I wish everyone a happy and prosperous year of the Monkey.

It is my great pleasure to be elected as the President of the Chinese American Society of Nephrology (CASN) and thank you for having given me the opportunity to serve this prestigious Society.

Over the past 26 years, under the leadership of its past Presidents, the CASN has successfully served nephrology professionals of Chinese heritage by promoting professional interactions among its members. The CASN has also proved itself one of the most influential non-governmental scientific organizations in North America. Under the leadership of the last President, Dr. John Cijiang He, the CASN has further enhanced and strengthened its mission as a world-wide organization.

While the CASN must continue to fulfill its mission to serve as a platform for information exchange and to encourage friendship and communication among members, there is a strong need for the organization to further expand by promoting more effective interaction and collaboration among Chinese nephrology professionals in academia and industry. In the next two years, we will extend the CASN’s influence in the following ways. First, we will continue to expand our membership by promoting public awareness of the CASN through academic activities with other major national organizations like the Chinese Society of Nephrology and the Chinese Association of Nephrologists as well as regional and local societies at the county and district levels. Second, we will improve the CASN’s financial situation by taking a proactive stance in providing young nephrology leaders with more opportunities to serve our subcommittees and inviting more industry leaders to participate in our annual meetings and other academic activities held by CASN. Third, we will continue to strengthen our collaboration with other organizations, in particular, the Societies of Nephrology in Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. In conjunction with these societies, we will co-organize workshops, seminars, meetings, and networking events to discuss collaboration among our members and members in other societies. Finally, as president, I would welcome any new idea, thoughts and perspectives beneficial to our society.

With efforts and inputs from all of us, we have recently amended the bylaw of CASN and elected our next President: Professor Qi Qian (Mayo Clinic, USA), a new Board member: Dr. Kathleen Liu (University of California at San Francisco), and three new Honorary Board members: Professors Fanfan Hou (Nanfang Medical University, China), Nan Chen (Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine, China) and Jianghua Chen (Zhejiang University School of Medicine, China). Congratulations to all of you! And welcome to join and serve CASN! Through all of our efforts, I believe that the CASN will continue to be the most valuable professional association to our members and to our community.

Shougang Zhuang, MD, PhD

President’s Message
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.

News and Announcements

Congratulations to Dr. Qi Qian for her election to be the President-in-Elect!

Congratulations to Kathleen Liu for her election to the CASN Board of Directors and for winning the CASN Young Investigator Award!

Congratulations to Drs. Fan Fan Hou, Nan Chen, and Jianghua Chen for their election to the CASN Honorary Board of Directors!

Qi Qian

Dr. Qi Qian is a faculty nephrologist and a Professor of Medicine and Professor of Physiology at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Mayo Graduate School, USA. She is the Director of Nephrology Hospital Practice at Mayo Clinic, Rochester. A graduate of the Shanghai Second Medical University, Dr. Qian received her post-graduate training in medicine and nephrology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine New York and was recruited to join the staff at Mayo Clinic in 1999. She has been an adjunct Professor of Medicine at Nanjing University School of Medicine in Nanjing and at Fourth Military Medical University in Xi’an China since 2014.

Dr. Qian’s professional focus has been on patient care, clinical/translational research and education in the area of renal tubular disorders. In the years of 2000-2008, she conducted basic science research on the renal/vascular pathophysiology through funding from Mayo Clinic and the National Institutes of Health (NIH-NIDDK) USA. Her expertise in renal and vascular physiology and pathophysiology adds an important dimension to her management of patients with renal tubular diseases.

Dr. Qian also leads the Mayo Clinic Acid-Base Electrolyte Interest Group and Acid-Base Electrolyte Subspecialty Clinic. She is the principal investigator on a number of studies examining the effects of electrolyte alterations and renal tubular function. Dr. Qian is an award-winning educator at Mayo Clinic. She has mentored a large number of trainees (national and international) and is an author and content expert for the “AskMayoExpert”, a popular Mayo Clinic web-based medical practice reference for clinicians all over the United States. She has been a board member for the Chinese American Society of Nephrology (CASN) for the last seven years. She currently serves as an Educational Ambassador for the ISN.

