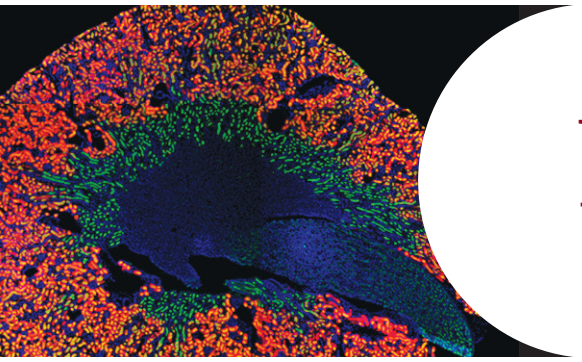
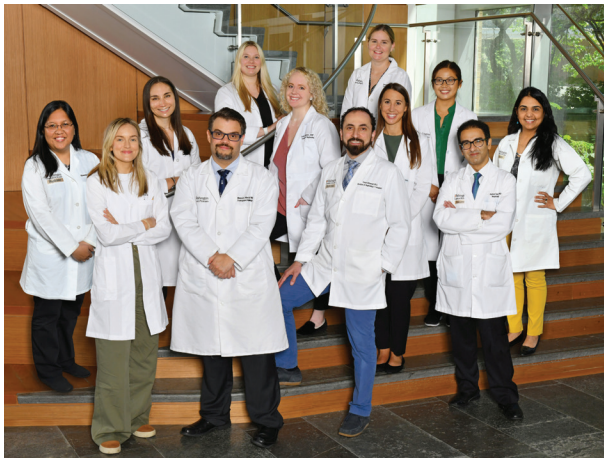


WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
Fall 2024

NEPHROLOGY UPDATE

First Edition of The Washington Manual® of Transplant Nephrology Highlights Division's Nationally Recognized Expertise & Educational Excellence



Dr. Alhamad (front row, third from left) with the WashU Kidney Transplant team.

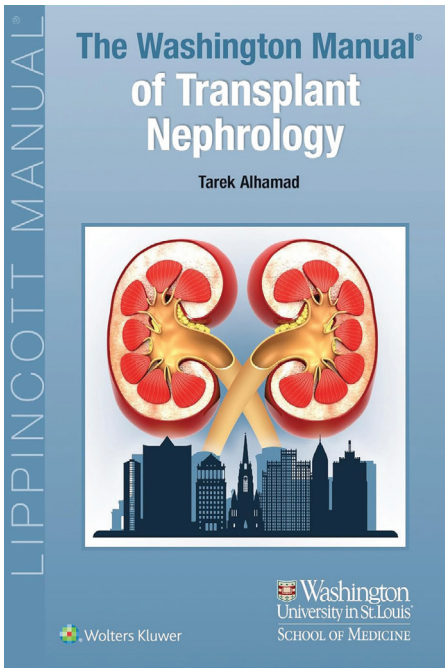
Within months of the debut of The Washington Manual® of Transplant Nephrology, WashU Nephrology began hearing from fellowship program applicants about the publication's impact in determining where to pursue advanced training.

"The Manual significantly influenced fellowship applicants, and we received many positive comments because it highlights the institution's expertise and collaborative educational environment," says Massini Merzkani, MD, director of the WashU Nephrology Transplant Fellowship.

In its first edition, the Manual provides a thorough review of the field of transplant nephrology. Edited by Tarek Alhamad, MD, MS-PH, MBA, medical director of transplant nephrology, the publication debuted late last year and is available in both print and digital format.

Alhamad, who also serves as editor of The Washington Manual® Nephrology Subspecialty Consult, says the transplant-focused book is vital for nephrology fellows, transplant trainees, pharmacists, pathology residents and transplant coordinators. "The unique thing about the book is that it involves experts from different disciplines who worked together to finalize different book chapters," says Alhamad. "For instance, the chapter on Cellular Rejection was a product of collaboration between a transplant nephrologist (Dr. Anuja Java), a nephro-pathologist (Dr. Nidia Messias), and a transplant pharmacist (Dr. April Pottebaum). Physicians from infectious diseases (Dr. Ige George), oncology (Dr. Neha Mehta-Shah), endocrinology (Dr. Maamoun Salam), and pediatrics (Drs. Raja Dandamudi and Vikas Dharnidharka) were all involved in writing chapters. Other specialists from transplant surgery, pathology, immunology, and HLA medicine were quite essential and together these specialists provided a thorough cover of the field of renal transplant."

