stimulating online discussion between readers and authors. Please contact David (DGoldfarb@cjasn.org) or me if you would like to host an eJC session.

In our interactions with the submitting authors, we strive to make the review process as constructive and timely as possible. We are proud to report that the median time to first decision for manuscripts sent out for review is approximately 30 days. Manuscripts are published online within 3–4 weeks of author approval of the final proof and are published in print within 3–4 months.

CJASN’s web presence continues to expand. We hope you have had the opportunity to use the well designed and user-friendly CJASN app, thanks, in large part, to the thoughtful and creative input of Dr. Mink Chawla. On the CJASN website, figures from articles can be easily seen and downloaded, and information on downloads for all published articles can be easily seen. Active discussions between readers and authors takes place on the eJC site.

The nephrology community is extremely fortunate that Dr. Karl Nath assumed the position as the new Editor-in-Chief for JASN. Karl is an outstanding scientist and physician, and a thoughtful and considerate individual who has assembled an impressive new JASN editorial team. I am eager to work with Karl and I am confident that he will do a superb job leading JASN.

Our ambition is to have CJASN optimally serve the needs of readers. We welcome your suggestions for useful reviews, compelling and educational cover images, and creative ideas for improvement, with the hope this will make CJASN even more useful in helping us care for our patients and understanding the causes and consequences of renal diseases. Please contact me directly at GCurhan@cjasn.org. I look forward to hearing from you.