I am very excited to see you soon at the annual meeting of Chinese American Society of Nephrology (CASN) in the Sunny San Diego. Our meeting will take place this year on Friday November 6. We are fortunate to have Dr. Xueqing Yu, the President of Chinese Society of Nephrology, to deliver the keynote speech on the genetics of IgA Nephrology. I encourage all of you to attend the meeting because this is also a great social event for all nephrologists of Chinese heritage. Shortly after the CASN annual meeting, the annual meeting of Chinese Society of Nephrology (CSN) will take place, which will be held on November 18-22 in Zuhai, a beautiful city in Gangdong province. Several CASN members have been invited to speak at this meeting. With the help of Dr. Xueqing Yu, the Chinese Society of Nephrology has launched this year a new travel award for young investigators of CASN to attend the meeting. Two CASN members have been chosen for this award and will present their research at the meeting. Soon after the CSN annual meeting, the first International Congress of Chinese Nephrology will be held in Hong Kong on December 11-13. This meeting is organized by Professor Philip Li, and CASN is also a part of the organization committee. Therefore, we will have three major nephrology events in the coming two months. I hope all of you could enjoy these meetings.

After this year’s CASN meeting, I will step down from the President position and pass it to Dr. Shougang Zhuang. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your strong support to the CASN during the last two years. I have enjoyed very much working with you.

See you in San Diego!!!

John Cijiang He, MD/PhD
President, Chinese American Society of Nephrology
**Fundraising Activities:**

Any amount of donation will be greatly appreciated. It will also be greatly appreciated if you can contribute time and efforts to CASN. For membership dues, please follow this link (http://casn-online.org/join-casn--membership-renewal.html). For donations, please follow this link (http://casn-online.org/donation.html).

**Membership Drive:**
Membership application and renewal:

Please download the membership application and renewal form at http://casn-online.org/join-casn--membership-renewal.html. There will be an option of onsite application and renewal for membership at the CASN annual meeting. Check or cash will be accepted and receipts will be provided.

**News and Announcements**

**Annual Meeting**

Date: **November 6, 2015 (Friday)**

Place: **San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina, Ballroom C, Lobby Level, North Tower**

6:45-7:30pm Registration & Dining
   Sponsoring Companies
   Exhibition

7:30-7:40pm President’s Annual Report
   Summary of CASN activities,
   Introduce new President,
   Sponsor Acknowledgements

7:40-7:45pm Sponsors’ Greetings

7:45-8:00pm Young Investigator award

(5 min introduction by nominator and 10 min presentation from the awardee)

8:00-8:45pm Annual CASN Keynote Lecture
   Title: Genetics of IgA Nephropathy
   Xueqing Yu, MD
   Professor of Medicine
   Director, Institute of Nephrology
   The First Affiliated Hospital
   Sun Yat-Sen University

8:45-9:00pm Introduction of the New President

9:00-10:00pm Social time

10:00-11:00pm Board of Directors meeting

**CASN Booth at the ICCN**

CASN will have an exhibition booth at the first International Congress of Chinese Nephrologists (ICCN) meeting which is held on December 11-13 in Hong Kong.

**Congratulations to our members**

Fan-Fan Hou and Colleagues on their publications of “Efficacy of folic acid therapy in primary prevention of stroke among adults with hypertension in China: the CSPPT randomized clinical trial” in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*!

Xue-Qing Yu and colleagues on their publication of “Identification of new susceptibility loci for IgA nephropathy in Han Chinese” in *Nature Communication*!
John Cijiang He and colleagues on their publication of “RTN1 mediates progression of kidney disease by inducing ER stress” in Nature Communication!

Zhi-Hong Liu and colleagues on their publication of “MicroRNA-30 family members regulate calcium/calcineurin signaling in podocytes” in The Journal of Clinical Investigation!

Jing Zhou on her honorary professorship from People’s Hospital of Zhejiang Province!