Mohamed Ibrahim, MD, a chapter co-author and former transplant fellow now at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, says, "The Manual of Transplant Nephrology is an indispensable resource for any transplant nephrologist. It offers concise, evidence-based guidance that we can rely on daily for accurate diagnosis and treatment."

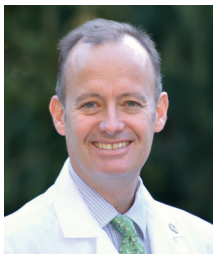


Former WashU transplant nephrology fellow Gaurav Rajashekar, MBBS, now practicing at the University of Louisville Health in Kentucky, is another co-author. "I was honored to be a co-author with my mentor, Dr. Massini Merzkani," he says. "It is an extremely well-written manual from some of the greatest minds in transplant."

Alhamad. who pushed to develop the publication for more than four years, notes that the goal is to update the manual every three years and potentially produce it in multiple languages. "We have one of the oldest transplant nephrology programs in the nation and are one of the highest in the country in terms of patient volume," he says. "We have unique protocols that we established in multiple areas, and which are now considered among best practices. We also have excellent outcomes, with one of the lowest kidney transplant rejection rates

continued on page 2

Message from the Chief



As I head into my 10th year as Division Chief for WashU Nephrology, there is much to celebrate in kidney disease research, education and clinical care. In just the past year, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) announced the release of the most comprehensive atlas of the human kidney as part of its Kidney Precision Medicine Project. Sanjay Jain, MD, PhD, Anitha Vijayan, MD, and other WashU faculty as well as scientists from medical centers across the country joined together and identified 51 cell types in the healthy kidney and 28 other related cell types associated with kidney injury or recovery. Also in 2023, treatments for glomerular disease were advanced as several clinical trials proved the effectiveness of novel therapies. They were a hot topic of discussion at our growing annual Glomerular Disease Symposium led by Tingting Li, MD. Earlier this year, we told you about Cellscopes, a computational tool developed by Haojia Wu, PhD, that is now being used to accelerate research into both chronic kidney disease and acute kidney injury. We actively are pursuing that and other novel research in the recently established WashU Kidney O'Brien Center for Chronic Kidney Disease Research.

In education and clinical care, we've broadened our efforts to teach, learn about, and then offer subspecialty services such as cardiorenal care and maternal fetal medicine nephrology care. These build upon our success in providing subspecialty care for years in the field of onco-nephrology. In this newsletter, you will see that plans are in the works to broaden the services offered in our maternal fetal medicine nephrology program. In the fellowship training program, I'm proud to see that several of our fellows are entering the Teaching Physicians Pathway here, an opportunity for physicians to pursue medical education and mentorship as a career path.

It's exciting to see the new Washington Manual for Transplant Nephrology becoming an integral publication for sharing information and best practices for kidney transplant management. Tarek Alhamad has excelled in his leadership and in the launch of this new manual, which follows a long tradition of educational excellence from WashU faculty.

I look forward to seeing alumni, friends and colleagues at the ASN meeting in San Diego. As I transition out of my role as President of the American Society for Clinical Investigation this year, I know the future is bright for accelerated advances in kidney research and care.

Ben

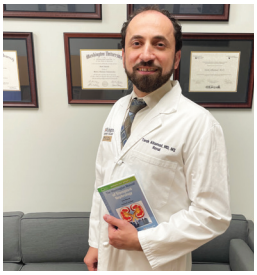
Benjamin D. Humphreys, MD, PhD
Joseph P. Friedman Professor and Chief
Division of Nephrology
Washington University School of Medicine

Washington Manual® of Transplant Nephrology

continued from page 1

in the nation. The Manual is a way to share our experiences in kidney transplantation management with others around the world."

