We dedicate this year’s report to the physicians caring for patients at our off-site practices—Drs. Dana Miskulin, Tony Dash, Alin Joseph, Madhu Rao and Michael Cohen.
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Welcome to our 14th Annual Report. This year’s report summarizes our endeavors in the areas of administration, patient care, research, education, and policy. 2015 was another good year for the Division – with many celebrations of our accomplishments. Beginning on page 3, we introduce 3 new Division babies born this year, pay tribute to new and departing staff, and highlight research initiatives.

This year marked a number of sad farewells, but we are fortunate to welcome new members of the Division. Dr. Tony Dash returned to his native Pacific Northwest after serving the Division for more than 20 years in the offsite practice (pages 4-5). Nurses Deb Basler and Debbie Mitchell-Dozier, physician assistant Jennifer Trignano, and research associate Aghogho Okparavero moved on to other organizations, and we are excited to see their continued work in the field. After 15 years with DCI, patient care technician Aster Filate retired (page 10). While we will miss our previous colleagues, we are thrilled to welcome Drs. Jay-r Lacson, Seth Wright and David Drew to the faculty (page 9).

The Division continued to be recognized for excellent contributions. Dr. Gilbert received the Dr. Jack Mitus Special Faculty Recognition Award from the TUSM Senior Class (M’15), which honors one faculty member who has demonstrated an exceptional dedication to teaching, a commitment to academic scholarship, and a concern for the general well-being of medical students (page 56). Dr. Meyer was appointed to a 3-year term on ASN Dialysis Advisory Group. Dr. Weiner was Tufts MC Principal Investigator for the SPRINT trial, which is being hailed for its potential to change the standard for treating high blood pressure (page 6). Along with colleagues from the Polycystic Kidney Disease Outcomes Consortium, Dr. Perrone was the lead author and Dr. Miskulin a co-author on an AJKD publication that established the first ever data standard applicable to kidney disease (page 40). Fellow, Osama Amro’s abstract was accepted as a late breaking clinical trial at ASN Kidney Week (page 8 and 47). For the second year in a row, I was recognized as a highly influential researcher as determined by Thomson Reuters (page 47). Once again, Ron Perrone, Mark Sarnak, Klemens Meyer, and I were recognized among Boston’s “Top Doctors” in the December 2015 issue of Boston Magazine. Finally, I am pleased to announce that numerous members of the Division have received education and research awards from the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and American Nephrologist of Indian Origin (ANIO). We celebrated this honor at the ISN black tie event in Boston on January 29, 2016.

Clinical volume increased at Tufts Medical Center and was steady at our off-site practices. Dr. Rao has established a consultative service and bone biopsy protocol for CKD bone and mineral disorder. Research funding remains extremely competitive, with overall funding continuing to
decrease, but I’m happy to announce that the Division received three new grants in 2015 (page 37). Additionally, publications were strong (a total of 72 print and 21 epubs). We are fortunate to be able to provide support for new research projects of fellows and junior faculty using Division philanthropic funds (pages 58-68) and DCI research funds. We continue to rely on funds from the Friedman endowed chair and thank the donors of charitable contributions to the Schwartz, Harrington, Inker and Driscoll Funds. We greatly appreciate these contributions, as the funds provide necessary assistance to continue our mission.

Once again, I thank Dr. Richardson for preparing this year’s Annual Report and for managing our website www.tuftsmedicalcenter.org/kdiney and our William B. Schwartz Division of Nephrology Facebook page. I hope you enjoy learning about our activities, and as always, I welcome your feedback. We wish you and your family a happy and successful 2016!

Sincerely yours,

Andrew S. Levey, MD
Chief, William B. Schwartz Division of Nephrology
Tufts Medical Center
Dr. Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman Professor of Medicine
Tufts University School of Medicine
The Division family continued to grow in 2015, with 3 more babies being born to Division members. In the past 9 years, 42 babies have joined the Division. With only boys born this year, the count is tipping in their favor — Boys 23; Girls 19.

Mahdi born to Ghadah & Osama Amro
April 23; 6.2 pounds

Aarav Shankar born to Anjana & Pranav Garimella
June 6; 7lbs 7oz

Thomas Pedro born to Grace da Cunha
July 10; 6lbs 15.5 oz, 19.5 inches
A FOND FAREWELL

Tony Dash joined the Division in 1991 as a Nephrology Fellow. In 1994, he blazed the path for what is now our successful off-site practice. In June, we wished him bon voyage as he embarked on a new adventure in Seattle.
Dan Weiner, MD was Tufts MC’s Principal Investigator for the SPRINT trial and the only study site in Boston. SPRINT is being hailed for its potential to change the standard for treating high blood pressure (BP). The five-year study compared a lower systolic BP of less than 120 mm Hg with the current standard of 140 mm Hg or below. The preliminary findings showed a 30% reduction in the risk of stroke, heart attack, death or other cardiac events in the group receiving more intensive treatment to reach the lower BP. The results were so encouraging, the study ended more than a year early. More than 9,000 people were enrolled nationally with 105 at Tufts MC - the largest enrolling site in New England.

“This study provides potentially lifesaving information that will be useful to health care providers as they consider the best treatment options for some of their patients, particularly those over the age of 50.”

- Gary H. Gibbons, M.D.
Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), the primary sponsor of SPRINT
A TIMELINE OF PKD RESEARCH AT TUFTS

Led by Dr. Perrone, the division has a long-standing interest in polycystic kidney disease and the role of total kidney volume as a biomarker in response to clinical therapies. Involvement in a wide range of PKD-related research and committees has led to advancements in the treatment of PKD. We are proud of the important work being completed by our colleagues.

1985
First to demonstrate active epithelial transport in human polycystic disease

In Vitro Function of Cyst Epithelium from Human Polycystic Kidney

Ronald D. Perrone
Renal Division, Department of Medicine, Tufts-New England Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts 02111


2007
Founding of the PKDOC

The Polycystic Kidney Disease Outcomes Consortium is a critical collaboration between the PKD Foundation, Food and Drug Administration, Critical Path Institute, clinicians and the pharmaceutical industry to facilitate clinical trial development for ADPKD therapies.

Therapeutic Area Data Standards for Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease: A Report From the Polycystic Kidney Disease Outcomes Consortium (PKDOC)

Ronald D. Perrone, MD; Jan Nickles, PhD; Ada B. Chapman, MD; Arvind P. Gokhale, MD; Anna C. Hinson, MD; Tara L. Horwich, MD; Pamela A. Hoxworth, RN; Martin Olvey, MD; Scott Knebel, MD; Andrea Kogut, MS; Helga B. Krasil'shchik, MD, Elizabeth Luft, MPH; Jennifer Carnes, MS; Andrew W. Short, MD; and Steve Broderick, JDAI

Qualification of Biomarker—Total Kidney Volume in Studies for Treatment of Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease

Guidance for Industry

This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on this topic. It does not create any right for any person and it is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if you can show that the approach is as effective or more effective than the one described in this guidance. For additional information, see the FDA’s policy on ECtR: https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/medical-device-development/earlyclinicaltrialsringtrials.
A Timeline of PKD Research at Tufts (continued)

2012-2014

Conducted the first studies (HALT PKD and TEMPO) to both use total kidney volume as the primary endpoint and achieve the primary endpoint.

Tolvaptan in Patients with Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease

Blood Pressure in Early Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease

Angiotensin Blockade in Late Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease

2015

Approval of Tolvaptan, the first pharmaceutical treatment for ADPKD, by Canadian Health Agency and European Medical Associations.

Nice Recommends First Ever Drug - Tolvaptan (JINARCO®) - to Treat ADPKD

London, 4 September 2015: Hope for families in England and Wales that a treatment option for this inheritable condition will be available in the NHS by early 2016.

The Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) Charity is delighted that the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has recommended to the NHS (UK) the world’s most common inherited kidney disease - autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease or ADPKD.

Osama Amro’s abstract “Low Osmolar Diet and Adjusted Water Intake for Vasopressin Suppression in ADPKD: A Randomized Controlled Trial” accepted as a late-breaking clinical trial at the 2015 ASN Kidney Week.
WELCOMING NEW ATTENDING PHYSICIAN STAFF

JAY-R LACSON, MD, MPH, FACP, FASN

What is your favorite sports team? Boston Celtics (except during the Michael Jordan era in the 90’s).

Fun fact? Hidden talent? I have partial color blindness that makes some of my color choices, including wardrobe, “highly questionable”. I used to play basketball before my knees were blown and I could shoot free throws with either hand, thus, I used to win free throw shooting bets “using my left hand” after initially only showing right-handed shots.

SETH WRIGHT, MD, MS

What would other team members say is your "work quirk?" I receive more Amazon packages than rest of division combined.

Fun fact that others may be surprised to know about you? Hidden talent? Former bagpipe player; ex-electrician

DAVID A. DREW, MD, MS

What is your favorite sports team? New England Patriots

What would other team members say is your "work quirk?" I like to have my notes done as early as possible.

Fun fact that others may be surprised to know about you? Hidden talent? I am a fairly accomplished cook.
CELEBRATING DEPARTING STAFF

After over 12 years with the division, Deb Basler, ANP, BC joined MGH as a Lung Transplant Coordinator.

After over 10 years with the division, Debbie Mitchell-Dozier, RN, joined the staff at MGH as a Post-Transplant Coordinator.