The 1st International meeting on the Construction and Management of Nephrology Discipline in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China

The meeting, organized by Professor Qiang He, Vice President of Zhejiang Provincial People’s Hospital and chief of Division of Nephrology, gathered hundreds of practicing nephrologists and researchers from China, America, Japan and other countries. The meeting covered the latest progress in clinical challenges pertaining to kidney injury in common chronic kidney diseases as well as how to develop kidney research and provide exceptional patient care.

Featured faculty included Professor Jing Zhou from Harvard Medical School who discussed the history of polycystic kidney disease research; Professor Tetsuhiro Tanaka from University of Tokyo discussed about HIF as a novel therapeutic target in chronic kidney disease; Professor CB Leung from Prince of Wales Hospital introduced renal registry in Hong Kong; and Professor Bozhang Li from National Cheng Kung University Hospital reviewed organ allocation in Taiwan. Many experts in China including Professor Chuanming Hao and Ping Fu also gave excellent speeches on how to build and improve research and clinical care for better diagnosis and treatment of kidney diseases.

This meeting served as an excellent platform for exchanging ideas on both scientific research on and institutional management of the development of nephrology among the attendees.

In addition, a ceremony honoring Dr. Jing Zhou, executive director of the board of CASN, and the founding director of Harvard Center for Polycystic Kidney Research, with honorary professorship from People’s Hospital of Zhejiang Province was held at the meeting.

Annual Meeting of Guangdong Society of Nephrology

In September, a group of Mayo nephrologists, led by Professor Qi Qian, participated in the Annual Meeting of Guangdong Society of Nephrology 2015 (September 10-12). Following the Annual Meeting, the Mayo group...
visited Nanfang University and Sun Yat-Sen University, yielding extremely worthwhile exchanges of scientific information.

The Annual Meeting of Guangdong Medical Society was enlightening. It featured faculty speakers who are outstanding nephrologists and researchers in the field. There was prominent coverage of the major clinical areas of interest for practicing nephrologists from the southern as well as more remote areas of China. There were presentations on cutting edge scientific discoveries and translational research for researchers in the field. The information disseminated during the conference greatly benefited all participants.

Significantly, the conference was held in Guangzhou, a historical city featuring the Pearl River, which symbolizes consistency, endurance and flexibility, all qualities imminently needed as we face the rapid changes in the healthcare landscape and challenges in preventing and managing chronic kidney disease.

This was the Mayo faculty’s first visit to the Guangzhou Medical Society and Universities. The faculty visited Nanfang University and

Division of Nephrology, Nanfang Hospital, Southern Medical University

The Division of Nephrology at the Nanfang Hospital of Southern Medical University is designated as the National Clinical Research Center of Kidney Disease, a prominent recognition of its excellence in clinical investigation of, and translational, renal medicine. The Center is currently one
of the largest nephrology centers in China, and provides the state-of-the-art clinical care for more than 3,000 patients with kidney disorders each year. With its distinguished faculty, including academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and renowned physicians and scientists, as well as world-class research facilities, the Center is exceptionally well positioned to lead the fights against kidney diseases in China.

The Division consists of four units: an inpatient clinic with 139 beds, a dialysis facility with 83 dialysis machines, a renal pathology unit and the Guangdong Provincial Institute of Nephrology. The Division is also the home of the State Key Laboratory of Organ Failure Research, designated by the Ministry of Science and Technology, People’s Republic of China.

Professor Fan Fan Hou, the Chief of the Division, is a world-renowned physician-scientist in nephrology. She has made many seminal contributions to our understanding of the pathogenesis, progression and therapeutic intervention of chronic kidney disease (CKD). She is the Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Academician of the TWAS. She is currently the Vice President of Chinese Society of Nephrology and the Vice President of the Chinese Physician Association-Nephrologists.

Patient Care
The Nephrology Division at Nanfang Hospital specializes in diagnosis and treatment of a wide variety of kidney disorders, arranging from primary glomerulonephritis, secondary glomerulonephritis including hypertensive nephropathy, diabetic nephropathy, ANCA-associated vasculitis, monoclonal immunoglobulin-associated kidney diseases, to acute kidney injury and many others.