He adds, "The entire process has strengthened collaborations between multiple divisions at WashU and elsewhere, and I believe it is expanding opportunities for further collaborations to develop clinical protocols and to foster the basis for translational and clinical research."



Dr. Alhamad hopes the Manual of Transplant Nephrology will be produced in multiple languages.

Support WashU Nephrology

If you would like to support our research and teaching mission or contribute to our 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 if you are considering supporting the Division through appreciated stocks, deferred giving, beneficiary plans or other assets.

Administrative Office

Division of Nephrology

Washington University School of Medicine

4523 Clayton Road
Box 8126-12-853
St. Louis MO 63110
Phone: 314-362-8232
Fax: 314-362-8237

Consultations & Appointments:

Patient Appointments
314-362-7603

Patient referrals
866-867-3627

On the web:

Website:
nephrology.wustl.edu

Twitter:
twitter.com/WUNephrology

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/WUSTLNephrology

Instagram:
www.instagram.com/washuneph/

Nephrology Fellowship

Seth Goldberg, MD
Program Director
sgolber@wustl.edu

Frank O'Brien, MD
Senior Associate Program Director
fobrien@wustl.edu

Morgan Schoer, MD
Associate Program Director
mschoer@wustl.edu

Ashley Edwards
Senior Fellowship Program Coordinator
Edwards.a@wustl.edu

Nephrology Transplant Fellowship

Rowena Delos Santos, MD
Director
delossantos@wustl.edu

Laura Kipper
Transplant Fellowship Program Coordinator
lkipper@wustl.edu

Fellowship Notes

Seth Goldberg, MD, Program Director

With the start of a new academic year, we can take the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our recent graduates. They will continue to make a lasting impact in the field of Nephrology as they move on to the next phase of their careers, and our alumni are represented throughout the country. Half of our graduating class has moved into positions within academic medicine, including Dr. Taha Mohamed Djirdeh who joined WashU Nephrology with a special interest in cardiorenal diseases.

Being well-positioned to make a difference here and elsewhere remains a focus of our training. Our current cohort of twelve fellows has seamlessly maintained this tradition. Within our program, several major curriculum changes have been spearheaded by fellows, including the restructuring of the Transplant Nephrology service and the implementation of a new "jeopardy" back-up system, directed by second-year fellow Audrey Netzel. Our fellows also have worked with colleagues in other specialties in our Meeting Our Community Experience, forging a partnership with community organizations to address barriers to care in the St. Louis region.

Three of our fellows will participate in the WashU Teaching Physicians Pathway (WUTPP), a program geared towards providing in-depth training on skills important in medical education and mentorship. Drs. Atlee Baker, Yasir Baloch, and Alex Calderon will be representing our division in this year-long series, following a lengthy tradition of nephrologists excelling as clinical educators.

Our fellows also were well-represented at this year's Nephrology Business Leaders University (NBLU) in Dallas, TX. All six of our senior fellows, plus one recent graduate, were selected to attend the meeting, a week-long course focusing on the important economic aspects of a career in Nephrology. Second-year fellow Dr. Yasir Baloch received the 2024 Social Media award at this event, highlighted by his initiative to found and direct the Nephrology Instagram account at Washington University.

A commitment to reach a larger audience has resulted in a new recruitment video, featured on YouTube. The project was entirely conceived by our fellowship class. Under their direction (and acting), they presented our program from the perspective of the trainee, highlighting many of the wonderful characteristics unique to Washington University and the city of St. Louis—check it out! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1CL23hPVwE

Our fellows at the recent Nephrology Business Leaders University (NBLU) meeting.

Egress

We congratulate the following fellows for completing their training and who are moving to the next stage of their careers. Stay in touch!