Kathleen D. Liu

Kathleen D. Liu is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Anesthesia, Divisions of Nephrology and Critical Care Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Liu was an undergraduate at Harvard University, where she graduated
magna cum laude with highest honors with a concentration in the Biochemical Sciences. She completed an MD/PhD program at the University of California, San Francisco; her PhD worked focused on signaling pathways downstream of the \( \gamma \)c receptor family, including the JAK/STAT pathway. She then trained in internal medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and in nephrology/critical care at the University of California, San Francisco. During her fellowship, she started working on the predictive role of biomarkers in acute kidney injury. Her work has subsequently extended to clinical trials for acute kidney injury and acute lung injury and to biomarkers for chronic kidney disease progression. Her currently funded research focuses on risk factors for acute kidney injury in collaboration with Kaiser Permanente of Northern California, and on the pathways that mediate the relationship between acute kidney injury and subsequent cardiovascular disease in patients enrolled in the NIDDK-sponsored ASSESS-AKI study.

Dr. Hou received her M.D. degree from the First Medical University of PLA in 1973 and Ph.D. degree from Sun Yat-Sen University School of Medicine in 1993. She joined the research team of the Renal Division at Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA in 1995 as a visiting scientist, working there until 1999, when she assumed her present post. Dr. Hou is board certified in internal medicine and nephrology. Her clinical research interest lies in CKD and AKI including both population-based and clinical trials. She had been the Principle Investigator of several randomized controlled clinical trials on CKD such as ESBARI, ROAD, and CSPPT, and is currently the National Adviser of the SONAR study, an international RCT trial on diabetic nephropathy.

In basic research, her interest lies in renal fibrosis and the mechanisms underlying progression of CKD. She is the Principle Investigator of the Major State Basic Research Development Program of China.

Dr. Hou, as the first and/or corresponding author, has published 75 papers in peer-reviewed journals such as New England Journal of Medicine, the Journal of the American Medical Association, Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, and Kidney International. She had won twice the National Award for Advances in Science and Technology (2004 and 2007) issued by the State Council, and the National Award for Best Clinic Service (2005) by the Chinese Society of Physician and Surgeon.

**Fan Fan Hou**

Fan Fan Hou, M.D., Ph.D., is the Professor of Medicine at Southern Medical University and Physician-in-Chief at Nanfang Hospital, Guangzhou, China. She is the Director of the National Clinical Research Center for Kidney Disease, and the Director of the State Key Laboratory of Organic Failure Research.

Dr. Hou is currently the Vice-President of the Chinese Society of Nephrology, the Vice-President of the Chinese Society of Physician and Surgeon -Nephrology. She was selected as an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (2009) and an Academician of the Third World Academy of Sciences (2012).

Dr. Hou, as the first and/or corresponding author, has published 75 papers in peer-reviewed journals such as New England Journal of Medicine, the Journal of the American Medical Association, Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, and Kidney International. She had won twice the National Award for Advances in Science and Technology (2004 and 2007) issued by the State Council, and the National Award for Best Clinic Service (2005) by the Chinese Society of Physician and Surgeon.

**Congratulations to Dr. XueQing Yu for being featured by The Lancet!**

**www.thelancet.com**

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Xueqing Yu: a driving force in Chinese nephrology
Born to farming parents in China’s Jiangxi Province, Xueqing Yu was among the first generation of his family to benefit from a university education. “I lived in the countryside and saw how difficult it was for people to have a good medical service”, he recalls. The idea of joining the struggle to improve health care was sown and, in due course, he became a physician: an academic whose career has taken him to the pinnacle of nephrology, his chosen specialty. Now Professor of Medicine and Director of Sun Yat-sen University's Institute of Nephrology in Guangzhou he’s also the current President of the Chinese Society of Nephrology.

Yu’s research interests, not least in the genetic basis of some forms of kidney disease, have built him a reputation that extends far beyond China itself. But any suggestion that his scientific achievements have eclipsed his concern for the practical needs of the people of rural China would be wrong. Recognising how the extent of kidney disease in China, especially away from its cities, made universal treatment by haemodialysis impracticable and economically impossible, he put his energies into the alternative: peritoneal dialysis. The result is the country’s largest peritoneal dialysis programme, currently dealing with more than 1000 patients in the hospital affiliated with Sun Yat-sen University, and thousands more in a network of nine further centres in southern China.

Yu graduated from Sun Yat-sen University in 1987. One of his teachers had encouraged him in nephrology as a rapidly developing specialty, and he opted to make it his career. He completed a PhD, then spent a year at Monash University in Australia. He relished his stint there as a source of new ideas and an opportunity to concentrate on research. 5 years later he spent 6 months in the USA at Baylor College of Medicine. He now says that while it was his dream as a student to work abroad, as a mature doctor he changed his ideas. He still values the experience, but it became clear to him that the needs of his own country had to come first. Yu was appointed to his professorship in 1998.