After over 7 years with the division, Aghogho Okparavero joined the Harvard Clinical Research Institute.

After over 8 years with the division, Jennifer Trignano, PA moved to New Jersey to be closer to her family.

After 15 years with Dialysis Clinic Inc., Aster Filate retired.
The William B. Schwartz Division of Nephrology is comprised of full-time and part-time physicians and scientists and staff to support our clinical, research, educational and administrative endeavors. The Division is an integral part of the Tufts Medical Center, Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM), and Tufts University communities. As listed in the Staffing section, many Division members have other appointments within Tufts Medical Center, TUSM, and the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences at Tufts University. In addition, the Division also enjoys a close and long-term relationship with Dialysis Clinic, Inc. (DCI), the largest not-for-profit provider of dialysis care in the United States and the National Kidney Foundation (NKF). In a broader organizational structure, Division members are also active participants within their professional organizations. Through these relationships, the Division is able to provide excellent patient care, perform high-level research, educate students and practitioners about kidney disease, and influence public policy relating to the diagnosis and treatment of kidney diseases.
**Location**

The Division maintains off-site and on-site ambulatory, dialysis, and inpatient operations, with administrative and research operations located within the Tufts Medical Center campus. The location of activities performed both on-site at Tufts Medical Center and at off-site affiliates are listed in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.

### Table 1: On-site Locations of Division Activities at Tufts Medical Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Floor</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35 Kneeland Street</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>American Journal of Kidney Diseases Editorial Offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Kidney and Blood Pressure Center (KBPC) and KBPC Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Outpatient dialysis services provided by DCI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Division support operations and physician and research staff offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floating</td>
<td>7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Inpatient dialysis services provided by DCI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Primary location for inpatient ward service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2: Off-site Clinical Nephrology Activities Affiliated with Tufts Medical Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physicians</th>
<th>Off-site Practices</th>
<th>Services Offered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael B. Cohen, MD</td>
<td>• Pratt Medical Group Nephrology and Hypertension Concord MA</td>
<td>• Outpatient nephrology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David A. Drew, MD, MS</td>
<td>• Emerson Hospital Concord MA</td>
<td>• Inpatient consultation and dialysis services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott J. Gilbert, MD</td>
<td>• DCI Walden Pond Concord MA</td>
<td>• Outpatient dialysis services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alin A. Joseph, MD, MS</td>
<td>• Reading MA and hospital-based clinics at Lawrence Memorial in Medford MA, and Melrose-Wakefield in Melrose MA</td>
<td>• Outpatient nephrology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klemens B. Meyer, MD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana C. Miskulin, MD, MS</td>
<td>• St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center, Kindred in Boston MA, Lawrence Memorial, Melrose-Wakefield, and Whidden in Everett MA hospitals</td>
<td>• Inpatient consultation and dialysis services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhumathi Rao, MD, PhD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel E. Weiner, MD, MS</td>
<td>• DCI Ball Square in Somerville MA, St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center, Malden, Medford, Saugus, Stoneham, and Woburn dialysis units</td>
<td>• Outpatient dialysis services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth Wright, MD, MS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Staffing

Physician Staff
Andrew S. Levey, MD, FNKF, Chief
Ronald D. Perrone, MD, FASN, FNKF, Associate Chief
Michael B. Cohen, MD
Anthony Z. Dash, MD
David A. Drew, MD, MS
Scott J. Gilbert, MD, FASN
Lesley A. Inker, MD, MS, FRCP(C)
Amy B. Kuhlik, MD
Alin A. Joseph, MD, MS
Eduardo Lacson, Jr., MD, MPH, FACP, FASN
Klemens B. Meyer, MD
Dana C. Miskulin, MD, MS, FRCP(C)
Monika Pilichowska, MD, PhD
Madhumathi Rao, MD, PhD, FRCP(E)
Mark J. Sarnak, MD, MS, FASN
Daniel E. Weiner, MD, MS, FASN, FNKF
Seth Wright, MD, MS

Dr. Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman Professor of Medicine
Professor of Medicine
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Instructor of Medicine
Associate Professor of Medicine
Associate Professor, Tisch College, Tufts University
Associate Professor of Medicine
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Dean for Students Affairs, TUSM
Clinical Instructor
Associate Professor
Professor of Medicine
Associate Professor of Medicine
Assistant Professor of Pathology
Associate Professor of Medicine
Associate Professor, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine
Professor of Medicine
Associate Professor of Medicine
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Special and Scientific Staff
Meredith C. Foster, ScD, MPH
Michelle M. Richardson, PharmD, BCPS

Research Assistant Professor of Medicine
Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Associate Physician Staff
Bertrand L. Jaber, MD, MS, FASN, FNKF
Nicolaos E. Madias, MD, FASN

Professor of Medicine
Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs
Department of Medicine
St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center
Maurice S. Segal, MD Chair in Medicine
Chairman, Department of Medicine
Academic Dean of TUSM
St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center

Adjunct Physician Staff
Carmen Castaneda-Sceppa, MD, PhD
Miguel Cendoroglo, MD

Associate Professor
Director, Graduate Program in Exercise Science
Northeastern University
Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Nephrology
Federal University of Sao Paulo
Medical Director and Superintendent
Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein
Ezra Gabbay, MD, MS  
Division of Adult Nephrology  
Shaare Zedek Medical Center  
Jerusalem, Israel

Sao Paulo, Brazil

Division of Hospital Medicine, Department of Medicine  
Weill-Cornell Medical College  
New York, NY

John S. Gill, MD, MS  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Transplant Fellowship Director  
University of British Columbia and St. Paul’s Hospital  
Vancouver, Canada

Tazeen H. Jafar, MD, MPH, FNKF  
Professor of Health Services and Systems Research  
Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School  
Singapore

Gregorio T. Obrador, MD, MPH  
Professor of Medicine  
Dean  
Universidad Panamericana Health Sciences Faculty and School of Medicine  
Mexico City, Mexico

Brian J.G. Pereira, MD, MBA  
Professor of Medicine  
Tufts University School of Medicine  
President and CEO  
Visterra Inc  
Cambridge MA

Katrin Uhlig, MD, MS  
Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine  
Senior Medical Director  
Keryx Biopharmaceuticals  
Boston, MA

Martin Wagner, MD, MS  
Adjunct Instructor  
Resident/Fellow  
Department of Medicine I, Division of Nephrology  
University Hospital of Würzburg, Germany  
Würzburg, Germany

Faculty Emeriti

John T. Harrington, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
Dean Emeritus, TUSM

Jerome P. Kassirer, MD  
Distinguished Professor  
Special Assistant to the Dean, TUSM

Management Staff

Geneva Tucker, MBA  
Business Operations Manager  
William B. Schwartz Division of Nephrology and Pratt Medical Group Nephrology and Hypertension, Concord

Krista Boisclair, MS  
Research Administrator II
Faculty Descriptions

Andrew S. Levey, MD, FNKF

Dr. Levey is Dr. Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman Professor of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine and Chief, William B. Schwartz Division of Nephrology at Tufts Medical Center.

Dr. Levey’s research interests include measurement and estimation of kidney function, epidemiology of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and of cardiovascular disease and nutrition in CKD, and treatments to slow the progression of CKD and reduce morbidity in patients treated by dialysis and kidney transplantation. Dr. Levey has a long history of participating in multicenter clinical trials and cohort studies. For the past 15 years, he has been at the forefront of the development of equations to estimate glomerular filtration rate (GFR) from serum creatinine, cystatin C and novel filtration markers using large databases, including the widely-used Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) Study and Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-EPI) equations. He leads CKD-EPI and is a founding member of the Chronic Kidney Disease Prognosis Consortium (CKD-PC). The use of GFR estimating equations to estimate kidney function and inform prognosis has transformed research, clinical practice, and public health in CKD.

Additional areas of interest include patient care, training in research and education, and health care policy related to CKD. Dr. Levey is a widely recognized authority on clinical practice guidelines in CKD and has contributed to guideline development, implementation, quality improvement and public policy in this area. He is the Principal Investigator of the Division’s NIDDK-supported training grant (T32) in clinical trials, epidemiology and outcomes research. He was formerly Associate Editor for kidney disease and hypertension for the Annals of Internal Medicine and is current Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Kidney Diseases.

He received the Distinguished Faculty Award from TUSM in 2004 and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Boston University School of Medicine in 2013. The National Kidney Foundation honored him with the President’s Award in 1998, Garabed Eknoyan Award in 2002, and David W. Hume Award in 2011. The American Society of Nephrology honored him with the Belding H. Scribner Award in 2013.

Ronald D. Perrone, MD, FASN, FNKF

Dr. Perrone has a long-standing and wide-ranging interest in translation of basic science discoveries to clinical medicine. Starting with a laboratory focused on epithelial transport, he subsequently focused on work with immortalized epithelia including human intrahepatic biliary epithelium, human polycystic liver cysts, and human bladder. His present work focuses on clinical research in polycystic kidney disease and the role of total kidney volume as a biomarker in response to clinical therapies. Dr. Perrone has been a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation since 1999 (Chairman from 2006-2010) and frequently lectures at national and local patient meetings. He served as Co-Investigator with Dr. Levey in the pilot and planning phases (Phase I and II) of the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) study and played a fundamental role in the validation and use of the $^{125}$I-iothalamate protocol used for the MDRD and other clinical trials of progressive kidney disease.