Farah S. Abuazzam, MD
Willis Knighton Health System
Shreveport, LA

Taha Mohamed Djirdeh, MD
Assistant Professor
WashU Nephrology
St. Louis, MO

Abdullah Jalal, MD
Onco-Nephrology Fellowship
Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN

Shelden Selas Rodrigues, MBBS
Avera Nephrology
Sioux Falls, SD

Juan Eduardo Sanchez, MD
Nephrology Associates of Central Florida
Apopka, FL

Marco Bruno Thierry, MD
Billings Clinic
Billings, MT

Swathi Velagapudi, MD
Nephrology and Hypertension Specialists
Dalton, GA

Welcoming the newest trainees to the WashU Nephrology Fellowship Program with a summer BBQ!

Alumni Connections

David P. Basile, PhD

Professor of Anatomy, Cell Biology & Physiology, and of Medicine
Indiana University School of Medicine-Indianapolis

Change is afoot for David P. Basile, PhD, a former WashU Nephrology postdoctoral research fellow and now a prominent researcher and professor of anatomy, cell biology & physiology at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. In early July, Indiana University and Purdue University Indianapolis (previously collectively called IUPUI) reorganized, with the newly branded Indiana University-Indianapolis maintaining health sciences disciplines, including the School of Medicine. Leadership says it is focused on rapidly escalating basic, translational, and clinical research efforts across the campus as it moves into its next chapter.

"The reorganization has generated a lot of excitement," Basile says. "Ultimately, this will have an impact on us here at the medical school as a number of IU-Indianapolis initiatives should dovetail with advances in research and patient care, such as the establishment of the new Bioscience and Technology Institute as well as the Institute for Human Health and Wellbeing."

Dr. Basile in Cinque Terre, Italy

The change takes place as Basile gears up to take over as the new graduate advisor for his department's doctoral program at the end of this year while continuing his own scientific investigations and teaching responsibilities. "My lab is focused primarily on the pathophysiology of acute kidney injury (AKI), chronic sequelae and potential translational therapeutic approaches to treat kidney disease," he says. "We have long focused on the long-term effects of AKI and subsequent predisposition to chronic kidney disease related to sustained alterations in vascular function and inflammation. Recently, we received a renewal of our NIH/NIDDK R01 grant for the 5th cycle."

Basile has been at IU School of Medicine since 2005. He rose to the rank of professor in the Department of Anatomy, Cell Biology & Physiology in 2019 and now also serves as a professor in the Department of Medicine's Division of Nephrology. His interest in renal research was sparked when he started his postdoctoral research efforts, first at Washington University from 1994 to 1998 and then at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee for an additional year.

"At WashU, I was a postdoctoral researcher in Marc Hammerman's lab and wanted to gain insight into the potential role of growth factors in kidney repair or development," he says. "In the 90s, there were not many tools available to study growth factor biology in vivo, and I had not yet developed any skills in molecular biology. Marc was able to provide me with good opportunities to get training and experience in areas I wished to pursue. My work was focused on understanding the TGF-beta system in the setting of ischemic AKI. Although I no longer work directly on that now, it was the pursuit of this that ultimately drove me down the road to investigate the long-term sequelae of AKI, which has been the primary focus of my research group for years."

He remembers his time at WashU as being surprisingly flexible. "Marc was pretty hands off on day-to-day lab activities and supported flexibility on how to pursue things," Basile recalls. "He was very good about providing feedback, but he also gave me a lot of room to craft the direction of my research."

Basile was encouraged early on to apply for career development grants noting, "Nothing can prepare you for this other than to go through it. Marc is an incredibly good writer, and I got some excellent advice on research strategy and grant writing from him and others in the division. Dr. Steven Miller's lab was across the hall, and he also was very generous with his time. He was doing interesting work related to kidney injury, which helped to inspire a lot of ideas."