Professor Richard Johnson, Chief of the Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension at the University of Colorado, began collaborating with Yu during the latter’s time at Monash. They worked on a blocking antibody to a protein expressed in glomerulonephritis. Johnson describes Yu as a man driven by his interests and enthusiasms. “He has tremendous leadership skills. He loves research, he’s a proponent of good science, and he sets up a lot of collaborations.” He’s also impressed by the breadth of Yu’s research interests that range from the basic to the wholly clinical. Epidemiology looms large in Yu’s portfolio. The prevalence of chronic kidney disease in China is fairly high, with the north and southwest topping the geographical league table. Yu and colleagues have been investigating these variations; lifestyle (urban or rural), particular foodstuffs, and even altitude seem to play a part. More generally, China is experiencing the increase in diabetes and hypertension found in many other countries: increases that fuel a rise in the prevalence of chronic kidney disease. A 2002 report in The Lancet co-authored by Yu described chronic kidney disease as “an important public health problem in China” and suggested that “special attention should be paid to residents in economically improving rural areas”—this being the group with the most rapid rises in hypertension and diabetes.

Yu and colleagues have also been studying the genetic underpinnings of IgA nephropathy in Han Chinese and, among other things, comparing them with white patients. He’s long been interested in the implications such differences have for attempts to create international guidelines. “If there is no evidence
from China and other parts of Asia”, he comments, “we may certainly call them international guidelines, but not worldwide guidelines”. He also hopes to see his genetic insights contributing in other ways, such as assessing susceptibility to chronic kidney disease and identifying patients most at risk of a damaging progression of their illness. Wei Chen, Professor of Medicine in the Department of Nephrology at Sun Yat-sen’s First Affiliated Hospital, has worked with Yu since she joined the university more than 15 years ago. Besides Yu’s major epidemiological projects, she speaks of a clutch of cohort studies that he’s initiated: “For example he’s followed up chronic kidney disease and end stage renal disease patients trying to figure out the risk factors that are important in influencing mortality in Chinese populations.”

Yu has lived through times of unprecedented change in China. He welcomes the benefits these changes have brought: more opportunities to study or attend meetings abroad; more and better medical care; and a burgeoning research enterprise. Johnson recalls research visits he’s made with Yu to various regions of China, and describes his friend as “ebullient, high energy, kind, and keen to make friends with everybody”. Another colleague, Hui Yao Lan, Professor of Biomedical Sciences at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, has collaborated with Yu since the mid-1990s. “He’s a man who provides strong leadership”, he says. “He’s also very supportive to young clinicians and researchers.” There are two sides to Yu, adds Chen. “At work he’s strict and asks for everything to be done very carefully. But as a friend he’s a very happy man who enjoys, travel, eating, and singing.” To that list Yu himself adds mountain walking. “It gives more energy for work”, he says. “And hard work should be enjoyable.”

Once again, the annual CASN business meeting and award ceremony took place in the evening of November 6 in conjunction with the ASN Kidney Week. The meeting provided a platform for social gathering, clinical and scientific exchanges as well as business planning. More than 80 nephrologists and scientists from North American and Asian countries attended the dinner meeting to witness our CASN president Dr. John He give the business report and pass the baton to the next President Dr. Shougang Zhuang. We sincerely appreciate Dr. He’s outstanding leadership and congratulate Dr. Zhuang for his vision to take CASN to the next level.

This year, the young investigator award was presented to Dr. Kathleen Liu of University of California in San Francisco for her significant contribution to the clinical and translational research on acute kidney injury (AKI) and the impact of AKI on other organ failure. Two competitive travel awards were presented to Dr. Man Livingston of Georgia Regents University Medical college of Georgia and Dr. Ming Ma of Yale University to help offset the costs to attend
the Chinese Society of Nephrology Annual Meeting.

We thank Dr. Yuhua Liu for his tireless effort in organizing and ensuring the success of the annual CASN meeting. This year, Drs. Kathleen Liu and Hua Zhao became the lifetime members of the society. We would also like to acknowledge 18 members for paying annual membership dues at the time of the conference. Our society needs your support. Please continue to show your supports by paying membership or donating your time to help with the organization.

CASN actively supported the 1st International Congress of Chinese Nephrologists (ICCN) 2015

The Hong Kong Society of Nephrology (HKSN) initiated and hosted the 1st International Congress of Chinese Nephrologists (ICCN) on December 11 – 13, 2015 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. ICCN 2015 was co-organized by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong, with the support from the Hospital Authority of Hong Kong. The Conference was also endorsed by the International Society of Nephrology (ISN). The Congress was designed to bring together the international Chinese nephrologist community to showcase their academic achievements and to provide a platform for sharing the state-of-the-art clinical and scientific research.

