

Chinese American Society of Nephrology **NEWSLETTER**

美洲華人腎臟學會

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members and friends,

I hope you have a nice summer so far. It is my pleasure to inform you that this year's CASN annual meeting will be held in the evening of October 30th, 2009 during the ASN meeting in San Diego. More details will be forthcoming and I look forward to seeing you all.



Through a joint sponsorship of CASN and ISN, I am delighted to inform you that a special Research Fellowship (US\$30,000/year, potentially renewable once) has been established to support an individual of Chinese descent from China or a developing country elsewhere who wishes to train in a host institution in North America where the Fellow's host mentor is a member of CASN and ISN. Although the first announcement of this Fellowship was made in June for the July 31 deadline, it will be deferred to January 2010 and will focus on IgA nephropathy (please see http://www.nature.com/isn/society/outreach/isn_20082.html for upcoming announcement).

In this Newsletter, you will find the highlights of the 2008 CASN meeting in Philadelphia. These activities, however, are only possible through the tireless efforts of volunteers who dedicate their time and expertise. We are currently looking for volunteers to help us in the following working committees for:

- Funding raising
- Website
- Newsletter
- Award

I would like to invite you to help in these activities. Additionally, please let us know any suggestions that you may have to improve CASN. Please email us at: CASN-L@listserv.bwh.harvard.edu.

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A WARM WELCOME TO TWO NEW CASN BOARD MEMBERS (BY VICKY LIM)



Christopher Chan, MD, FRCPC

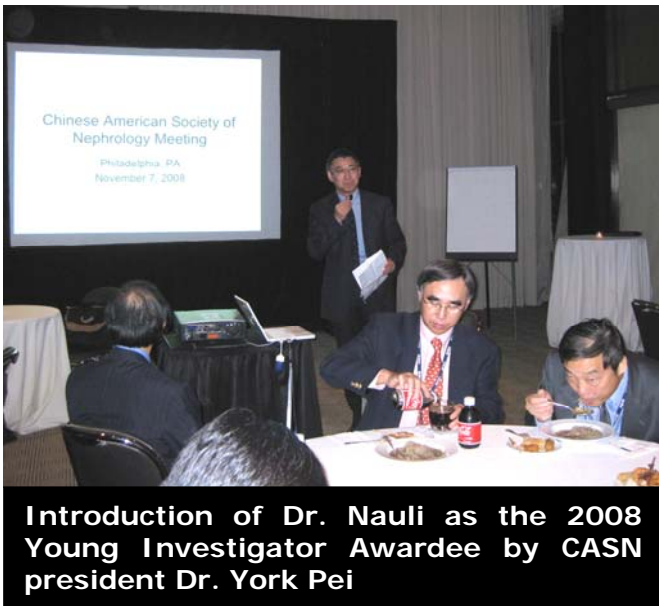
Chris was educated, trained and now works in Toronto. He is board-certified in Internal Medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (Canada) in Internal Medicine and Nephrology. At age 37, he garnered an Associate Professorship in Medicine at the University of Toronto. He is a skillful clinician, a successful investigator and an award-winning teacher. Equally important, he holds administrative positions in multiple academic/scientific organizations locally, nationally and internationally; he was the course director of "Home Hemodialysis Therapy" in 2008 for the National Kidney Foundation of the United States. His research centers on adequacy of dialysis dose using "nocturnal hemodialysis" as a model to monitor different physiologic parameters including cardiovascular function, nutrition/inflammatory status, erythropoiesis, bone health and endothelial cell biology. He is also an expert on the technology of telemonitoring during nocturnal hemodialysis. He listed 60 original papers in many nephrology, dialysis and transplantation journals. He also co-authored many book chapters on Nocturnal and Home Hemodialysis.



Qian Qi, MD, FACP

Qian received her MD degree from the Second Medical University in Shanghai, China and a P.A. degree from the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific in Pomona, California. Her residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Nephrology were completed at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. The fact that she was appointed chief resident speaks well of her leadership quality. Currently she is Assistant Professor of Medicine and Physiology at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. She is board certified in both Internal Medicine and Nephrology. Her research focuses on the vascular complications of adult polycystic kidney disease. She studied the role of polycystins in the regulation of vascular tone and the genesis of hypertension specifically in relation to intra-cellular calcium flux. She published many papers in the area of her expertise in prestigious journals. She received teaching awards and mentored many medical and graduate students. The success of her career was evidenced by her grant support, including those from the NIH, her visiting professorship and presentations of her work in many institutions and different meetings world-wide.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING



Surya Nauli WINNER OF 2008 YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD (BY JING ZHOU)

Dr. Nauli received his undergraduate degree in Biotechnology and Chemistry at Minnesota State University in 1997. He did his undergraduate research thesis in membrane esterase *apeE* with Drs. Christopher Conlin and Gregg Marg. Surya then joined Loma Linda University Medical School for his graduate study. He studied calcium signaling in cerebral vascular development with Dr. William Pearce and neuronal regulation in rat brain with Dr. Ahmmed Ally. He received his Ph.D. in June 2001.