What he remembers fondly are the friendships he made along the way, including, he says, "Adriana Dusso, Alex Brown, and Cindy Ritter in Dr. Slatapolsky's lab and Beth Lee in Dr. Gluck's lab. I also had some great colleagues in Dr. Hammerman's lab including Babu Padanilam and Chris Sorenson. Also, Dr. Andy Lewington, who came from the UK—we enjoyed a great friendship and played lots of recreational soccer on a team aptly named "Grumpy Old Men!" Lynn Wesselman was Marc's administrative assistant, and she was a huge dog lover, so we spent a lot of time talking about our dogs. Somehow, she found a Christmas ornament that looked just like the dog my wife and I adopted. We still put that on our tree every year!"

He tries to find time for golf and cooking and he and his wife, Debbie, spend time vacationing with their two adult children in the Great Lakes area when they can. He ticked off a bucket list trip to Tuscany last year that included daily cooking classes, trips to wineries and visits to the surrounding region. Says Basile with a laugh, "I do need to find new activities to fill some voids now that the kids are grown up!"

Program Spotlight

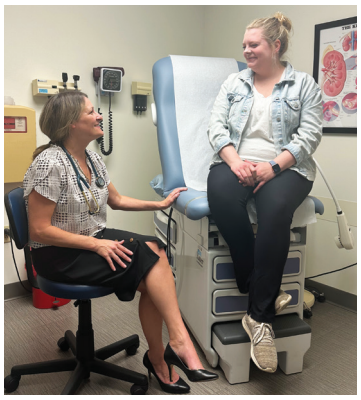
Expansion Plans for Maternal Fetal Medicine Nephrology Program

With demand growing for obstetric nephrology services, plans are in the works within the WashU Maternal Fetal Medicine Nephrology Clinic to add preconception consultations and care for women with kidney diseases who want to become pregnant.

"Continuity of care is very important throughout pregnancy," says Kelli King-Morris, MD, director of the clinic. "After pregnancy is established, however, there is only so much we can offer; however, we can offer the best chance for a safe, full-term pregnancy for both mother and baby if we begin care and regular monitoring prior to conception."

King-Morris recently traveled to Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto, ON, to meet with Michelle Hladunewich, MD, a leading expert in the care of women diagnosed with renal disease who are pregnant or planning to have children. Hladunewich is head of the hospital's Pregnancy and Kidney Disease Clinic, the largest specialty renal clinic in Ontario for high-risk pregnancies.

"Dr. Hladunewich has helped hundreds of women living with renal disease to have children," notes King-Morris. "Her clinic serves as a training program for medical students and nephrology specialists from around the globe to learn how set up similar comprehensive programs in their own communities."



Kelli King-Morris, MD, with maternal fetal nephrology patient Sharidan Drake.

The two nephrologists met in 2023 when Hladunewich presented at Renal Grand Rounds at WashU. While in Ontario, King-Morris saw firsthand the set-up and flow of Hladunewich's clinic, which is a multidisciplinary program that combines the expertise of nephrologists, dialysis specialists, obstetricians, and maternal fetal medicine specialists in one clinic. Patients see all specialists they need during their patient consults.

King-Morris, who established the WashU clinic in 2022, says the "one-stop "shop for pre-pregnant and pregnant patients may be implemented here at a future date, but the most critical information she obtained during her observership was the use of patient protocols developed to optimize health in patients with kidney diseases. A study published last year in the Journal of the American Society for Nephrology found that the risk of maternal morbidity, preterm delivery and low birthweight increased in those with declining estimated glomerular filtration rates (eGFR). Individuals diagnosed with kidney disease and who have a low eGFR are at higher risk of progressing to kidney failure.

"We've developed a successful program at WashU that incorporates aggressive monitoring and more frequent dialysis so that some women with chronic kidney disease can carry a pregnancy to term," notes King-Morris. "Now we need to start even earlier with preconception care so that patients with conditions such as CKD, end-stage renal disease, Alport syndrome and lupus can have the best chance possible of having a baby."

Four Interns Complete Inaugural SOAR Internship Program

Four undergraduate students completed interships as part of the Summer Opportunities for Achievement in Research (SOAR) program in WashU Nephrology's Washington University Kidney O'Brien Center for Chronic Kidney Disease Research. The SOAR program, funded through an O'Brien grant, allows undergraduates with an interest in nephrology research to partner with a mentor and participate in hands-on laboratory studies.

