

# NEPHROLOGY UPDATE

## Women in Nephrology (WIN) Celebrates 40 Years WashU Nephrologist Among Founders of National Organization

**"If** *one does not know history,  
you do not know how you came  
to be where you are."*

So says Washington University esteemed nephrologist Mabel Purkerson, MD, one of four founders of Women in Nephrology (WIN), a national organization that debuted in 1983 and today comprises more than 400 members dedicated to mentoring women and advocating for education and research within the field of nephrology that are relevant to women.

WIN celebrates its 40th year this December, and Dr. Purkerson says it's a success story built upon hard work and perseverance. "At the time WIN was founded, nephrology was changing as a clinical discipline," she said. "The largest change was the development of methods to treat patients with failing kidneys. First chronic dialysis and then kidney transplantation introduced new possibilities for the care of patients and increased the workloads for physicians who were experts in these diseases. In 1983, however, women were underrepresented participants in the new specialty, comprising only about 4.5% of the 3,600 members of the American Society of Nephrology at that time."

The four WIN founders — Dr. Purkerson along with Drs. Nancy Gary, Lois Katz, and Sandra Levison — met while attending professional meetings. Individually and collectively, they were encouraged by Leah Lowenstein, MD, and others to informally gather during annual ASN meetings and mentor younger women pursuing careers in nephrology. Dr. Lowenstein was the first woman to become dean of a co-educational medical school in the United States. All agreed a supportive environment for women in the field was critical.

"WIN initially encountered a chilly reception from ASN leadership," recalled Dr. Purkerson. "The ASN Council questioned the need for our organization and was skeptical of our stated purpose, which was to promote collegiality among women nephrologists."

With female nephrologists almost like "invisible people" on the national stage at the time, Dr. Purkerson notes proudly that more than 100 women attended the first meeting of WIN. Acceptance of the organization took time, but it became more positive over the years. As participation in ASN activities grew, more women joined both organizations. "Since 2009, six women physicians have been president of ASN," said Dr. Purkerson. "Today, one-third of ASN's 20,000 members are women and the organization offers not only collegial and mentorship opportunities but also professional career development programs."

Dr. Gary, who passed away in 2006, went on to become the second woman to serve as a dean of a U.S. medical school — in fact, two — at SUNY Albany and Uniformed Services School of Medicine. She is honored with WIN's Nancy E. Gary, MD,



**WOMEN IN  
NEPHROLOGY**  
REACHING FOR THE FUTURE

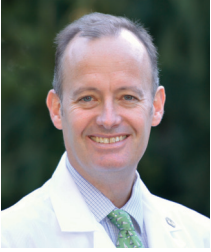


Professor Emerita Mabel Purkerson, MD

Memorial Lecture, given annually during ASN meetings.

Dr. Purkerson herself is a trailblazer in many ways. She was the first female instructor in the Division of Nephrology and rose to become the first female full professor in the Department of Medicine and the first woman to serve on the dean's staff, all prior to helping establish WIN. She also served as Chief of Nephrology for Washington University Medical Service, John Cochran Veterans Medical Center from 1973 to 1977. In 1998, she stepped aside, becoming professor emerita. She was instrumental in compiling material for a centennial historical book for the Department of Medicine and the history of the School of Medicine in the 20th century. She now is working with Thomas Pohlman, MD, on a history of the Division of Nephrology. Of her time at WashU and in WIN, Dr. Purkerson said humbly, "I tried to be the best that I could be to pave the way for women who would follow."

# Message from the Chief



As I walk through our Division's clinics, offices and laboratories, I am struck by the diversity of our team here at Washington University School of Medicine. That

diversity is the result of recognition and advocacy on the part of many to ensure that there is representation that reflects the patients we care for and the training we provide.

One of the great pioneers in advocating for women to be well-represented in the field of nephrology is Dr. Mabel Purkerson. A true physician scientist, Mabel was among the first physicians here at WashU who were involved in the first peritoneal dialysis case at St. Louis Children's Hospital in the 1960s.

She worked with Neal Bricker, MD, the first chief of the Division of Nephrology, and was at the right place in history to see Neal and Harvey Bernard conduct the first hemodialysis procedure in St. Louis. Excited about the new frontier that changed the course of kidney disease treatment, she became the Division's first female researcher (in Bricker's lab) and ultimately the first female Professor of Medicine.