In July 2001, Dr. Nauli joined the laboratory of Dr. Jing Zhou as a post-doctoral fellow to study calcium signaling in polycystic kidney disease (PKD). While working on calcium

signaling, Dr. Nauli and his colleagues found a cilia-dependent mechanism in regulating cytosolic calcium fluxes in kidney epithelial cells. This finding was published in *Nature Genetic* (*Nat Genet.* 2003 Feb;33(2):129) and became the most-cited work in the field of Molecular Medicine and Genetics according to the ISI Essential Science Indicators, December 2003. Localization of mechanosensory polycystin-1 and -2, products of PKD1 and PKD2 genes respectively, to cilia play a crucial role in tubular behavior. Using both animal models and human tissues, Surya and colleagues showed that cells must have polycystins on the cilia to sense extracellular fluid shear stress. Cells with mutations in polycystins lose their mechanosensory function to shear stress, which may trigger abnormal cell cycle behaviors. Mutations in polycystins also promote cell dedifferentiation, cell proliferation, apoptosis and possibly abnormal planar cell polarity. All of which are important factors that led to tubular dilatation and cyst formation in the kidney.

In July 2006, Dr. Nauli accepted a faculty position at the University of Toledo. He and Dr. Zhou are still working together to further study the functions of cilia in various organs and tissues. Dr. Nauli's laboratory is also independently pursuing the mechanism(s) of hypertension in PKD patients. More specifically, Surya is studying the biophysical and biochemical properties of cilia in endothelial cells. It is hypothesized that similar to epithelial cells, endothelial cells may also utilize mechanosensory cilia to sense extracellular fluid flow.

Dr. Nauli gave an excellent lecture at the 2008 CASN annual meeting.



Introduction of Dr. Nauli as the 2008 Young Investigator Awardee by Dr. Jing Zhou



Presentation of the 2008 Young Investigator Award to Dr. Nauli



Dr. Nauli discussed the role of the primary cilium as a mechano-sensor for extra-cellular fluid shear stress and in the pathogenesis of polycystic kidney disease



Dr. Nauli getting together with his Harvard lab colleagues and supervisor (Dr. Jing Zhou)

Professor K.N. Lai 2008 Special Guest Lecturer (by Qian Qi)

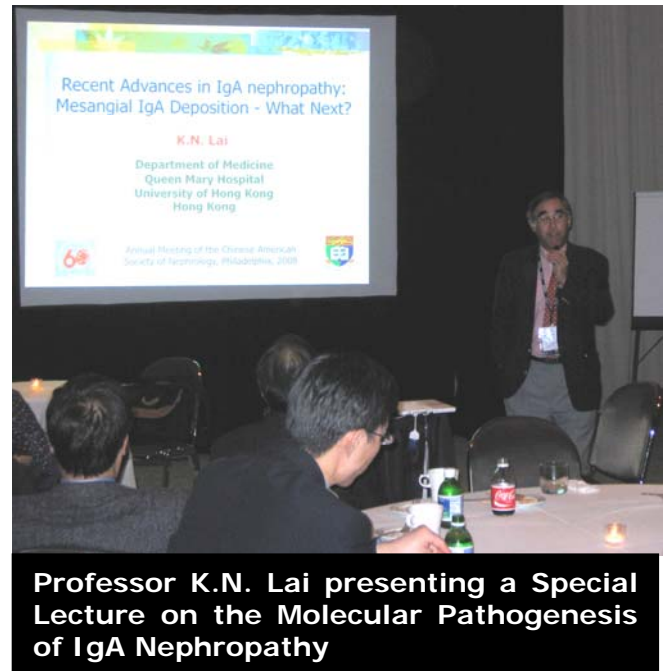
As an author of 450 scientific articles and 40 book chapters and editor of 2 medical reference books, Professor Lai is an award winning researcher and consummate teacher and educator. His distinguished work on IgA nephropathy and vasculitis-related glomerulopathy is well-known and highly esteemed in the field. He has served on Editorial Boards for multiple medical journals and Grant Review Boards for a variety funding agencies. He currently is the chair of the Department of Medicine and Chief of Nephrology at Queen Mary Hospital, University of Hong Kong. We were delighted with his acceptance for being the keynote speaker of the year.