"We had a wonderful group of interns. They did an amazing job in presenting their research findings at the closing symposium and I hope this experience has inspired them to pursue a career in nephrology either as a scientist or as a clinician," says Monica Chang-Panesso, MD, director of the SOAR program and a member of the O'Brien Center's leadership team.

The four SOAR students joined the McDonnell Genome Institute OGR Closing Symposium to present their research projects at a symposium at the McDonnell Genome Institute in August.

Olivia Ori researched "kidney-specific gene editing using adeno-associated virus as a delivery vector" in the laboratory of Brian Finck, PhD, who is part of the Metabolism Core within the O'Brien Center. **Sabine Sullivan** worked in the Single Cell Omic Research Evolution (SCORE) core led by Nephrology Division Director Benjamin Humphreys, MD, PhD, studying the "role of alternative splicing factor SRSF7 in renal proximal tubule cells homeostatis." **Grace Matsumoto** embedded with mentor Monica Chang-Panesso, MD, and worked in her lab on "age-related differences in acute kidney injury pathogenesis." **Teija Suhas** studied "variant validation for Alport's Syndrome" in the Variant Validation Core led by Jeffrey Miner, PhD.

SOAR Program Director Monica Chang-Panesso, MD (left), and Nephrology Division Chief Benjamin Humphreys, MD, PhD (right) with the first four interns in WashU Nephrology's Summer Opportunities for Achievement in Research (SOAR) program.

Research Highlights

Prestigious ASN Grants Awarded to Postdocs

Three WashU Nephrology postdoctoral scholars have received Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program grants from KidneyCure, the American Society of Nephrology's Foundation for Kidney Research. The highly competitive grants fund original, innovative research that can advance the understanding of kidney biology and disease.

Chenjian Gu, PhD, **Megan Noonan, PhD**, and **Poornima Weerasinghe-Mudiyanselage, PhD**, were among only eight fellows selected for the 2024 awards.

Gu received funding for his study on the "novel regulation of autophagic flux for the treatment of uromodulin-associated nephropathy." UMOD-associated nephropathy, or autosomal dominant tubulointerstitial kidney disease caused by *UMOD* mutations (ADTKD-*UMOD*), is a leading hereditary kidney disease and an underrecognized cause of chronic kidney disease (CKD). Currently there is no targeted therapy. "To address the unmet medical needs, we have created a new mouse model that mimics ADTKD patients carrying a leading *UMOD* deletion mutation," says Gu. "By utilizing the mouse model, we have found that defective autophagy results in kidney fibrosis. Our research will investigate how

autophagy failure leads to accumulation of toxic mutant UMOD protein in the kidneys and explore a novel treatment targeting impaired autophagy in ADTKD. If successful, our proposed study will define a previously unknown pro-fibrotic mechanism and develop an innovative and highly effective therapeutic agent for ADTKD and CKD." He is a member of the research team in the Maggie Chen Lab.

Noonan, who works in the research laboratory of Benjamin Humphreys, MD, PhD, will study "the role of alternative splicing factor Srsf7 in diabetic kidney disease progression." She says, "I hope to discover new therapeutic targets that slow or prevent kidney disease and can improve patients' quality of life."

Weerasinghe-Mudiyanselage is a member of the research team in the laboratory of Andreas Herrlich, MD, PhD, which focuses on advancing the understanding of interorgan communication mechanisms in health and disease, specifically the cellular and molecular mechanisms that orchestrate tissue injury, repair and fibrosis in the kidney and how that can negatively impact other organs. Weerasinghe-Mudiyanselage's investigations will focus on the neurological consequences of acute kidney injury and the mechanisms that drive kidney-brain crosstalk.

Each postdoctoral fellow works with a mentor to initiate and develop their research. "I have the opportunity to develop foundational research under the guidance of an incredible mentor, Dr. Herrlich," says Weerasinghe-Mudiyanselage.