Dr. Perrone has had a major role in global and national clinical trials for ADPKD. He served as site PI and member of the steering committee for the TEMPO 251 study of tolvaptan in ADPKD. He is also site PI for the REPRISE study of tolvaptan in stage 2-4 ADPKD. Dr. Perrone was site PI and member of the steering committee for the NIDDK-sponsored HALT PKD study. Recently, Dr. Perrone and colleagues at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and the University of Pittsburgh received a 5-year grant from
the Department of Defense to study metformin as a clinical intervention in ADPKD.

Over the past 6 years, Dr. Perrone has been integral to the formation of the PKD Outcomes Consortium and has been the principal individual involved in bringing together the contributors from academia, pharma, NIH, FDA, CDISC, and C-Path. He has led this large and diverse consortium that is creating the groundwork for validation of total kidney volume as a clinical trial and regulatory endpoint in ADPKD. This consortium created a CDISC SDTM therapeutic area data standard for ADPKD, which is freely available for use for clinical trials and registries of ADPKD (http://www.cdisc.org/therapeutic#polycystickidneydisease). Recently, total kidney volume was improved as a clinical enrichment biomarker for inclusion of subjects in clinical trials of ADPKD by both the US Food and Drug Administration (http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM458483.pdf) and the European Medicines Agency (http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en_GB/document_library/Regulatory_and_procedural_guideline/2015/07/WC500190205.pdf). Dr. Perrone’s goal, enhanced by prior experience in epithelial biology, clinical trials, dietary modification, and translation of basic discoveries to clinical care, is to improve outcomes in chronic kidney disease, particularly polycystic kidney disease.

Dr. Perrone recently was appointed as the Scientific Director of the Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC) under the auspices of the Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute. The CTRC is the main site for clinical research studies at Tufts Medical Center. His role is to provide scientific leadership and facilitate research activities in the CTRC.

MICHAEL B. COHEN, MD

Dr. Cohen practices primarily at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital. He consults in both the inpatient and outpatient settings on the care of patients with kidney disease, hypertension, and those treated with hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. Dr. Cohen is Co-Medical Director at the DCI Ball Square dialysis unit and is Medical Director of the acute dialysis programs at Hallmark Health and Kindred Hospital Boston. He is also involved with teaching medical students, residents, and fellows in nephrology.

ANTHONY Z. DASH, MD

Dr. Dash practiced primarily at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center (SEMC), and the Concord off-site practice. He consulted in both the inpatient and outpatient settings on the care of patients with kidney disease, hypertension, and those treated with hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. Dr. Dash was the Co-Medical Director at the DCI Ball Square dialysis unit in Somerville.

DAVID A. DREW, MD, MS

Dr. Drew joined the Division as clinical staff in 2015 after completing his clinical and research nephrology fellowship. His clinical practice is primarily at Kindred Hospital Boston and Tufts Medical Center, providing outpatient and inpatient care for general nephrology. His research focuses on the risk factors for cognitive impairment and vascular disease in CKD and dialysis patients as well as vascular access in patients on chronic hemodialysis.

SCOTT J. GILBERT, MD, FASN

Dr. Gilbert is the Director of the Fellowship Training Program and coordinates house staff nephrology education. At Tufts Medical Center, he oversees resident rotations on the Inpatient Ward and Consult services, and in the outpatient Kidney and Blood Pressure Center (KBPC). At TUSM, Dr. Gilbert is course director of the 2nd year course From Health to Disease, leader of the Renal section, and coordinates the
4th year Consultative Nephrology elective. Dr. Gilbert directs the required Objective Structured Clinical Examination for all 3rd year students. He sits on the steering committees for the Learning Communities and the Community Service Requirement, and chairs the Pre-Clinical Course Director and Curriculum Integration Committees. Dr. Gilbert’s other educational activities include teaching Renal Pharmacology at the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences and the Renal Section of Nutritional Biochemistry and Physiology in the Friedman School of Nutrition. Dr. Gilbert is the Education Editor of the American Journal of Kidney Diseases, and the Editor of the Primer on Kidney Disease, 6th Edition. His clinical interests are the treatment of CKD, renal artery stenosis, hemodialysis, and transplantation. Dr. Gilbert is an Associate Professor of Medicine at TUSM.

**MEREDITH C. FOSTER, ScD, MPH**

Dr. Foster is Research Assistant Professor of Medicine and Public Health and Community Medicine at TUSM and a statistical editor for the American Journal of Kidney Diseases. Her research interests are related to the epidemiology of chronic kidney disease, including the role of obesity in the development and progression of chronic kidney disease, the impact of body composition on serum filtration markers, and the burden of risk factors, cardiovascular disease, and complications in chronic kidney disease. She is currently involved with projects evaluating risk of adverse events associated with novel serum and urinary biomarkers in the Chronic Kidney Disease Biomarkers Consortium, the burden of chronic kidney disease and its complications in the elderly from the Age, Gene/Environment Susceptibility Study, non-GFR determinants of novel filtration markers, and estimating residual kidney function with serum low molecular weight proteins and metabolites in peritoneal dialysis patients.

**LESLEY A. INKER, MD, MS, FRCP (C)**

Dr. Inker’s primary research interests are in kidney function measurement and estimation, outcomes for clinical trials of kidney disease progression, and epidemiology and outcomes related to CKD. She was the co-principal investigator of CKD-EPI, a collaborative effort with the NIDDK to use pooled individual patient data to address central questions in the epidemiology of CKD, including developing improved GFR estimation equations, using these equations to refine prevalence estimates for CKD from National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, and evaluating changes in proteinuria as a surrogate marker for kidney disease outcomes in clinical trials. Dr. Inker is currently involved in several projects to measure GFR in populations which have not been well represented in studies of measured GFR, such as the elderly, patients with HIV, and African Americans. Using these data and others, she is investigating novel markers for estimation of GFR and prognosis of adverse outcomes in patients with CKD, and is a co-investigator on the Chronic Kidney Disease Biomarker Consortium (Bio-Con), a collaborative effort with the NIDDK to develop and validate novel biomarkers for chronic kidney disease. Dr. Inker continues in the investigation of alternative endpoints for clinical trials of kidney disease progression. She is the principal investigator of a study to evaluate proteinuria in IgA nephropathy and she is the director of the analytical team to evaluate alternative creatinine-based outcomes as part of an FDA-NKF workshop held December 2012. A second conference to look at additional endpoints for albuminuria and GFR is being planned for 2017. Dr. Inker was co-chair of the Kidney Disease Outcome Quality Initiative (KDOQI) committee on the CKD Guidelines, which has recently completed a commentary on the KDIGO guidelines. Dr. Inker’s clinical interests are general nephrology, GFR measurement and estimation, detection and treatment of CKD, geriatric nephrology, HIV-associated kidney disease, and kidney stones. She is the Director of the Kidney and Blood Pressure Center, the Kidney Function Evaluation Center, and for Quality Improvement for the Division.
Dr. Bertrand L. Jaber, MD, MS, FASN, FNKF

Dr. Jaber serves as Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs in the Department of Medicine in the Department of Medicine at SEMC. His research efforts focus on the potential utility of genetic, plasma, and urinary markers in the prediction of development, early detection, and severity of acute kidney injury as well as adverse clinical outcomes. He also conducts meta-analyses on preventive and treatment strategies for acute kidney injury and has examined the role of more frequent hemodialysis to treat chronic kidney failure. Dr. Jaber is a Professor of Medicine at TUSM and Faculty Senate member. He is also a faculty member of the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences, and is co-editor for the American Journal of Kidney Diseases. Dr. Jaber previously served as Chair of the American Society of Nephrology’s Acute Kidney Injury Advisory Group.

Dr. Alin A. Joseph, MD, MS

Dr. Joseph finished her residency at Tufts Medical Center in 2011 and her clinical-research fellowship in Nephrology in the Division in 2014. She then joined the Division as a member of the clinical staff. Her clinical practice is primarily in the outpatient setting at the Pratt Medical Office in Concord, MA, and at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Medford, MA, as well as inpatient at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Medford, MA providing nephrology care.

Dr. Amy B. Kuhlik, MD

Dr. Kuhlik is the Dean for Student Affairs at TUSM. She maintains a clinical practice within the Division by holding one half-day clinic a week and also attending on the nephrology consult service several weeks a year. Dr. Kuhlik’s clinical specialties are CKD, pregnancy, and polycystic kidney disease.

Dr. Eduardo Lacson, Jr., MD, MPH, FACP, FASN

Dr. Lacson joined the Division as an Associate Professor in Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine in the fourth quarter of 2015 after 15 years at Fresenius Medical Care North America, serving as its VP of Clinical Science, Epidemiology and Research for the last 6 years. His research interest covers late CKD and ESRD, with focus on care quality, quality improvement, and patient safety. His work covers epidemiological studies, translational research, and clinical performance measurement in health policy. He served in the steering committee of the national Kidney Care Quality Alliance from 2014-2015 that submitted recommendations for fluid management clinical performance measures to the National Quality Forum, been previously active in the Medical Quality Committees of the national Kidney Care Partners and Kidney Care Council trade organizations, served with pragmatic clinical trials workgroup of the national Kidney Health Initiative and has served in multiple CMS Technical Expert Panels in dialysis care. Dr. Lacson has served as an Investigator in the NIH funded Frequent Hemodialysis Network Trials, member of the steering committee for the NIH-funded TIME trial, and as a stakeholders committee member in the PCORI-funded ASCEND trial. He also works with the ASN Quality Metrics Task Force.