The co-founding of Women in Nephrology was a natural step for her to mentor and advocate for young female nephrologists. Over the last 40 years, WIN has grown significantly in both numbers and prominence. Many of our faculty are actively involved, notably Anuja Java, MD, who currently serves as Councilor Three on WIN's Executive Council and co-chair of this year's WIN Fellows School for Leadership Education.

We all stand on the foundations that those before us have worked hard to establish. It is vital that we know and reflect on the rich history that moves our field and our Division forward. We also should recognize that great leaders and pioneers are all around us. As we celebrate WIN's 40th anniversary this year, I know we are all incredibly proud of — and grateful for — the decades of scientific discovery, mentorship, and advocacy by Mabel Purkerson.

Benjamin D. Humphreys, MD, PhD  
Joseph P. Friedman Professor and Chief  
Division of Nephrology  
Washington University School of Medicine

## Thank You!

We thank the following individuals and organizations that generously donated to our division February 2023 – August 2023.

Mrs. Stacy Deleste  
Dr. Arvind Garg  
Ms. Dipika Garg  
Dr. Tingting Li  
Ms. Patricia M. McKeivitt

Dr. Jose Rueda  
Mrs. Melissa Wette  
Dr. Eduardo Slatopolsky  
Trivia And Poker Buddies

## Support the Division of Nephrology

If you would like to support our research and teaching mission or contribute to the Division of Nephrology's programs and services, please send your contribution to:

Washington University in St. Louis  
Office of Medical Alumni and Development  
Attn: Rachel A. Hartmann  
7425 Forsyth Blvd.  
Campus Box 1247  
St. Louis, MO 63105

You may also contact Rachel A. Hartmann directly at 314-935-9715 or by email at [rachel\\_hartmann@wustl.edu](mailto:rachel_hartmann@wustl.edu) if you are considering supporting the Division through appreciated stocks, deferred giving, beneficiary plans or other assets.

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### Nephrology Fellowship

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### Nephrology Transplant Fellowship

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Laura Kipper  
Transplant Fellowship Program Coordinator  
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# Fellowship Notes



**Seth Goldberg, MD,**  
Program Director

I am delighted to step into the leadership role for the Nephrology Fellowship Training

Program after serving for a decade as an Associate Program Director and benefiting from the mentorship of former Program Director Steven Cheng. Steven, as you may recall from our last issue, has moved on to a similar but larger role for all of Internal Medicine. Frank O'Brien continues in his capacity as Senior Associate Program Director and Morgan Schoer joins our team as Associate Program Director after having

completed her training at our program this past Spring.

Our program charges ahead with another sensational group of fellows, with six new trainees joining our team along with two Transplant Fellows. With fourteen trainees in all, we can maintain a high level of flexibility and can individualize the curriculum to suit the career goals of our fellows, whose interests span onco-nephrology, critical care nephrology, transplantation, and interventional nephrology, to name just a few. With the recent unveiling of the Glomerular Disease Center of Excellence, we anticipate offering a specialty fellowship in glomerular diseases soon.

Adding another consult service in 2022 allowed our program to streamline teaching services both in location and size. Geographic localization with the North Campus service has lessened the need for cross-campus walking and given that service a decidedly onco-nephrology flavor. The other end of the campus is undergoing new construction and we anticipate maintaining a cardiac theme to one of the South Campus consult

services. Non-teaching services staffed by attendings and physician extenders also have enabled us to decompress the consult services and maintain an average census of twenty patients each, which provides for a manageable load without compromising the wide breadth of renal disease managed by the fellows or their education and training.

As part of our commitment to maintain an educational environment most conducive to learning and physician well-being, we have further remodeled our fellows' area within the footprint of our Nephrology office space. An expanded workspace fills out the corner of our 8th floor, while a fully-stocked coffee-maker, refrigerator, and flat-screen TV adorn the fellows' dedicated breakroom. We have a dedicated "Zoom Room" for virtual conferences and a new call room complete with a memory foam mattress (size XL, to accommodate even our tallest fellows!). While afterhours calls are covered by a Night Float fellow and taken primarily as home call, having a dedicated space in which to relax within the immediate premises of the academic offices has been a much-welcomed addition by the fellows for those times when patient care has necessitated a return to the hospital.



Some of our awesome current fellows in our Nephrology Fellowship Training Program!