Currently, there are 139 beds for inpatient care. Every year, there are more than 60,000 outpatient/emergency visits as well as over 3,000 inpatients, who come from all over China, as well as from Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and Southeast Asia countries. The blood purification center provides treatment to 300 maintenance hemodialysis patients and 350 peritoneal dialysis patients. The drop-out rate is 11%. Over 1,000 renal biopsies and more than 670 pathological consultations are performed annually. Our renal tissue bank preserves more than 16,000 cases.

Research program
Apart from patient care, many clinical and basic research projects have been carried out in the Division. The clinical research program in the Center is focused on 1) developing therapeutic strategies to slow and halt the progression of chronic kidney diseases; 2) designing and testing innovative approaches for renal and cardiovascular protection; 3) identifying and validating new and non-invasive biomarkers for early detection, diagnosis and risk assessment; and 4) initiating large-scale epidemiological studies of kidney diseases in the Chinese population. The basic research program in the Division is mainly focused on understanding the mechanisms of, and developing new therapeutic strategies for, renal fibrosis.

In the past 5 years, the Division has obtained many major grants via national competition, including the Key Project grant of the National...
Basic Research Program of China (973 Program); the Innovative Research Groups grant from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC); the Distinguished Young Investigator grant from NSFC, and several Key Project grants from NSFC, among others. In past 5 years, the Division has published 79 peer-reviewed articles in well-respected journals with high impact factors including The Journal of the American Medical Association, Journal of the American Society of Nephrology and Kidney International.

Clinical research on approaches for delaying the progression of CKD
The Center is recognized internationally for its landmark clinical studies and innovative approaches in preventing and treating CKD. Through the well-designed, randomized clinical trials (RCT), studies in the Center, published in premier journals such as New England Journal of Medicine and Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, have established new and effective remedies for slowing CKD progression. These clinical studies have profoundly changed the concept of abandoning the use of RAS blockers in the population with advanced CKD and prompted a worldwide adaption in the clinical practice. They have also developed optimal pharmacological approaches for maximal renoprotection in patients with proteinuric CKD through titrating RAS blockers against proteinuria (ROAD study). These works are highlighted in ‘Cecil Medicine’ and ‘The Kidney’, and listed as the top 1% most-cited literatures by Essential Science Indicator (ESI). The studies have won international acclaim and are well recognized as one of the most important contributions to the clinical practice in renal medicine in recent years.

Research on approaches for renal and cardiovascular protection
The Center, through collaborative efforts with its hospital- and community-based alliance, has completed several large-scale epidemiological studies of CKD and its cardiovascular and neurological complications in the Chinese population, investigated the risk factors for CKD progression, and assessed the effectiveness of therapeutic intervention in community-based, mega-sample population studies. They identified tissue advanced oxidation protein products (AOPPs) accumulation as a previously unrecognized risk factor for CVD in patients on peritoneal dialysis. They have conducted several intervention trials for prevention of stroke and MI in community population with hypertension. Furthermore, the team has successfully isolated several novel compounds from traditional Chinese herbs with anti-fibrotic, anti-oxidative and anti-inflammatory activities. These works have been published in International Journal of Cardiology, Organic Letters, and other premier journals.

Basic Research on mechanisms underlying renal fibrosis and progression of CKD
The basic research program in the Division centers on elucidating the mechanisms underlying kidney fibrosis with a multidisciplinary approach. Over the past 5 years, the investigators in the Division have made a series of substantial contributions in this field by uncovering key fibrosis-related signaling pathways, identifying and characterizing risk factors and biomarkers, and developing novel strategies for treatment. They identified AOPPs as a novel class of pathogenic mediators promoting the progression of CKD as well as atherosclerosis, and further delineated the underlying mechanism. Recently, the group has uncovered that all of the RAS genes are the targets of Wnt/β-catenin signaling, and blocking this pathway hinders RAS activation. The work is published in the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology and is very highly regarded by the editorial comments by Journal of the American Society of Nephrology and Nature Review Nephrology.
Acknowledgements

We thank the following sponsors for their generous support of the educational activities of CASN.