Dr. Nicolaos E. Madias, MD, FASN

Dr. Madias is the Maurice S. Segal, MD Professor of Medicine at TUSM and the Academic Dean of TUSM at St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center. Dr. Madias is interested in the broad field of acid-base and electrolyte metabolism. He is pursuing projects on various acid-base disorders, the epidemiology and management of dysnatremias, and the role of sodium and potassium in the pathogenesis of hypertension. Dr. Madias is also the Course Chairman and Lecturer of the Early Program on Diagnosis
and Management of Disorders of Acid-Base, Fluid, and Electrolyte Balance for the national meeting of the American Society of Nephrology.

KLEMMEN B. MEYER, MD

Dr. Meyer is Director of Dialysis Services at Tufts Medical Center, Medical Director at DCI Boston, DCI Ball Square, and DCI Walden Pond and Professor of Medicine at TUSM. Dr. Meyer’s clinical interests are CKD, dialysis, and kidney transplantation. His teaching interests involve the techniques of interpersonal care and end-of-life care. Dr. Meyer’s research interests are dialysis informatics, the measurement of patient experience and of the quality of care. He is also actively involved in data-driven quality improvement activities. In his capacity as DCI’s Medical Director for Information Systems, Dr. Meyer participates in the development and operations of both medical and business information systems. Dr. Meyer participated in the leadership of the ESRD Network of New England for 2 decades and served as President of the Board of Directors of the National Forum of ESRD Networks. He is a member of the Renal Disease and Detoxification Committee of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation and of the American Society of Nephrology’s Dialysis Advisory Group. In 2014, Dr. Meyer received the TUSM Distinguished Faculty Award.

DANA C. MISKULIN, MD, MS, FRCP (C)

Dr. Miskulin conducts research in the Division and directs the DCI Comorbidity Assessment Project whose goal is to develop and implement procedures for the collection of comorbidity information and adjustment for comorbidity in reporting the quality of care provided at DCI facilities. Dr. Miskulin is also a Co-Investigator for the HALT-PKD Study. Her clinical interests are in general nephrology, polycystic kidney disease, and kidney stones.

MONIKA PILICHOWSKA, MD, PhD

Dr. Pilichowska’s primary appointment is in the pathology department at Tufts Medical Center. She is board certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and Hematopathology and is a member of the Renal Pathology Society. Dr. Pilichowska has a special interest in kidney diseases and interprets kidney biopsies in patients with medical kidney disease and kidney transplants. She conducts a kidney biopsy conference at regular intervals for Division members. Her current research studies include renal involvement in lymphoproliferative disorders, autoreactive B-cell clones in systemic lupus erythematosus, and IgA nephropathy.

MADHUMATHI RAO, MD, PhD, FRCP (E)

Dr. Rao's research interests include the metabolic and inflammatory complications of CKD and ESRD. She is studying the role of the gut microbiota in the genesis of inflammation in dialysis patients. She directs the bone biopsy program for the Division and is studying the relationship between bone histology and fracture risk in patients with CKD. She is also working with investigators from Infectious diseases and Orthopedics in the role of antibiotic spacers in the development of acute kidney injury among patients presenting with prosthetic joint infections. Her clinical interests include management of CKD and its complications, critical care nephrology, glomerulonephritis, genetic kidney disease, and renal bone disease. She is currently the Associate Medical Director, Walden Pond DCI, and Consultant Nephrologist at Emerson Hospital and Attending Physician/Nephrologist at Tufts Medical Center. She is the course director for cardiovascular epidemiology for the MD-MPH course in the Tufts University School of Medicine, and serves on the Institutional Review Board and the Scientific Advisory
Committee. She is Associate Professor, Department of Medicine and Department of Public Health and Community Medicine.

**Michelle M. Richardson, PharmD, BCPS**

Dr. Richardson is a member of the Special and Scientific Staff. Her research and programmatic interests involve assessing patient-based outcomes of health-related quality of life (HRQOL) and patient satisfaction in patients with kidney disease. Since 1994, she has directed the Outcomes Monitoring Program (OMP) for DCI. The OMP was the first program of its kind to routinely use patient-reported outcomes in clinical care. Dr. Richardson and her staff are most recently focusing on the new regulation requiring ICH-CAHPS administrations in in-center hemodialysis facilities and developing strategic programs and materials to help facilities improve the patient experience. In 2014, Dr. Richardson was appointed as a member of the ESRD Quality Measure Development, Maintenance, and Support Project Functional Status Technical Expert Panel convened by the University of Michigan Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center and the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services. She is also the Director of Communications and produces this Annual Report and maintains the Division’s web site.

**Mark J. Sarnak, MD, MS, FASN**

Dr. Sarnak is the Director of Research in the Division of Nephrology, Associate Director of the Research Training Program, and Professor of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine. His research focuses on traditional and non-traditional cardiovascular risk factors in CKD, aging and kidney disease, and cognitive function and CKD. Dr. Sarnak is funded by the NIDDK and the National Institutes of Aging (NIA) to perform these research projects. Dr. Sarnak’s clinical specialties are in cardiovascular disease in patients with kidney disease, management of CKD, dialysis, kidney transplantation, and kidney stones.

**Daniel E. Weiner, MD, MS, FASN, FNKF**

Dr. Weiner is the recipient of an R01 from the NIDDK to investigate the role of exercise in people with advanced kidney disease, including factors by which exercise may improve physical and cognitive health. Previously, he received a Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant from the American Society of Nephrology and a K23 Career Development Award from the NIDDK. His current research evaluates the effect of traditional and non-traditional cardiovascular disease risk factors on cerebrovascular and cardiovascular disease outcomes, including cognitive function, in people with kidney disease as well as epidemiologic research in dialysis. Additionally, he led Tufts’ involvement in the multicenter NIH-funded Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT), which helped elucidate the appropriate blood pressure goal for antihypertensive treatment in non-diabetic adults. He is also the lead investigator at Tufts in two trials investigating diabetic nephropathy. He is collaborating with public health researchers from Boston University to investigate CKD among workers in rural Nicaragua.

Dr. Weiner is the Associate Medical Director of DCI Boston. Since October 2006, Dr. Weiner has been the Deputy Editor of the American Journal of Kidney Diseases. Dr. Weiner is the co-Editor in Chief of the National Kidney Foundation’s Primer on Kidney Diseases, 6th edition. Dr. Weiner is currently the chair of the American Society of Nephrology Quality Metrics Task Force and is a member of the Public Policy Board. He is the chair of the 2016 Program Committee for the NKF Spring Clinical Meeting and a member of the 2015 NKF KDOQI Hemodialysis Guideline update workgroup.

Dr. Weiner’s clinical specialties are general nephrology and home and in-center dialysis. Dr. Weiner was the Chair of the Curriculum Committee at TUSM. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2014.
Seth Wright, MD, MS

Dr. Wright joined the Division as clinical staff in 2013 and is the Director, Continuing Medical Education. His clinical practice is primarily at Tufts Medical Center, providing outpatient and inpatient care for issues of general nephrology and internal medicine. His research focuses on the medical issues facing patients undergoing long-term outpatient dialysis, including infections.

Division Staff

Members of the support staff sustain the Division’s administrative, clinical, and research operations. Geneva Tucker, the Business Operations Manager, supervises 20 personnel in the Division. The support personnel are diverse and each staff member brings specialized knowledge and skills to their respective positions. All administrative and clinical staff functions as teams supporting operations and each other. Personnel are cross-trained, enabling each team to support day-to-day operations and the other, when the need arises. The ambulatory support staff also works very closely with our physicians, fellows, staff nurse, physician assistants, and transplant nurse practitioners to provide high-quality care and customer service to our patients. The Business Operations Manager also oversees the Division’s Fellowship program, currently staffed as 9 Clinical and Clinical Research/Training Grant full-time equivalents.

Administrative Support Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Member</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Collado</td>
<td>Fellowship Program Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorna Davies</td>
<td>Administrative Coordinator</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


Kidney and Blood Pressure Center Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Member</th>
<th>Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dawa Dolma</td>
<td>Medical Assistant/Phlebotomist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Ann Leong-Tsan</td>
<td>Practice Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hasnaa Moussaif</td>
<td>Practice Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laticco Robinson, MPA, PA-C</td>
<td>Physician Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Sullivan, MPA, PA-C</td>
<td>Physician Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finna Tam</td>
<td>Practice Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronika Testa, RN</td>
<td>Staff Nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Valencia, BA</td>
<td>Clinic Supervisor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pratt Medical Group Nephrology and Hypertension, Concord

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Member</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharyn Moussawee</td>
<td>Administrative Coordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Support Staff (i.e., Assistants, Associates, & Statisticians)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Member</th>
<th>Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vinita Akula</td>
<td>Research Assistant II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Duncan</td>
<td>Clinical Research Coordinator II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eamon Flemming</td>
<td>Clinical Research Coordinator II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret (Peggy) Healy</td>
<td>Clinical Research Coordinator II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elise Hoover</td>
<td>Clinical Research Coordinator III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yinan Jia, RD</td>
<td>Research Volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine Rollins</td>
<td>Clinical Research Coordinator II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Simon</td>
<td>Research Associate II</td>
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</tbody>
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Research Administration

Krista Boisclair, MS Research Administrator, under the supervision of Director of Research Administration for the Department of Medicine, is responsible for assisting investigators and research staff in all aspects of managing grants and coordinating research activities of the Division. Research activities of the Division are discussed in more detail starting on page 35.

