

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear CASN members:

When the leaves change color in autumn, it signals that the CASN annual meeting is just around the corner. I was once very eager for and enthusiastic about the perspective that we might have an annual meeting in person, as I miss all of you very much. Unfortunately, due to delta variant of COVID-19, we are still unable to meet safely in a large gathering. Therefore, this year CASN annual meeting will once again be held virtually on November 5, 2021, in the comfort of our homes or offices. You will find the detailed program of the meeting in this issue of the Newsletter.

I am pleased to report that we have assembled a wonderful and exciting program for this year CASN meeting by featuring two award lectures. As usual, we will have award presentation by the CASN Young Investigator Award recipient. In addition, starting from this year, CASN has expanded its award program by re-launching the "Distinguished Scientist Award" to recognize individuals with Chinese heritage who have made outstanding scientific contribution to the discipline of nephrology. The DSA represents the highest honor that CASN can bestow to an established investigator and recognizes her/his contributions that profoundly advance the science of renal medicine.

It is my privilege and pleasure to announce that Prof. Hui Y. Lan of the Chinese University of Hong Kong has been selected as the recipient of 2021 CASN DSA. Prof. Lan is widely recognized as a leading expert who has made extraordinary and sustained contributions in the field of renal medicine. His outstanding works have enormous impacts on our understanding of TGF- β /Smad signaling in kidney fibrosis and beyond. He is an inspiring leader in the international nephrology community and represents the world-class excellence in kidney research. Prof. Lan will present the DSA lecture and share with us his inspiring stories of scientific discovery during his long and distinguished career. We look forward to his lecture.

This is the last time that I write as the President of CASN. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your trust, help and support. It is truly a great privilege and honor for me to serve our community in this capacity. In retrospective, my presidency is coincident with and shadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which changes

President

Youhua Liu, Ph.D.
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA, USA

President Elect

Tianxin Yang, MD, Ph.D.
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT, USA

Executive Director

Jing Zhou, MD, PhD
Harvard Medical School
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA, USA

Secretary

Yong Yu, PhD
St. John's University
Queens, NY, USA

Treasurer

Rujun Gong, MD, PhD
University of Toledo College of Medicine
Toledo, Ohio, USA

Board of Directors

Hui Cai, MD
Emory University
Atlanta, GA, USA

Wei Chen, MD, MSc
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Bronx, NY, USA

Zheng Dong, PhD
Augusta University
Augusta, GA, USA

Rujun Gong, MD, PhD
University of Toledo College of Medicine
Toledo, Ohio, USA

John Cijiang He, MD, PhD
Mount Sinai Medical Center
New York, NY, USA

Youhua Liu, PhD
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA, USA

York Pei, MD
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Yanlin Wang, MD, Ph.D.
University of Connecticut
Farmington, CT, USA

Tianxin Yang, MD, Ph.D.
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT, USA

Yong Yu, Ph.D.
St. John's University
Queens, NY, USA

Jing Zhou, MD, PhD
Harvard Medical School
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA, USA

Shougang Zhuang, MD
Brown University
Providence, RI, USA

everything in a profound way and makes our everyday life extremely challenging. Nevertheless, CASN as a professional society has quickly adjusted its priority by organizing the donation to support our colleagues in the early phase of pandemic, speaking out to condemn the hate crime against Asia American, organizing annual meeting online and refining our award program.

Immediately after CASN annual meeting, Dr. Tianxin Yang will take the helm of CASN presidency. Tianxin is not only an eminent scientist in his field but also an inspiring leader in nephrology community. I have no doubt that CASN will be in good hand in the future under his leadership. I wish him and CASN nothing but the best!

Youhua Liu, PhD
President

CASN Annual Meeting 2021 Program (Virtual)

Date: Friday, November 5, 2021

Time: 9:00 pm – 10:30 pm (EDT)

Place: Your office or home

Login Information: Join Zoom Meeting: <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/94800416119>

Meeting ID: 948 0041 6119

Passcode: CASN2021

Program:

8:45-9:00 pm	Login & Virtual Reception
9:00-9:10 pm	President's Annual Report
9:10-9:30 pm	CASN Young Investigator Award Lecture Dr. Dong Zhou University of Connecticut (20 min: Introduction 3 min, Awardee presentation 12 min, and Q&A 5 min)
9:30-9:32 pm	Announcement of the Outstanding Trainee Award
9:35-10:10 pm	CASN Distinguished Scientist Award Lecture Prof. Hui Y. Lan Chinese University of Hong Kong (35 min: Introduction 2 min, Lecture 25 min, and Q&A 8 min)
10:10-10:15 pm	Short address by new President
10:15-10:30 pm	Social time and open to audiences for comments.
10:30-11:00 pm	Board of Directors' meeting

Membership

Membership application and renewal: Please download the membership application and renewal form at <http://www.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.

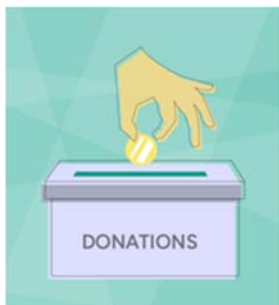
CASN member honored with a prestigious award



Dr. York Pei, the past president and current chair of the CASN award committee, was selected as the recipient of the 2020 Medal for Research Excellence by the Kidney Foundation of Canada. Congratulations to York for being honored by such a prestigious award. He is well deserved, and CASN is proud of his accomplishment.