"I am thrilled that three of ASN's eight highly competitive Ben Lipps Research Fellowships were awarded to very talented WashU Division of Nephrology postdoctoral fellows," says Jeffrey Miner, PhD, the Division's Director of Basic Research. "This is a testament to our Division's outstanding faculty and research environment that help attract gifted young investigators to WashU and to kidney disease research."

The ASN Foundation established the Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program in 2012. It was initially funded with a $10 million gift by Fresenius Medical Care and is named in honor of its former CEO Ben Lipps, who led the company from 1999 to 2012. Fresenius is a global provider of dialysis products and services.

$1.5 million VA Merit Grant Awarded to Maggie Chen

Y. Maggie Chen, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine and of Cell Biology and Physiology, received a $1.15 million grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, including $750,000 direct cost and protected research time, to study "Therapeutic Targeting of Mitochondria in Uromodulin-Associated Chronic Kidney Disease (UMOD-CKD)."

UMOD-CKD, or autosomal dominant tubulointerstitial kidney disease caused by UMOD mutations (ADTKD-*UMOD*) currently has no targeted therapy. It is characterized by progressive renal fibrosis and CKD. *UMOD* genetic variants with unknown function also have been frequently identified in hypertensive and diabetic kidney disease, which are the most common causes of CKD and kidney failure.

Chen, director of both the Nephrotic Syndrome Clinic and ADTKD clinic within WashU Nephrology, studies organelle dysfunction in kidney diseases. This latest research effort builds upon previous research published in Nature Communications in 2023. That research found that mesencephalic astrocyte-derived neurotrophic factor (MANF), an endoplasmic reticulum secreted protein, stimulates autophagy, clears toxic mutant UMOD and restores mitochondrial homeostasis in an ADTKD-*UMOD* mouse model developed in the Chen lab using

the gene-editing tool CRISPR (US Patent: US 11,129,871).

Using the same mouse model, Chen and her team will now focus on developing novel therapies to restore mitochondrial function and alleviate mitochondria-mediated inflammation in ADTKD. "The new study will provide critical insights into the molecular pathogenesis of ADTKD and other forms of organelle stress-induced CKD," she says. "It can also lead to the discovery of mitochondria-targeted and mechanism-based novel treatments for ADTKD and CKD in veterans."

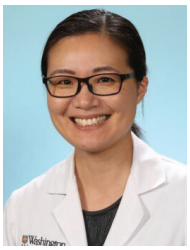
Faculty News and Awards

New Faculty

Taha Mohamed Djirdeh, MD, joined the division as Assistant Professor in July. A recent graduate of our Nephrology Fellowship Program, Djirdeh earned his medical degree from the International American University College of Medicine in Saint Lucia and completed his internal medicine residency at Mercy Health GME Javon Bea Hospital in Rockford, Ill. Djirdeh will have clinical responsibilities at Barnes-Jewish Hospital's Center for Advanced Medicine and at the Forest Park Dialysis Center. In addition to caring for patients with chronic kidney disease, he has a particular interest in treating patients diagnosed with both cardiovascular and renal conditions.

Taha Mohamed Djirdeh, MD

Transplant nephrologist **Naoka Murakami, MD, PhD**, joined the division in September. She earned her MD/PhD from the University of Tokyo and completed nephrology and transplant nephrology training at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) and Massachusetts General Hospital before joining the faculty at BWH/Harvard Medical School in 2019. Murakami studies the roles of co-stimulatory signaling in autoimmune kidney disease and kidney transplant rejection and tolerance. She is the recipient of numerous research awards and currently holds a NIH R01 grant to study the mechanisms of kidney allograft rejection associated with immune checkpoint blockade.



Naoka Murakami, MD, PhD

Miner Elected to AAAS

Jeffrey Miner, PhD, the Eduardo and Judith Slatopolsky Endowed Professor of Medicine in Nephrology, is among the latest to be inducted as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Miner is an internationally renowned researcher on Alport syndrome and basement membrane biology. He also serves as the Division's Director of Basic Research. "I am very honored that the Council of AAAS has recognized the impact of my lab's research on our understanding of genetic forms of kidney disease, in particular Alport syndrome," says Miner.