American Journal of Kidney Diseases

Nijsje Dorman, PhD, is Managing Editor for the American Journal Kidney Diseases. Dr. Dorman is responsible for all aspects of editorial operations of the journal. See page 56 for details.
2015 Faculty and Staff Changes

Faculty Changes

- Tony Dash left after nearly 24 years to return to his native Seattle.
- Seth Wright, MD, MS and Dave A. Drew, MD, MS joined the Division faculty after completing their fellowships at Tufts Medical Center. Dr. Wright recently completed his NIH-sponsored fellowship in clinical research after a prior clinical nephrology fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Dr Drew joined the Division faculty after completing his Internship, Residency and Fellowship training at Tufts Medical Center.
- Jay-R Lacson joined the Division faculty as an Associate Professor in Medicine after 15 years at Fresenius Medical Care North America, serving as its VP of Clinical Science, Epidemiology and Research for the last 6 years. His long-term research and service accomplishments bring a wide-range of skills and expertise to the Division.

Staff Changes

Research

- Lily Chan resigned after nearly 3 years as a Research Coordinator. Eamon Fleming joined the as her replacement. He is working on the AWARD and SPRINT trials with Dr. Weiner. Jasmine Rollins also joined the Division as a Research Coordinator on several studies including AWARD (the exercise study), SPRINT and two studies soon to start on diabetic nephropathy.
- Naya Huang, Research Volunteer, completed her year in the Division and returned to China.
- Yinan Jia joined the Division to work with Elise Hoover on a summer project regarding diet and ADPKD
- Aghogho Okparavero left after 7 years as a Research Associate working with Drs. Levey and Inker. New members of Dr. Inker’s team include Andrew Simon as a Research Associate who came to the Division after working at the IRB and Vinita Akula as a Research Assistant
• Margaret (Peggy) Healy joined Dr. Perrone’s team as a Research Coordinator II. She will be working on the new metformin study.

Clinical
• After over 10 years with the Division, Debbie Mitchell-Dozier, RN resigned as clinic nurse. Her position has been filled by a Division of Nephrology alum, Veronika Testa, RN.
• Jennifer Trignano, our physician assistant, left the division after 8 years of service. Laticco Robinson MPA, PA-C replaced Jen in the KBPC.
• After serving Dialysis Clinic Inc. patients for 15 years Aster Filate retired.

Service

Members of the Division are actively involved in local, national, and international service.

Service to Tufts Medical Center
• Dr. Gilbert serves on the Internal Medicine Residency Clinical Competency Committee, the Graduate Medical Education Committee, and the Internal Medicine Residency Curriculum Committee.
• Dr. Rao is a member of the Tufts Medical Center Investigational Review Board.
• Dr. Sarnak is a member of the Clinical Research Program Advisory Committee for the Fellowship Program in the Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policies in the Division of Clinical Care Research.
• Drs. Sarnak, Gilbert, and Weiner are members of the Tufts Medical Center Internal Medicine Residency Selection Committee.
• Dr. Weiner is the Chair of the Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) Operations Committee. Dr. Sarnak is also a member of this committee.

Service to TUSM/Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences

• Several members of the Division have roles on the TUSM Curriculum Committee; Dr. Weiner is the Chair, Dr. Gilbert is an Ex Officio member, and Dr. Inker is a member.
• Dr. Gilbert serves on the Learning Community Steering Committee and the Community Service Learning Effort Steering Committee; and chairs the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) Committee, the Curriculum Integration Committee, and the Pre-Clinical Course Directors Committee at TUSM.
• Dr. Madias is a member of the Executive Council.
• Dr. Meyer serves as a faculty advisor for the Galen Society.
• Dr. Rao is a member of the TUSM Scientific Affairs Committee.

Service to Professional Organizations
• Dr. Gilbert is a member of the Panel for Accreditation Appeals in Nephrology Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. He also is a member of the Medical Advisory Board of the NKF Serving New England and the Executive Committee of the Nephrology Training Program Directors for the ASN.
• Dr. Gilbert is the program chair for the Nephrology Training Program Directors Retreat.
• Dr. Inker is the chair of the Clinical Oversight Committee of KEEP and a member of the National Kidney Disease Education Program Laboratory Work Group.
• Dr. Inker chairs the International Classification of Diseases in the US and a member of the Renal Working Group developing the 11th version of the International Classification of Diseases, World Health Organization.
• Dr. Inker also serves on the NIDDK United States Renal Data System (USRDS) Vascular Access Consortium External Advisory Committee.
• Dr. Jaber is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for Chronic Therapies at NxStage Medical in Lawrence MA.
• Dr. Lacson is a member of the CMS Clinical Technical Expert Panel for Comorbidity.
• Dr. Levey is a member of the NKF Scientific Advisory Board.
• Dr. Madias is a member of the Advisory Board for the Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA and the Acid-Base and Electrolyte Advisory Board for the American Journal of Kidney Diseases.
• At DCI, Dr. Meyer is the Medical Director for both the Information Systems and the Outcomes Monitoring Program. He is also a member of the Medical Information System Steering Committee.
• Dr. Meyer is a member of the Renal Disease and Detoxification Committee of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation, the American Association of Kidney Patients Medical Advisory Board, and the USRDS External Advisory Committee.
• In 2015, Dr. Meyer began a 3-year term on the ASN’s Dialysis Advisory Group.
• Drs. Miskulin, Meyer and Weiner are members of the DCI Quality Management Committee.
• Dr. Miskulin is the Chair of the Endpoints Committee for the HALT-PKD Study.
• Dr. Perrone is Co-Executive Director of the Polycystic Kidney Disease Outcomes Consortium.
• Dr. Sarnak is the Co-Chair of the Cardiovascular Health Study (CHS) Renal Work Group. He is also on the writing committee of the cardiovascular subcommittee of the Hemodialysis (HEMO) Study and a member for the ALLHAT Renal Working Group.
• Dr. **Sarnak** is on the steering committee for the CKD Prognosis Consortium.
• Dr. **Weiner** is the chair of the ASN Quality Metrics Task Force. **Dr. Lacson** is also a member of this committee.
• Dr. **Weiner** is a member of the ASN Public Policy Board; a grant reviewer for the NIA GEMSSTAR review committee; and a member of the DCI Medical Director Research Committee.
• **Dr. Weiner** is also Chair for the 2016 National Kidney Foundation Spring Clinical Meeting Planning Committee.

**PATIENT CARE**

The Division provides diagnostic and treatment expertise for patients with chronic kidney diseases, including kidney failure and kidney transplantation, acute kidney injuries, fluid and electrolyte disorders, and all forms of hypertension. The staff has expertise in evaluation and treatment of nephrotic syndrome, various glomerular diseases, diabetic kidney disease, polycystic kidney disease, urinary tract infections, urinary reflux and obstruction, kidney stones, and all other kidney diseases. Special diagnostic and treatment modalities offered by the division include glomerular filtration rate estimation, kidney biopsy, transplant immunosuppression, ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, percutaneous transluminal renal angioplasty and stenting, hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, continuous venovenous hemofiltration, vascular access monitoring and repair, and kidney transplantation.

All our clinical programs continue to expand, offering care for a wide range of complex and complicated issues associated with acute and chronic kidney disease. The following section highlights our clinical programs.

**2015 Patient Care Initiatives**

**Bone Biopsy Center**

Directed by **Dr. Rao**, the Bone Biopsy Center works with other nephrologists, endocrinologists, endocrine surgeons, orthopedic surgeons and pathologists to provide comprehensive care plans for patients with metabolic bone disease.

To diagnose and manage these diseases, most physicians use a parathyroid hormone (PTH) assay, which has serious limitations. The gold standard is a bone biopsy, which helps characterize the bone quality and architecture, establishes turnover rates and provides an optimal treatment guide. Currently, Tufts Medical Center is the only center in New England to perform biopsies to aid in the diagnoses and management of bone disease associated with kidney disease.
Kidney and Blood Pressure Center
Haewook Han, PhD, RD, CSR, LDN, a highly experience renal dietician joined our team. She sees patients in the KBPC and is able to do a thorough evaluation of the patient’s diet and provides recommendations for changes based on dietary goals.

Continuing Outpatient Patient Care Initiatives

Kidney and Blood Pressure Center
Outpatient clinical activities take place primarily in the KBPC, directed by Dr. Inker. There are currently nine half-day-a-week clinics staffed by Drs. Drew, Gilbert, Inker, Kuhlik, Levey, Meyer, Miskulin, Perrone, and Sarnak.

The KBPC emphasizes a multi-disciplinary approach to kidney disease. Collaboration with the Division of Transplant Surgery, Department of Urology, the DCI outpatient dialysis unit, and the Frances Stern Nutrition Center improve the quality of care delivered. The KBPC specializes in the diagnosis and management of CKD, hypertension, glomerular diseases, kidney transplantation, kidney stones, and peritoneal dialysis. Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring and subcutaneous erythropoietin administration services are offered by the KBPC.