Many CASN members supported the congress by active participation and delivery of lectures. The picture below shows a photo of five current and past CASN presidents and president-elect (Prof. Shougang Zhuang, Larry Chan, Jing Zhou, York Pei, Joseph Zhou, Qi Qian, John He), 6 current honorary board members (Prof. Jianghua Chen, Nan Chen, Hung-Chun Chen, Philip Li, Xueqing Yu, Zhihong Liu) and two past and current board members (Alfred Cheung, and Youhua Liu) with the current president of Hong Kong Society of Nephrology (KS Choi) at the Presidential Dinner at the first ICCN.

Altogether there were 3 Plenary Lectures, 12 Symposia, 6 Industry Sponsored Lunch Symposia and 4 Free paper Presentations.

CASN honorary board member Prof. Zhi-hong Liu delivered the HKSN Richard Yu lecture on new perspectives on the treatment of lupus nephritis.
CASN past president, current board member and executive director Prof. Jing Zhou delivered the HKSN Chan Woon Cheung Memorial Lecture on the decision-making process of a kidney cell.

More than 1,500 delegates from 19 countries attended the Congress. There were over 380 abstracts. More than 300 young nephrologists receiving Travel Grants as supported by donation from the HK philanthropists coordinated through Professor Richard Yu, Senior Advisor, to attend the Congress.

Six Best Abstract Awards and two Young Investigators Awards were presented in the ceremony.

Before the Congress, there were Peritoneal Dialysis Unit Visit, Renal Pathology Course and a Roundtable Meeting on Dialysis Economics and Health Care Policy.

Following the awards, there was a spectacular LED dragon dance performance in the Hall. Dr. Nancy Tung gave a breathtaking performance of Chinese Opera singing, “昭君出塞”, a lady Zhaojun bidding farewell over the frontier. Prof. Philip Li and Dr. Koon Shing Choi participated in a mapping dance, where performers interacted with a projected image to show the mission and vision of the Congress. All in all, the opening ceremony was a fantastic and energetic start for the enthused crowd to a historic congress.

The Congress was closed on December 13 with the presentation of Best Poster Awards. The 2nd ICCN will be held in Taipei December 8-10, 2017 and the 3rd ICCN will be in Nanjing, 2019.
International Network of Diagnosis and Management of Acid-base, Electrolyte, and Fluid Alterations
January 14-16, 2016
Shanghai and Hongzhou, China

In January 14-16, 2016, a three-day international activity, endorsed by the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) and the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and led by Professor Qi Qian from Mayo Clinic, took place in Shanghai and Hangzhou China in conjunction with the formation of the International Network of Diagnosis and Management of Acid-base, Electrolyte, and Fluid Alterations.

The goals of the Network are to re-focus the attention on the currently less-emphasized but fundamental aspects of human physiological and metabolic heredity, to provide healthcare professionals with integrated and translational updates, to foster cross-disciplinary collaborative multicenter translational research focused in this area, to update guidelines and to provide periodic educational activities (case-based teaching and conference). Ultimately, we hope to raise the knowledge level in the greater medical community, particularly in the fields of critical care medicine and nephrology.

These goals were articulated at the inaugural network group meeting in January 14, 2016 in Shanghai China. Experts from Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Brigham and Women’s Hospital Harvard University, University of Southern California Medical Center, Kansas City University, Policlinical Hospital, 2nd University of Naples Italy, Jiao Tong University Ruijin Hospital, and a number of major universities in China provided valuable inputs to the immediate and future plans for the network.

The network group meeting was followed by an adjunct CME course focused on the areas of acid-base, electrolyte and fluid regulations. A half-day case discussion session (January 14, 2016) was held in Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, headed by Professor Nan Chen and her teams. Physicians and researchers from many hospitals in Shanghai and surrounding cities participated. The session was followed by another all-day conference, held in Hangzhou (January 16, 2016) with the primary host Professor Jianhua Chen and his team from First Hospital Zhejiang University in Hangzhou. Initially, we anticipated approximately 200 attendees, but to our pleasant surprise, attendees reached 250. The lectures, delivered in English and Chinese, covered several key aspects of acid-base, electrolyte and fluid regulation in health and disease. We were delighted with the many questions following each lecture at the Q and A sessions. The entire day was filled with a scholarly atmosphere and excitement. Four of the lectures will be showcased in the next issue of the journal Kidney Diseases. The PDF copy of all lectures is posted on the conference website (http://www.westlakeforum.net/).

Based on the highly positive feedback from the exit survey, we, the founders and organizers of the network, are pleased to announce that the network will gather annually and organize similar activities annually.