## Egress

We congratulate the following physicians who recently graduated from our Nephrology Fellowship Program and are moving on to the next phase of their careers:



**Jonathan Jakubowski, MD**  
Billings Clinic  
Billings, MT



**Morgan Schoer, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Washington University  
School of Medicine



**Zoey Levine, MD**  
Midwest Nephrology  
Associates  
St. Peters, MO



**Nyein Chann Wai Lynn, MBBS**  
Lynchburg Nephrology  
Physicians, PLLC  
Lynchburg, VA



**Scott Stockholm, DO**  
Critical Care Fellowship  
Medical University of  
South Carolina  
Charleston, SC



**Ojaswi Tomar, MD**  
Assistant Professor of  
Medicine  
West Virginia University  
Morgantown, WV

## Transplant Fellows



**Gaurav Rajashekar, MD**  
Assistant Professor in  
Transplant Nephrology  
University of Louisville  
Louisville, KY



**Mahathi Kalipatnapu, MD**  
Sarah Bush Lincoln  
Memorial Hospital  
Mattoon, IL

# Alumni Connections

## Thomas Pohlman, MD

WU Nephrology Fellow, 1979-1981  
WU Nephrology Faculty, 1981-1983



Thomas Pohlman, MD, is on a mission. He is working with Mabel Purkerson, MD, to write a history of Washington

University's Division of Nephrology to be completed in time for the 70th anniversary of the division in 2026. The two are perfect partners as both are ardent history buffs. "I had given a lecture on the history of dialysis in 2019, and I mentioned to her that we should document the remarkable history of the renal division," said Dr. Pohlman. "She was incredibly enthusiastic as long as I would be her willing collaborator."

The two now are moving at a frenetic pace to gather information and talk with faculty members such as Eduardo Slatopolsky, Herb Lubowitz, and former division chief Marc Hammerman, among others. "Dr. Hammerman did an interview with Neal Bricker a few years ago that we also have reviewed," said Dr. Pohlman. "We still have a long way to go, but I think we can have this project finished in time."

Dr. Pohlman has a strong connection to WashU. He is a former medical student, nephrology fellow and faculty member and served as the medical director of the hemodialysis unit at the Jewish Hospital of St. Louis from 1981 to 1983. He also is the founding director of the hospital's Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) program. After moving to Kentucky briefly he returned to St. Louis to St. Luke's Hospital in Chesterfield, where he remains today as Chief of Nephrology and a member of the core faculty for the hospital's Residency in Internal Medicine Program. "Almost all of the nephrology faculty at St. Luke's came from WashU — Paul Mennes, Steven Bander, Anibal Melo, Sadaf Sheikh and myself," he said. "One of our proudest accomplishments is that we have guided several residents here into

nephrology, including Drs. Anitha Vijayan and Reena Gurung at WashU."

Of his own memories, he remembers his medical school nephrology rotation with Dr. Lubowitz, who lit a spark for Dr. Pohlman to pursue a career in the field. Aubrey Morrison was an early research mentor as was Jesse Yates, an African American biochemist and chief technician in both Bricker's and Saulo Klahr's labs. He laughs as he recalls getting married to his wife, Elsie, in 1980. "I was assured by Dr. Klahr that I could take as long as I liked for my honeymoon," he said. "We were married on a Friday and went on our honeymoon to Lake of the Ozarks the next two days. I called in on Monday, July 1 to check when I was needed to be back to start my second year as a fellow and I was told I could take as long as I liked, but I was on call that night!"

As for leisure time, Dr. Pohlman's hobbies revolve around his family and his garden, where he grows vegetables and fresh flowers to put on the kitchen table almost year round.

Stay tuned, he says — The history project is moving along and he, along with Dr. Purkerson, are on the hunt for more memories and information.



Dr. Pohlman with his wife, Elsie Winstead, MD, share a love of gardening.



The Pohlmans on vacation in Scotland at one of several castles they visited. Ever the history buff, Dr. Pohlman also made a side trip to Glasgow to see the statue and memorial of Thomas Graham. Dr. Pohlman notes that Graham, called by some the "Father of Dialysis," is credited with describing the diffusion of gases and liquids across a semipermeable membrane and the first use of the word dialysis.



Dr. Pohlman and Mabel Purkerson, MD, discuss the latest information for a book the two are writing on the history of the Division of Nephrology at Washington University School of Medicine.

# Program Spotlight

## Glomerular Center of Excellence Established

The Division of Nephrology has formally established a Glomerular Center of Excellence, led by Director Tingting Li, MD, MSCI. The Center builds upon the expertise, multidisciplinary care, and research that has been focused on glomerular diseases at Washington University School of Medicine for many years.

“We are seeing a growing number of patient referrals from throughout the St. Louis area and the surrounding states,” said Dr. Li. “We have had a dedicated glomerular disease clinic for almost a decade, but the broader Glomerular Center of Excellence will create a cohesive, collaborative program with the mission of improving patient outcomes through comprehensive patient care, education and research.”