Many clinical studies on CKD occur in the clinic, including studies of polycystic kidney disease, blood pressure target in CKD, dyslipidemia management in CKD, lupus nephritis (in conjunction with the Division of Rheumatology), transplant immunosuppression, cardiovascular disease in transplantation, computerized assessment of health-related quality of life, genetic predisposition to progression, and kidney function evaluation (see below).

In collaboration with Jane Maxim RN, DCI Ball Square Home Dialysis Nurse Manager, Veronika Testa, RN holds patient education sessions. The Renal Replacement Options Meetings are facilitated discussions held every quarter for CKD Stage 4 and Stage 5 patients who would benefit from open discussion of hemodialysis (center based vs. home based), peritoneal dialysis, and kidney transplantation. The meeting is open to both patients and family members.

Kidney Function Evaluation Clinic
The Kidney Function Evaluation Center, under the direction of Dr. Inker, is a Boston-wide resource for confirmatory tests for GFR estimated from creatinine. Patients whose estimates of GFR using creatinine are not thought to be accurate are referred to the Center for measurement of GFR using plasma clearance of iohexol. GFR is estimated using both creatinine and cystatin C and a report is sent to the referring physicians for a complete interpretation of the GFR values. For example, it may be useful in patients who will be undergoing chemotherapy with agents that are cleared by the kidneys, potential kidney donors with high muscle mass who are thought to have falsely low estimated GFR, or patients with CKD who have low muscle mass who have symptoms that could be consistent with uremia.
**Center for Polycystic Kidney Disease**

In 2006, Dr. Perrone opened The Center for Polycystic Kidney Disease at Tufts Medical Center (https://www.tuftsmedicalcenter.org/patient-care-services/Departments-and-Services/Nephrology/Clinical-Care-Services/Center-for-PKD.aspx)

This multidisciplinary clinic offers comprehensive, coordinated care for patients with PKD. The Center's physicians are internationally recognized experts in treating and managing the complications of PKD. In addition to Drs. Perrone and Miskulin of the Division of Nephrology, physicians from transplant surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, urology, neurosurgery, and clinical genetics participate in the Center. Areas of expertise include providing coordinated care for chronic kidney disease including dialysis and transplantation, treatment of hypertension, and evaluation and management of the complications of liver and kidney cysts including chronic pain, kidney stones, and cardiovascular issues including intracranial aneurysms.

Multidisciplinary consultations are provided in collaboration with Gennaro Carpinito, MD, Urologist-in-Chief and Charles M. Whitney Professor and Chairman, Department of Urology; Adel Malek, MD, Chief, Division of Neurovascular Surgery; Richard Rohrer, MD, Chief, Transplant Surgery; Sajani Shah, MD, Surgeon, Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery; Michael Tarnoff, MD, Surgeon, Minimally Invasive Surgery Center; Laurence H. Brinckerhoff, M.D., Division of Thoracic Surgery; and Diana Bianchi, MD, Executive Director, Mother and Infant Research Unit, Floating Hospital for Children.

This center also addresses the complications of PKD resulting in new transplants, aneurysm repair, video thoracoscopic splanchnicectomy (VSPL) for relief of intractable cyst pain and laparoscopic cyst reduction.

As part of the PKD Center, Dr. Perrone holds a PKD clinic during which he and Dr. Miskulin see new patients referred specifically for expert advice regarding complications of cystic disease. This clinic meets biweekly and is staffed in rotation by Dr. Perrone or Dr. Miskulin with participation by clinical or research fellows on a rotating basis and provides a unique opportunity to see the wide range of complications in this disease.

Drs. Perrone and Miskulin also participate in clinical trials for patients with PKD including TEMPO 211, TAME (metformin), and REPRISE (TEMPO 210).

**Kidney Transplantation Program**

Although all Division attending physicians in the KBPC see kidney transplant patients, the Division of Nephrology runs a specific Kidney Transplant Multidisciplinary clinic on Wednesday mornings. This clinic is staffed by Dr. Perrone, Medical Director of Kidney Transplantation, and also staffed by one of the Transplant surgeons. Two nurse practitioner transplant coordinators also attend the clinic, one working with Dr. Perrone and one with the Transplant Surgeon. Consultation and interaction regarding new and long-term kidney transplant recipients, kidney transplant candidates, and kidney donors is easily and frequently accomplished. Another benefit of this joint activity is the facilitation of dialysis access planning and interventions. Dr. Gilbert and Inker also work closely with the transplant coordinators, seeing patients on
Tuesday or Thursday mornings in the KBPC. The kidney transplant program has excellent overall outcomes. Kidney transplant patient and graft survival rates of 99.0% and 97.7%, respectively, are truly outstanding.

**Home Dialysis**

The Division of Nephrology treats almost 1/3 of its dialysis patients by home dialysis. We participate in a regional home dialysis program, directed by Dr. Meyer, which treats about 45 patients by peritoneal dialysis and home hemodialysis at DCI’s Ball Square facility in Somerville. Jane Maxim, RN, who has more than 40 years’ experience in dialysis, is the program’s Nurse Manager, leading a team of six nurses, a dietician and a social worker. In addition to English, the nurses speak Cantonese, Mandarin, and Vietnamese. We offer urgent start peritoneal dialysis, and a newly expanded home program space allows respite home hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis for patients relying on family members to assist with their treatment. The program prides itself on its flexibility, training patients on evenings and weekends when necessary, and making accommodations to minimize the disruption of patients’ lives by dialysis treatment. Several patients reside in long term care facilities, and the nurses have become expert at training the staff of these facilities, and maintaining their skills. The program won DCI’s 2013 Darwin Peterson Award for the best peritoneal dialysis program throughout DCI’s national network of more than 200 dialysis facilities. Drs. Meyer, Weiner, Miskulin and Cohen hold monthly home dialysis clinics at DCI Ball Square and Dr. Rao holds a monthly home dialysis clinic at DCI Walden Pond.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dialysis Program</th>
<th>Medical Directors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tufts Medical Center</td>
<td>DCI Boston</td>
<td>Klemens B. Meyer MD, Medical Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Daniel E. Weiner MD, Associate Medical Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerville</td>
<td>DCI Ball Square</td>
<td>Klemens B. Meyer MD, Medical Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Michael B. Cohen MD, Associate Medical Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Alin Joseph MD, Associate Medical Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>DCI Walden Pond</td>
<td>Klemens B. Meyer MD, Medical Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Madhumathi Rao MD, Associate Medical Director</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In-Center Hemodialysis**

Drs. Meyer and Weiner direct the dialysis program at Tufts Medical Center. Table 3 lists the dialysis programs affiliated with the Division of Nephrology. Since 1986, the dialysis program at Tufts Medical Center has been operated by Dialysis Clinic, Inc. (DCI), a national not-for-profit dialysis organization which sets the national benchmark for quality of care.

**DCI Boston**

The DCI Boston in-center hemodialysis facility at 35 Kneeland Street treats approximately 100
patients. The unit operates 5 shifts, including one of the few evening shifts in Greater Boston. The hemodialysis nursing staff have a median of more than 25 years’ experience in dialysis. Chad Stevenson RN serves as nurse manager, and Ferdie Cigaral RN as Assistant Nurse Manager. Dr. Meyer’s and Weiner’s offices are adjacent to the dialysis unit, and the other dialysis attending physicians and fellows have offices one floor up. Physical proximity makes frequent patient contact practical and facilitates interaction between physicians and dialysis staff. Physicians round on each patient shift twice a week.

According to the 2015 CMS Dialysis Facility Report (DFR), DCI Boston’s 2011-2014 standardized mortality ratio (SMR) was 0.72 (p<0.05), showing better patient survival than would be expected on the basis of patient characteristics; this was the second year in a row that survival was statistically significantly better than expected. The DFR reported that in 2014, 77.8% of patients dialyzed by fistula, and only 4.2% by catheter; both of these values are substantially better than regional and national means. The report also found that 70% of eligible patients were vaccinated against influenza, compared to 47.9% in the country as a whole (p=0.011). Twice as many of the patients (50%, p<0.05) were listed for transplantation than in the country as a whole (24%), despite the fact that the mean age of prevalent patients was 64 years, and that at any one time, a quarter to a third of patients do not speak English.

**DCI Ball Square (Somerville, MA)**

In addition to the large home program, DCI Ball Square treats approximately 85 in-center hemodialysis patients. Dr. Tony Dash opened this program in 1999, and directed it until June 2015, when he relocated to his home town of Seattle, WA. The 2015 Dialysis Facility Report for
Ball Square found the 2010-2013 STR of observed to expected number of patients transplanted for this facility to be 2.38 (p<0.05), higher than expected for the second year in a row. The proportion of patients waitlisted for transplantation was 51%, statistically significantly greater than the national rate of 24% for a second year. **Agnes Rawski, RN** serves as nurse manager of the in-center hemodialysis program.

**DCI Walden Pond (Concord, MA)**

DCI Walden Pond opened in 2003. Dr. **Meyer** is the medical director and Dr. **Rao** is the **Associate** Medical Director. DCI Walden Pong treats 45 hemodialysis patients and Dr. Rao holds a monthly home dialysis clinic at the facility. The 2014 Dialysis Facility Report showed that among the 22 dialysis patients under age 70 treated at this facility, 45% were on the kidney transplant waitlist compared to 25% nationally (p<0.05).

**Outpatient Volume**

All volume numbers are for the Tufts Medical Center and DCI fiscal year 2015 (October 2014—September 2015), unless otherwise stated.