The keynote speech, entitled "Recent Advances in IgA nephropathy", encompassed the pathogenesis of and recent seminal discoveries in IgA nephropathy. Areas that received specific emphasis included the variations in clinicopathological features in different ethnic groups, the potential significance of the reduced b1,3 galactosaminyl-transferases in underglycosylation of IgA1 O-glycans, and the possible signaling events triggered by mesangial IgA1 deposition.

Dexterously blended with humor and with simplified versions of complex concepts to aid understanding, Professor Lai delivered the speech in a firm and gentle tone of voice, concise but informative, reflected decades of cultivated labor, diligent pursuits, and indefatigable devotion of a physician scientist in understanding the pathogenesis of IgA nephropathy. Multiple candidate targets for further research were offered, which animated

the audiences, from whom ample questions were raised, and comments and suggestions offered.

The entire keynote lecture was scholarly and filled with the excitement of uniting bench research to clinical practice. At the conclusion, we came away more informed and aspired.



Professor K.N. Lai presenting a Special Lecture on the Molecular Pathogenesis of IgA Nephropathy

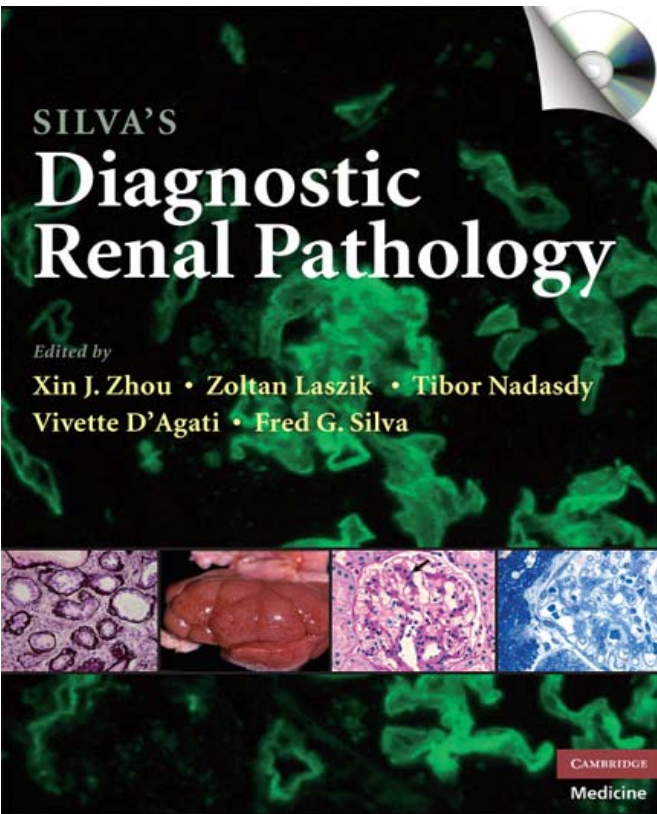


A photo-op of several CASN board members with Professor K.N. Lai and some of his Hong Kong colleagues



Fine food for the tummy before more "food for thought"

Congratulations to Dr. Joseph Zhou (a CASN board of director) and his colleagues for publishing an outstanding text book in Diagnostic Renal Pathology:



More information on this book can be found at:
<http://www.cambridge.org/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9780521877022>



More yummy food for the tummy!

The CASN is Now Soliciting Nominations for the 2009 Young Investigator Award for an individual with an outstanding record of achievement and creativity in basic or patient-oriented research related to the function and/or diseases of the kidney. This award is limited to individuals who are less than 41 years of age on the first day of the CASN meeting at which the award is presented or who are less than 6 years from the start of their first faculty or staff research scientist position beyond post doctoral training. Please send in your letter of recommendation with a CV of the nominee by August 28th to: CASN-L@listserv.bwh.harvard.edu

2008 Annual Meeting Sponsors

The CASN gratefully acknowledges the generous support from the following company and organization:

Genzyme and the Kidney Dialysis Foundation of Singapore