The Center offers an interdisciplinary approach to the diagnosis and treatment of glomerular diseases, as well as the management of disease and therapy-related complications. There will continue to be close



Tingting Li, MD, MSCI

collaboration with Renal Pathology, the multidisciplinary Lupus Clinic, the Vasculitis Clinic, the Amyloid Center of Excellence, and Genetic and Genomic Services.

The Center of Excellence will also expand WashU’s glomerular educational programs, including the addition of an annual glomerular disease symposium which focuses on recent advances in the field. A monthly kidney biopsy conference will be available to local and regional nephrologists. Dr. Li also wants to broaden the depth of nephrology training by offering a dedicated glomerular disease track during the second year of nephrology fellowship. “We also plan to offer a one-year advanced glomerular disease fellowship to provide formal training in diagnosis and management of glomerular diseases, as well as opportunities in clinical research,” she said.

The establishment of the Center comes on the heels of exciting mechanistic and therapeutic advances and the recent approval

of several novel therapies for the treatment of glomerular diseases. “We have not had any new drugs for glomerular diseases in many years, so these approvals are significant,” noted Dr. Li. “There are still many more therapies being evaluated in clinical trials within the U.S. and globally.”

WashU is actively participating in multiple clinical trials focused on lupus nephritis, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, membranous nephropathy, IgA nephropathy, amyloidosis, complement-mediated diseases, and ANCA-associated vasculitis. In addition, a Glomerular Disease Registry and a tissue repository have been established at WashU Nephrology for researchers investigating the natural history and progression of glomerular diseases and to aid in the discovery of novel biomarkers that could aid in the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of these diseases. On the horizon will be the expansion of both translational and basic science investigations.

She added, “It’s a very exciting time to care for patients with glomerular diseases and to conduct research that leads to newer treatment options. I believe the Glomerular Center of Excellence is being established at the right time to accelerate that here at WashU.”

## Inaugural Glomerular Diseases Symposium

In September, WashU Nephrology hosted the inaugural *Glomerular Diseases Symposium: An Update on Disease Mechanisms and Management*, chaired by Dr. Li. It was an opportunity for nephrologists, nephrology trainees, advanced health practitioners, nephrology nurses and others to hear about the latest treatment advances and attend lectures, case presentations and panel discussions. WashU Course faculty included Dr. Li as well as **Benjamin Humphreys, MD, PhD**, Joseph Friedman Professor of Renal Diseases and Chief of Nephrology; **Anitha Vijayan, MD**, Professor of Medicine; **Anuja Java, MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of the Kidney Transplant Clinic at John Cochran VA Medical Center; **Joseph Gaut, MD, PhD**, Ladenson Professor of Pathology & Immunology and Chief of Anatomic and Molecular Pathology; rheumatologist **Alfred Kim, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Director of the Washington

University Lupus Clinic; and **Nidia Messias, MD**, Associate Professor of Pathology & Immunology.

The Division also was honored to have several guest lecturers and panel participants from across the United States:

**Kirk Campbell, MD**, Fishberg Professor of Medicine/Nephrology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in NY

**Fernando Fervenza, MD, PhD**, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Nephrology Collaborative Group at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN

**Duvuru Geetha, MBBS, MRCP**, Professor of Medicine and Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins Vasculitis Center at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

**Taewoo Lee, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine/Nephrology at Saint Louis University School of Medicine

**Ali Poyan Mehr, MD**, Director of the Glomerular Disease Program at Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco, and Founder/Director of GlomCon

**Dana Rizek, MD**, Professor of Medicine and Director of Clinical Trials Research-Nephrology Division, University of Alabama at Birmingham



One of several panel discussions that were held during the Glomerular Diseases Symposium.

**Brad Rovin, MD, FASN, FACP**, Lee A. Herbert Professor of Nephrology and Director of the Division of Nephrology at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

**Shikha Wadhvani, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Director of the Glomerular Disease Program at Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University

“A lot of talks centered around newer therapies for these rare diseases, and we had lively discussions during all of the panel sessions,” said Dr. Li.

## Kidney Tissue Atlas



Sanjay Jain, MD, PhD

Physician scientists at Washington University School of Medicine are among leaders of a multi-institutional research effort that has created a comprehensive

kidney tissue atlas to showcase cellular and molecular diversity in healthy and diseased kidneys. The atlas will help further understanding of kidney injury and disease.