Table 4: Comparison of Outpatient Activity: Fiscal Year 2014 vs. 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution and Location</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2014</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2015</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tufts Medical Center</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney Blood Pressure Center</td>
<td>5,178</td>
<td>5,301</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pratt Medical Group Nephrology and Hypertension, Concord</td>
<td>1,434</td>
<td>1,812</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dialysis Clinic, Incorporated</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston (Tufts Medical Center) hemodialysis treatments</td>
<td>15,277</td>
<td>14,073</td>
<td>-7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball Square hemodialysis treatments</td>
<td>11,609</td>
<td>12,311</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball Square home-dialysis patients</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>-20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walden Pond hemodialysis treatments</td>
<td>6,449</td>
<td>6,569</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Comparison of Outpatient Dialysis Visits by Division Physicians at Affiliated Units: Fiscal Year 2014 vs. 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dialysis Unit</th>
<th>Number of Visits Fiscal Year 2014</th>
<th>Number of Visits Fiscal Year 2015</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>-9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Memorial</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saugus</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoneham</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>-14.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 6: Comparison of Outpatient Ambulatory Visits by Division Physicians at Affiliated Units: Fiscal Year 2014 vs. 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ambulatory Clinics</th>
<th>Number of Visits Fiscal Year 2014</th>
<th>Number of Visits Fiscal Year 2015</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Memorial</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>-4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melrose Wakefield</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>811</td>
<td>-4.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nephrology Inpatient Services

Every 14 days, the Division’s nephrologists rotate responsibility for care of patients hospitalized on the inpatient nephrology service at Tufts Medical Center. The nephrology and dialysis staff work closely with the nursing staff on North 7, the inpatient nephrology floor, to maintain continuity of care. In addition, all Division attending physicians participate in the inpatient nephrology consultation service. The consultation service responds to over 70 requests monthly for evaluation of acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease, fluid and electrolyte disorders, glomerulonephritis, hypertension, and solid organ and bone marrow transplant-related issues. The nephrology consultation service also provides expertise for all forms of renal replacement therapy, including but not limited to hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, continuous renal replacement therapy (CVVHD and SCUF), and charcoal hemoperfusion. Under the supervision of staff physicians, Division fellows perform all temporary access procedures required for initiating hemodialysis, including ultrasound-guided femoral and central catheter insertions.

Kidney Transplantation

Dr. Perrone is the Medical Director and all Division attending physicians also participate in the Tufts Medical Center Kidney Transplant Program. A relatively high proportion of kidney transplants derive from related or unrelated living donors. Tufts Medical Center is also an active participant in the UNOS Kidney Paired Donation Project that has centralized the coordination of sharing by mismatched donor-recipient pairs so as to allow regional and national paired-donor exchanges. Patients who have received transplants are seen weekly in the KBPC in the initial months following the transplant, thereafter at increasing intervals. The transplant team at Tufts Medical Center has conducted more than 1000 kidney transplants. In 2011, the kidney transplant program celebrated its 40th anniversary!

Inpatient Dialysis

Inpatient hemodialysis is performed in the Floating 7 inpatient dialysis unit and in Tufts Medical Center intensive care units. Drs. Perrone and Meyer share responsibility for the continuous renal replacement program, which uses NxStage System 1 machines to perform continuous venovenous hemodialysis.

DCI, the hospital’s inpatient dialysis provider, assigns nurses to perform inpatient hemodialysis treatments and to oversee and facilitate continuous hemofiltration therapies performed in the
intensive care units. **Linda Courtemanche, RN** manages the inpatient dialysis program, which she joined in 1986. The staff performs both pediatric and adult hemodialysis. The program is organized with particular attention to patient flow; most of the patients receiving hemodialysis treatment are also undergoing many other tightly scheduled tests and procedures. Response time for emergency hemodialysis after hours is 45 minutes; during the day, treatments can be initiated even more quickly.

Inpatient peritoneal dialysis is performed in intensive care units and on the North 7, an inpatient adult medicine ward, by trained nursing staff. **Linda Hames, RN** provides peritoneal dialysis nursing education for staff on North 7 and throughout the hospital.

**Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy**

Dr. **Perrone** directs the continuous renal replacement therapies (e.g., continuous venovenous hemodialysis and slow continuous ultra filtration) program. These therapies support critically ill patients who have developed acute kidney injury as a complication of their underlying illnesses, other treatments, or surgery. Growing solid organ and bone marrow transplantation, cardiac surgery, and oncology programs will increase utilization of continuous renal replacement therapies.

**Inpatient Volume**

All volume numbers in Tables 7 and 8 are from the fiscal year October 2014 to September 2015, unless otherwise indicated.

Table 7: Comparison of DCI Inpatient Hemodialysis Treatments: Fiscal Year 2014 vs. 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution and Location</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2014</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2015</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tufts Medical Center</strong>: Inpatient hemodialysis treatments</td>
<td>2,459</td>
<td>2,502</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emerson Hospital</strong>: Inpatient hemodialysis treatments</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>-32.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chinatown National Night Out**

L-R: Debbie Mitchell-Dozier, Klemens Meyer, Sue Ann Leong-Tsan, Ron Perrone, Elise Hoover
Table 8: Comparison of Inpatient Activity: Fiscal Year 2014 vs. 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution and Location</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2014</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2015</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tufts Medical Center</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient-days of service: Nephrology Consult &amp; Ward Services</td>
<td>8,736</td>
<td>9,388</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney transplants*</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-32.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days of CVVH and peritoneal dialysis treatments</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>624</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient days of service</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emerson Hospital</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient days of service</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>929</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kindred Hospital</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient days of service</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>1,126</td>
<td>83.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lawrence Memorial Hospital</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient days of service</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Melrose Wakefield Hospital</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient days of service</td>
<td>1,931</td>
<td>2,229</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Whidden Hospital</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient days of service</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>-5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winchester Hospital</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient days of service</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Calendar year 2015

**Division Quality Improvement**

The division remains committed to improving the quality of care both for our patients and patients throughout the institution. Dr. Inker is Director for Quality Improvement for the Division.

**Morbidity and Mortality Rounds**

Morbidity and Mortality rounds are held approximately six times a year and provide the opportunity for fellows and attending physicians to discuss issues related to problems in knowledge or delivery of care that lead to patient poor outcomes, with the goal to develop systems to avoid these problems in the future. The focus of the fellows rounds are on quality improvement activities. Fellows are responsible for identifying a target behavior, measuring the appropriateness of delivered care, and presenting their findings at a Division conference. In this past year, we had several attending physicians present specific patient cases.
Community Service/Patient Education

Division staff members actively participate in community projects, particularly in neighboring Chinatown. In addition to health screenings, the Division has focused on education for health care providers, patients, and the general community. Please refer to Table 9 for a detailed listing of events.

Table 9: 2015 Community Service Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BP Screening</td>
<td>Chinatown National Night Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boston MA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to specific events, members of the Division participate in community service organizations and projects.

- Drs. Meyer, Perrone and Leonberg-Yoo along with members of the KBPC Debbie Mitchell-Dozier, Finna Tam and Sue Ann Leong-Tsan conducted blood pressure screening for 75 people screening during the Chinatown National Night Out in August. Unfortunately, the event only lasted 1 hour before severe thunderstorms ended the event.

- In 2015, Division members participated in both the annual NKF Boston Kidney Walk and the PKD Walk.

![Division members at the 2015 PKD Walk](image)

2015 Patient Care Awards and Honors

- In December 2015 Boston Magazine released its “Top Doctors” issue. Drs. Levey, Meyer, Perrone and Sarnak were recognized as Boston’s best nephrologists. This is the 5th year Drs. Levey and Sarnak have received the honor, the 4th year for Dr. Meyer and the 2nd for Dr. Perrone.
Research conducted in the Division is focused on solving clinical problems. Each research project has a domain expert, in most cases a nephrologist, a methods expert, and collaborators from other disciplines. The location of the Division offices, the KBPC, and the DCI Boston dialysis unit on 3 adjacent floors in the same building has been a major reason for the Division’s success in performing clinical research.

Division members collaborate with methods experts to use the research methods appropriate for epidemiology, clinical trials, development of clinical practice guidelines, and outcomes. We also collaborate with domain experts to focus on the research areas of: chronic kidney disease, assessment of kidney function, aging, nutrition, dialysis and transplantation, progression, polycystic kidney disease, acute kidney injury, and hypertension.

**2015 New Research Grant Awards**

Figure 1, Table 10 and Table 11 illustrate the research grant awards received by Division members.

![Research Grant Awards](image)

*Figure 1: Division of Nephrology Research Grant Awards FY 2011-2015, by type*
Table 10 lists the 3 new research grants received in 2015.

Table 10: New Research Grant Awards Received in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Award Source</th>
<th>Type of Award</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Study Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Inker</td>
<td>Otsuka</td>
<td>Clinical Trial</td>
<td>Metabolomics to Study Treatment Effect and Toxicities of Tolvaptan in Tolvaptan Efficacy and Safety in Management of Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease and Its Outcome (TEMPO) 3:4 trial</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Perrone</td>
<td>DOD</td>
<td>Federal Grant</td>
<td>Metformin as a Novel Therapy for Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Sarnak</td>
<td>DCI</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>Risk Factors and Screening for Cognitive Impairment in Hemodialysis Patients</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Amount and Type of Research Grant Awards**

Table 11 shows research grant awards received by Division members.