Dr. Pei is a Professor in the Division of Nephrology, Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto. He currently serves as the Director of the Centre for Innovative Management of Polycystic Kidney Disease, University Health Network. Dr. Pei's research career has centered on identifying the genetic factors involved in the initiation or progression of genetic kidney diseases, as well as developing novel diagnostic tests and therapies. His research program focuses on genetic, genomic, and translational research of hereditary kidney diseases with a major focus on autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD). Dr. Pei also made important contributions to genetic research of other hereditary kidney diseases, including familial IgA nephropathy, familial nephrotic syndrome, and Alport syndrome. He was previously honored as the recipient of the Lillian Jean Kaplan International Prize for polycystic kidney disease in 2019.

CASN received donations



Recently, CASN gladly received generous donations from its members for supporting its program. Dr. Youhua Liu and his wife Lin Lin donated \$3,000 to provide the seed money for funding the re-launched Distinguished Scientist Award (DSA). Dr. York Pei donated \$3,000 to support the program of CASN Young Investigator Award (YIA) and Outstanding Trainee Award (OTA). CASN very much appreciates their generous gift and support. As a non-profit organization, CASN welcomes and relies on financial supports from various organizations, its members and friends.

Donation

Any amount of donation will be greatly appreciated. It will also be greatly appreciated if you can contribute time and efforts to the CASN. For membership dues, please go to <http://www.casn-online.org/join-casn--membership-renewal.html>. For donations, please go to <http://www.casn-online.org/donation.html>.

Acknowledgements

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



Renal Unit in Focus

Division of Nephrology at Tongji Hospital, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan



Introduction

Division of nephrology of Tongji Hospital was established in the 1980s. After 40 years development, it has been one of the top-level renal divisions in China. There are 50 nephrologists, 64 nurses, including 16 senior professional doctors, and 3 doctoral supervisors. Most of them enjoy high reputation around the country.

Health care

We provide all aspects of clinical diagnosis and treatment of patients with renal diseases. We specialize in primary glomerular diseases, secondary glomerulonephritis including lupus nephritis, diabetic nephropathy, ANCA-associated vasculitis, monoclonal immunoglobulin-associated kidney diseases, and end-stage renal diseases (ESRD), complicated vascular access and nutrition therapy for chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients. Now, there are 180 beds and 5 wards for inpatients care in our center, 120 dialysis machines and 35 CRRT for hemodialysis patients and intensive care patients, and a peritoneal dialysis center for more than 300 peritoneal dialysis patients. We have a clinic lab with ad-

vanced equipment and can carry out many kinds of tests to meets every patient's need, and is authorized to be the "National experimental base for clinical drug" in 2005. The Health and Family Planning Commission of Hubei Province officially approved the establishment of Hubei Provincial Renal Replacement Therapy and Research Center, affiliated to our department in 2019.

Scientific research

Our research interests focus on kidney injury and repair, renal fibrosis, lymphangiogenesis, gut microbiota and the gut-kidney axis, renal inflammation and stem cells therapy. More than 40 science projects have been carried out in our center, including the National Natural Science Foundation of China containing General Program, Key Program and Major Program, as well as Hubei province and the Ministry with a total funds over 10 million. The division published more than 100 SCI articles in the past five years.

In 2019, our research results were published on Science Advances (2020 IF 14.14), revealing that lymphangiogenesis as the core of acquired

immunity plays a core regulatory role in the progression of non-infectious and non-immune kidney diseases, providing a clear direction for the treatment of chronic kidney disease.

In 2021, our research results were published on *Cell Metabolism* (2020 IF 27.28), which was chosen as the cover image for the October issue of the journal. In this research, we report that the probiotic *L. casei Zhang* improves gut dysbiosis by regulating the production of short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs) and nicotinamide (NAM) to ameliorate acute and chronic kidney disease (CKD) in mice, while also slowing the progression of CKD in a human clinical trial. Our finding suggest microbial dysbiosis in patients with chronic kidney disease contributes to disease progression.



Medical education

Our division provides various kinds of training programs for physicians, graduate students and postgraduate students. We have carried out teaching reforms and introduced advanced teaching philosophies around the world. We paid much attention to personnel training, organized academic communication at home institution and abroad, and sent elites for further study in advanced hospitals abroad. We also engaged to develop international communication, and kept long-time cooperation with Massachusetts General Hospital (USA), Brigham and Women's Hospital (USA), Hannover Medical School (Germany), and Uppsala University (Sweden) and others.



The fight against COVID-19

In the outbreak of COVID-19, Director Xu Gang led the team to set up the "Kidney Care Team", consisting of 4 renal physicians and 20 hemodialysis nurses. We found cytokines in patients with severe COVID-19 serving early warning value, when patients are likely to start "inflammation of the storm", the choice of the appropriate time to intervene, setting individualized blood purification scheme, as much as possible to avoid multiple organ irreversible damage, practicing "mark moved forward, early intervention", had a 20% lower mortality rate. It was reported by many media and invited to long-distance online exchanges with the United States and Europe to preach "Tongji experience".