“We created a benchmark atlas that others can use as a reference to get insights into how kidney disease develops and use as a blueprint to bioengineer mature kidneys in the lab,” said Sanjay Jain, MD, PhD, who led the study with collaborators across multiple institutions. “We looked at how kidney cells are orga-

nized, their molecular identities, and how they shift from healthy to diseased states. With this knowledge, we can start thinking about the drugs or small molecule targets that can prevent progression to disease or promote recovery from injury.”

WashU co-investigators include nephrologist Anitha Vijayan, MD; Joseph P. Gaut, MD, PhD, the Ladenson Professor of Pathology & Immunology; and Eric H. Kim, MD, an associate professor of urological surgery. They collaborated with members of the Kidney Precision Medicine Project and the Human BioMolecular Atlas Program (HuBMAP), and scientists from other institutions to complete single-cell and spatial tests on nearly 100 healthy and diseased human kidneys and create a 2D and 3D map of kidney cell organization and molecular identity. Their research revealed 51 main cell types, some rare and novel, in the healthy kidney and 28 related cell types

with features associated with injury or recovery.

Dr. Jain, who also is the director of WashU’s Kidney Translational Research Center, which serves as a bioresource of specimens and data from patients with kidney disease and develops innovative methods of tissue interrogation, said the atlas team analyzed gene expression or regulatory states of ~400,000 human kidney cells and uncovered a range of cell types. “We found several altered cell states in many different kidney segments, reflecting the plasticity in cell phenotypes as cells transition through healthy, injury and recovery states,” he said.

The research was published in the July 19, 2023, edition of *Nature* along with a Perspective in *Nature Cell Biology*. Researchers already are working on a second version of the atlas that will involve analyzing more than 1 million kidney cells.

## Post-Doctoral Research Scholar Awarded NIH Career Development Award

Shayna Bradford, PhD, has been awarded a two-year, \$181,500 MOSAIC K99 grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) of the National Institutes of Health.



Shayna Bradford, PhD

The award supports promising postdoctoral research scholars

with a demonstrated commitment to enhance diversity in the biomedical sciences and is designed to facilitate the transition of these scholars into independent, tenure-track faculty positions.

Dr. Bradford’s core research interest is focused on understanding the molecular mechanisms of renal health disparities. She has been a research scholar in the laboratory of Division Chief Benjamin Humphreys, MD, PhD, since 2020. Specifically, she wants to determine if key

molecules involved in kidney repair and regeneration are differentially expressed and regulated across ethnicities, which may provide insight about molecular drivers of renal health disparities.

As part of her award, Dr. Bradford will participate in professional development activities, coordinated by the Association of American Medical Colleges, designed to support MOSAIC K99 awardees in advancing in independent scientific careers.

## Yoshiharu Muto

Yoshiharu, Muto, MD, PhD, Instructor of Medicine, has been awarded a 2023 Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant from the KidneyCure Transition to Independence Grants Program, a foundation of the American Society of Nephrology.

The grant will be used to further Dr. Muto’s research into the role of methionine metabolism in remodeling the



Yoshiharu Muto, MD, PhD

epigenetic landscape in kidney diseases, with the goal of identifying a potential novel therapeutic target to treat acute kidney diseases.

“Receiving this grant is an amazing opportunity for early-career scientists who

want to target kidney diseases and pursue an academic career as a principal investigator,” said Dr. Muto.

The Gottschalk grant, which includes funding of up to \$100,000 per year for two years, is awarded to young biomedical investigators to help them achieve independent research careers.

# Faculty News and Awards

## Dharnidharka Installed as Endowed Professor of Pediatrics

Vikas Dharnidharka, MD, MPH, director of pediatric nephrology, hypertension, and apheresis, was awarded an endowed professorship in recognition of his clinical expertise and research in the areas of end-stage renal disease and kidney

transplant. He was installed as the Alexis F. Hartmann Sr., MD, Professor of Pediatrics during a ceremony in August and presented a lecture on “Infections and Cancers After Transplant: What They Have Taught Us About Immunology, Virology, Genomics and Oncology.” The endowed professorship was created in



Dr. Dharnidharka, MD, MPH, receives his honorary medal as the endowed Alexis F. Hartmann Sr., MD, Professor of Pediatrics.

honor of Dr. Hartmann, former chief of the Department of Pediatrics at WashU and physician-in-chief at St. Louis Children’s Hospital from 1936 to 1964.