In addition to serving as Director of Basic Research, Miner oversees the Variant Validation Core in the WashU Kidney O'Brien Center for Chronic Kidney Disease Research. He, along with eight other faculty from WashU, were recognized for their scientific contributions during an AAAS ceremony in late September in Washington, DC.

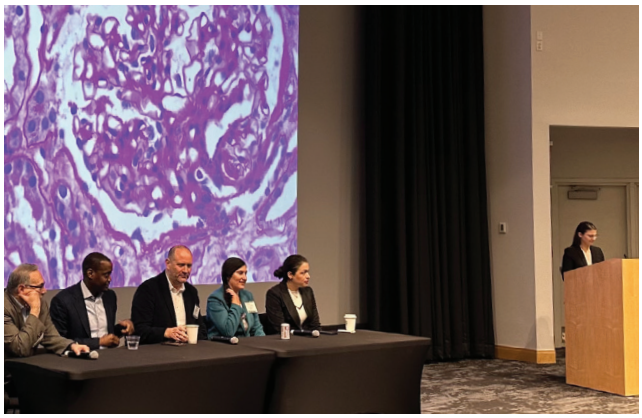
Jeffrey Miner, PhD

2nd Annual Glomerular Disease Symposium

The 2nd Annual Glomerular Disease Symposium drew almost 100 attendees to Washington University School of Medicine in early September.

"The symposium provided an update on recent advances in disease mechanisms and treatment of glomerular diseases," says glomerular disease specialist Tingting Li, MD, MSCI, who chaired the symposium and directs WashU Nephrology's Glomerular Center of Excellence. "We had amazing presentations and interactive case discussions by a multidisciplinary group of experts."

Faculty from WashU as well as 10 specialists from across the United States and from England lectured or participated in a wide range of panel discussions. Li organized the symposium with the support of a planning committee that included nephrologists Reena Gurung, MD, and Morgan Schoer, MD, as well as renal pathologist Nidia Messias, MD, and research nurse coordinator Michelle Bloom, BSN, RN. "It is a very exciting time to be in nephrology with so many new medications and advanced being made for patients with glomerular diseases," notes Bloom, who coordinates clinical studies within the Glomerular Center. "The symposium was a chance for us to hear from leading experts from all over the world and see what the future may hold in terms of research and treatment options."



Second Annual WashU Glomerular Disease Symposium was held in early September 2024.

The Glomerular Center was established at WashU in 2023. "As the landscape of glomerular diseases continues to evolve, the symposium provides a much-needed platform locally and regionally for glomerular disease education," says Li. "Together with delivery of state-of-the-art comprehensive patient care and expansion of its research program, the Glomerular Center of Excellence strives to advance the field and improve the outcomes of patients with glomerular diseases."

Washington University in St. Louis
School of Medicine

Division of Nephrology
Washington University
School of Medicine
Campus Box 8126
600 South Euclid Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110
Phone: 314.362.8233
Fax: 314.362.8237

Fellow-Created Program Video Debuts!

We have some multi-talented fellows here! Check out the new WashU Nephrology Fellowship Training Program video! Designed and produced by our own fellows, the dynamic video showcases why our fellowship program is among the best in the country. Second-year fellow Yasir Baloch, MBBS led the project with co-fellows Audrey Netzel, MD and Atlee Baker, MD, MPH. They worked with program leadership to develop a fun, informative script and then worked with a local production company to bring the script to life. Baloch already was quite familiar with video production, having developed an internal medicine residency recruitment video while at Florida State University. He also worked with a National Geographic photographer to help the publication document the annual Hindu pilgrimage at Nani Mandir Lasbela in Pakistan. The nephrology program video showcases fellows and faculty in a wide range of educational activities and city locations and ends with a huge group on the rooftop helipad of Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Check out the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1CL23hPVwE&t=108s