The Chinese Society of Nephrology is pleased to welcome you all to this year’s Blood Purification Forum, which is scheduled in May 4-7, 2016 in Xiamen, China. The Forum will commence with a day of pre-congress international workshops on CRRT and AKI, followed by three full days of Congress
sessions focusing on hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, nurses and technician stuff. The expected attendance is estimated at 4,000.

CSN 2016 Annual Congress is to be held in Chongqing in October 12-15, 2016, concentrating on secondary renal diseases, especially Lupus Nephritis. Complementing the International Forum on Lupus Nephritis on Oct 12, 2016, there will be an extensive program covering clinical renal diseases, HD, PD, the Young Talent Forum, the CSN-ERA-EDTA Joint Meeting, and the Asian Renal Consortium, etc. The CSN takes great honor to invite nephrologists at home and abroad to attend the event, including 20 nephrologists invited from developing countries in the Asian region sponsored by CSN and APSN. An estimated 9,000 participants will present the Congress.

Furthermore, the CSN will be the host society of the 2017 Asia Pacific Chapter Meeting of International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis (APCM-ISPD), to be held in Guangzhou in March 22-25, 2017, as well as the 2018 Asian Pacific Conference of Nephrology (APCN), to be held in Beijing in April 18-21, 2018. The CSN looks forward to your attendance to these important events and welcomes you to China.

Division of Nephrology at Huashan Hospital, Fudan University

The Division of Nephrology at Huashan Hospital was founded in 1962 as the “Renal Group”. In 1963, the Division performed the first renal biopsy. In 1972, the Division successfully conducted the first kidney transplantation. During the past 50 years, two physicians from the Division have served as the President of the Chinese Society of Nephrology, Drs. Chuanlu Qiu (the 2nd) and Shanyan Lin (the 5th); Dr. Lin has also served the International Society of Nephrology as a council member. Under the leadership of these two great physicians, the Division of nephrology at Huashan Hospital has experienced tremendous growth in both clinical service and scientific research, and is now ranked as one of the top nephrology programs in China.

Patient Care The Division has a multi-disciplinary group of faculty that are engaged in the state-of-the-art patient care, research and education. Our patient care services cover all aspects of the clinical discipline including primary or secondary glomerular disease, tubulointerstitial disease, acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease (CKD), and renal replacement therapy for end stage renal disease patients (hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis and kidney transplantation). Furthermore, our Division has been recognized as one of the best centers in China for such sub-specialties as diabetic nephropathy, hypertension, electrolytes and acid-base disorder, systemic complications of CKD (bone-mineral disorder, cardiovascular disorder and anemia), lupus nephritis and HSP nephritis. In addition to the general nephrology clinic and in-patient service, the Division also has specialized clinics in Membranous Nephropathy, IgAN/HSPN, Lupus Nephritis, Diabetic Nephropathy and CKD, an out-patient hemodialysis unit, an in-patient hemodialysis unit, apheresis center, a PD unit, a transplantation program and a renal pathology service center. The Division sees over 50,000 out-patients, and performs more than 1000 renal biopsies each year. Our clinical service is not just limited to local patients, instead, more than 50% of our patients come from outside
Shanghai, reflecting an important contribution of this division to the patient care in nephrology in China.

**Scientific Research** Our research programs are directed toward translational research, with the goal of understanding renal diseases and developing new therapies. The research activities cover a broad range from laboratory bench to patient oriented investigations. Our current areas of research focus include (1) clinical and translational research on diabetic nephropathy; (2) phosphorous metabolism disorder in kidney disease; (3) bio-markers and risk factors for acute kidney injury; (4) metabolic disorder associated complications of peritoneal dialysis; (5) blood purification technique in non-kidney diseases; and (6) pharmacogenomics-based personalized medicine. We are also actively involved in phase II, III and IV clinical trials. Our faculty’s research is supported by Natural Science Foundation of China, the Administration of Health of China, National Key Basic Research Program of China (973), and the Shanghai government. During the past several years, our investigators have received a total of more than ¥20 million of grant awards. Our success in research is reflected from peer reviewed publications in high profile scientific journals such as Journal of Clinical Investigation, Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, Kidney International and etc.

**Education** We are also committed to educating the next generation of academic nephrologists and scientists. We offer several levels of training: undergraduate medical student training; post-graduate training; post-doctoral training and clinical fellow training. For our postgraduate and postdoctoral fellows, we offer training in combined clinical and research aspects of nephrology, including bench and/or patient oriented investigation. Many of students and trainees have been very successful in the career development and a number of them are now in a leadership position in nephrology in China.

**Acknowledgements**

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