## Schoer Joins Faculty

Morgan Schoer, MD, has joined the faculty as an assistant professor of medicine. A recent graduate of our Nephrology Fellowship Program, Schoer not only will have clinical responsibilities but

also will serve as an associate program director for the fellowship training program, a position in line with her strong interest in medical education.

“I hope my perspective as a recent graduate can add useful insight for

enhancing the curriculum and supporting fellows,” she said.



Morgan Schoer, MD

## Koester to Receive NKF Carol Mattix Award

Lisa Koester, ANP, CS, CNN-NP, MSN, a nephrology nurse practitioner in the Division of Nephrology, is being honored with the 2024 Carol Mattix Award from the National Kidney Foundation (NKF).

The Carol Mattix Award is an annual award by the NKF’s Council of Nephrology Nurses and Technicians (CNNT). It honors an individual who has made significant contributions to the care of dialysis patients and is named after Mattix, a home dialysis training nurse



Lisa Koester, ANP, CS, CNN-NP, MSN

who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of kidney patients.

Koester, who has been with the Division for 24 years, earned both her master’s degree in nursing and her adult nurse practitioner certification before beginning her career as a dialysis nurse in the mid-1990s. Initially caring for in-center hemodialysis patients, Koester then helped to establish the home hemodialysis program at WashU in 2000.

“When I started in nephrology 24 years ago, there was only one practicing renal nurse practitioner in St. Louis,” Koester recalled. “I appreciate how my colleagues in the renal division advocated for my role, which has allowed me to grow as a nurse practitioner in the care of renal patients.”

In addition to caring for in-center and home dialysis patients, Koester recently took on a new challenge of chronic kidney disease education for patients in all stages of chronic kidney disease (CKD). She will officially be recognized during the NKF’s Spring Clinical Meetings in Long Beach, Calif., next May.

## New Director of Clinical Operations

The Division of Nephrology has created a new position to oversee the growing number of community dialysis centers and programs within WashU Nephrology. Max Edele has been named Director of Clinical Operations and will oversee four community dialysis locations — Chromalloy American Kidney Center, North County Dialysis Center, Home Dialysis South, and Village Square Dialysis

Center — as well as operations of the home modalities program and biomed program.

“The initial goals are to foster a cohesive community of dialysis centers that operate together,” said Edele. “We are updating policies and procedures and staffing models so that we can maintain and grow our services. We also are focused on developing measures and goals within home modalities to increase growth in that program.”

That includes strategies for educating and encouraging more patients through

the Transitional Dialysis Program (TDP) on all of their dialysis modality choices: home hemodialysis (HHD), peritoneal dialysis (PD) and ICHD (In-Center Hemodialysis).

Edele has more than 10 years of experience in the healthcare field, including information technology and dialysis. He previously was with a large dialysis company where the primary facilities he managed were WashU joint venture partners. He joined WashU Nephrology earlier this year.

**Division of Nephrology**

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## Vijayan Retires After 25 Years

The Division of Nephrology celebrates the retirement of Anitha Vijayan, MD, FASN after more than 25 years on the faculty at Washington University School of Medicine.

Dr. Vijayan served as Medical Director of Acute Dialysis Services, overseeing programs at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Barnes-Jewish West County, and The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis. She has published extensively on her research related to renal replacement therapy and biomarkers in acute kidney injury (AKI). Under her leadership, the acute dialysis service at BJH has become nationally recognized as a model to follow when implementing similar programs at other institutions.

A former fellow of our Nephrology Fellowship Training Program, Dr. Vijayan joined the Division in 1999 and was the first female clinician educator and the second woman to become a full professor. She has

served as a mentor for other women in the Division who have become successful clinicians and researchers at WashU. She also has served as a mentor and coach to numerous nephrology fellows who have gone on to successful careers in the U.S. and other countries.

Nationally, Dr. Vijayan is a respected leader in her field, serving on the ASN's Acute Injury Advisory Group and co-chairing the ASN COVID-19 Acute Kidney Care Committee. In 2020, she was elected to the prestigious Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. Dr. Vijayan also was among faculty who received the inaugural Dean's Impact Award earlier this year, which recognizes exceptional character, resourcefulness, and creativity in guiding WashU through the COVID-19 pandemic and leading efforts to ensure the well-being of nephrology patients and caregivers.



Dr. Anitha Vijayan, MD (third from left) at her retirement celebration in September.

At her retirement celebration in September, Dr. Vijayan noted, “WashU has been my home away from home for the past 25 years. I have been fortunate to work with exemplary colleagues across all departments at WashU as well as BJC. It has been my privilege to be a part of this community.”