Table 11: Ongoing Research Grant Awards Received Prior to 2015
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Award Source</th>
<th>Type of Award</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year of Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Inker</td>
<td>Pharmalink</td>
<td>Clinical Trial</td>
<td>Proteinuria reduction in primary IgA nephropathy</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Levey</td>
<td>NIH/NIDDK</td>
<td>Federal T32</td>
<td>Epidemiology, Clinical Trials and Outcomes Research</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH/NIDDK</td>
<td>Federal R01</td>
<td>Kidney Function, Aortic Stiffness and Aging</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH/NIDDK</td>
<td>Federal Subcontract</td>
<td>Proteomic Approach to CKD Biomarker Discovery and Validation</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>Federal Subcontract</td>
<td>Chronic Kidney Disease Prognosis Consortium</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>Federal R01</td>
<td>Estimating GFR from a Panel of Endogenous Filtration Markers (Panel eGFR)</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NKF</td>
<td>Foundation Grant</td>
<td>GFR Decline as an Outcome for Clinical Trials in CKD</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH/NIDDK</td>
<td>Federal R01</td>
<td>Markers for CKD in a multi-ethnic representative population with measured GFR</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCI</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>Monitoring PD Adequacy Using Serum Levels of Endogenous Filtration Markers</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Miskulin</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>Federal Subcontract</td>
<td>Comparative Effective Studies of Strategies to Improve Patient Outcome In ESRD</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intelomed</td>
<td>Clinical Trial</td>
<td>Measuring Cardiovascular Stress on Hemodialysis Patients</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIDDK</td>
<td>Federal Subcontract</td>
<td>Blood Pressure in Dialysis</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>Federal Subcontract</td>
<td>Pragmatic Trials in Maintenance Hemodialysis</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Perrone</td>
<td>Otsuka</td>
<td>Clinical Trial</td>
<td>A multi-center, longitudinal, observational study of patients with ADPKD to establish the rate, characteristics and determinants of disease progression</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIDDK</td>
<td>Federal U01</td>
<td>PKD Clinical Trials Network</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otsuka</td>
<td>Clinical Trial</td>
<td>Multi-center, open-label, extension study to evaluate the long-term efficacy and safety of Oral Tolvaptan Tablet Regimens in subjects with Autosomal Dominant Polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD)</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
<td>Award Source</td>
<td>Type of Award</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Year of Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Perrone</td>
<td>Otsuka</td>
<td>Clinical Trial</td>
<td>A phase 3b, multi-center, randomized-withdrawal, placebo-controlled, double-blind, parallel-group trial to compare the efficacy and safety of Tolvaptan (45 to 120 mg/day, split-dose) in subjects with chronic kidney disease between late stage 2 and early stage 4 due to autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease.</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Perrone</td>
<td>Otsuka</td>
<td>Clinical Trial</td>
<td>A Phase 3b, Multi-center, Open-Label Trial to Evaluate the Long-Term Safety of Titrated Immediate-release Tolvaptan (OPC-41061, 30 mg to 120 mg/day, split dose) in Subjects with Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease.</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Sarnak</td>
<td>NIH/NIDDK</td>
<td>Federal R01</td>
<td>Cognition and Dialysis</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Sarnak</td>
<td>NIH/NIDDK</td>
<td>Federal K24</td>
<td>Chronic Kidney Disease, Vascular Disease and Aging</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Sarnak</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>Federal R01</td>
<td>The Aging Kidney: Chronic Injury, Impaired Functions and Clinical Outcomes</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Sarnak</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>Federal K24</td>
<td>Kidney Tubular Damage and Dysfunction Identify a Novel Axis of Kidney Disease</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Sarnak</td>
<td>NIH Subcontract</td>
<td>Kidney Tubular Damage and Dysfunction Identify a Novel Axis of Kidney Disease</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Weiner</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>Federal R01</td>
<td>Randomized Trial of Exercise Training on Cognitive and Physical Function in CKD</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Weiner</td>
<td>NIH Subcontract</td>
<td>Randomized Trial of Exercise Training on Cognitive and Physical Function in CKD</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Weiner</td>
<td>Janssen</td>
<td>Clinical Trial</td>
<td>A randomized, double-blind, event-driven, placebo-controlled, multicenter study of the effects of Canagliflozin on Renal and Cardiovascular Outcomes in subjects with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Diabetic Nephropathy. The CREDENCE Trail (Canagliflozin and Renal Events in Diabetes with Established Nephropathy Clinical Evaluation Trial).</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NeohroGenex</td>
<td>Clinical Trial</td>
<td>Phase 3 Randomized Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Multicenter study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Pyridorin in Subjects with Nephropathy due to type 2 diabetes</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>Federal Subcontract</td>
<td>SPRINT Main Phase II</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>Federal Subcontract</td>
<td>Pulse Wave Velocity and Central Aortic Pressure Outcomes in SPRINT</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Minnesota</td>
<td>Clinical Trial</td>
<td>SPRINT ABPM Ancillary Study</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>Federal Subcontract</td>
<td>Renal disease, kidney cancer, and metalworking fluid exposure in autoworkers</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2015 Publications

A total of 72 print publications and 21 epublications were authored and/or co-authored by Division members in 2015. An asterisk beside a name indicates a current trainee as an author.

### 2015 Print Publications


40. Levey AS, Becker C, Inker LA. Glomerular filtration rate and albuminuria for detection and staging of acute and chronic kidney disease in adults: a systematic review. JAMA 2015; 313:837-846 (includes Appendix published online); PMID:25710660.


68. Weiner DE, Brunelli SM. In reply to ‘More evidence needed before lower dialysis sodium concentrations can be recommended.’ Am J Kidney Dis 2015;65:520; PMID:25704047.


2015 Division Epublications


2015 Research Awards and Honors

- Dr. Levey was listed in Thomson Reuters Highly Cited List for Clinical Medicine for the second year in a row.
- Osama Amro, MD, Nephrology Fellow, presented his late-breaking clinical trial abstract Low Osmolar Diet and Adjusted Water Intake for Vasopressin Suppression in ADPKD: A Randomized Controlled Trial at the 2015 ASN Kidney Week.
EDUCATION

The Division is committed to education. Local and national initiatives involve all members of the Division. National efforts stem largely from leadership and participation in basic and clinical research, service to national organizations and boards that establish standards in clinical practice and educational testing, and speaking engagements at local, national, and international conferences. Affiliations with TUSM, TUSDM, the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, and the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences at Tufts University are the focus of most of our local education initiatives. The nephrology journal *American Journal of Kidney Diseases* and the nephrology textbook *Primer of Kidney Diseases* are edited in the Division.

2015 Education Initiatives
Visiting Professors
The Division had 8 visiting professors this year. Table 12 lists the professors and their presentation topics.

Table 12: 2015 Visiting Professors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visiting Professor</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ishir Bhan, MD, MPH</td>
<td>Decision Time for D: Vitamin D at the Cross Roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan Grams, MD</td>
<td>Risks to Kidney Donors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerbrand J Groen, MD, PhD</td>
<td>A stepwise approach for the management of refractory pain in ADPKD patients: a role for invasive therapies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joachim Ix, MD</td>
<td>Research Conference—Update in CKD Biomarkers: An Opportunity for a Broader Assessment of Kidney Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrington Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Calcium and Phosphate in Chronic Kidney Disease: Insights into their Associations with Cardiovascular Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tazeen Jafar, MD</td>
<td>Global &amp; Regional Prevalence of Chronic Kidney Disease- A Systematic Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh, MD</td>
<td>Transition of care in CKD to dialysis: A new USRDS target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tariq Shafi, MD</td>
<td>Estimating residual kidney function from serum markers in dialysis patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica Torres</td>
<td>Critical analysis of glomerular filtration rate in cancer patients</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Continuing Education Initiatives

#### Table 13: Longstanding Graduate-level Teaching Initiatives by Division Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Personnel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUSM</td>
<td>Renal Pathophysiology Course</td>
<td>Dr. Gilbert, Course Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis Course</td>
<td>Nephrology fellows and several members of the physician staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Renal Ward Service</td>
<td>Division Attendings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-part clinical nephrology series for Internal Medicine Clerkship</td>
<td>Dr. Gilbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consultative Nephrology</td>
<td>Dr. Gilbert, Course Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medical Education elective</td>
<td>Dr. Gilbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cell and Molecular Pharmacology</td>
<td>Dr. Gilbert, Nephrology Section Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Selective Program Mentor</td>
<td>Dr. Weiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cardiovascular Epidemiology</td>
<td>Dr. Rao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture in Pathobiology</td>
<td>Dr. Perrone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lectures on topics related to hypertension and nephrology</td>
<td>Drs. Gilbert and Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufts University School of Dental Medicine</td>
<td>Lectures on kidney disease, hypertension and nephrology</td>
<td>Drs. Meyer and Weiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy</td>
<td>Nutritional Biochemistry and Physiology</td>
<td>Dr. Gilbert, Nephrology Section Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sackler School</td>
<td>Renal Pharmacology</td>
<td>Dr. Gilbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Francis Stern Nutrition Center at Tufts Medical Center</td>
<td>4-week experiential rotation in DCI Boston dialysis unit</td>
<td>Poonhar Poon, RD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Table 14: Longstanding Postgraduate-level Teaching Initiatives by Division Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Personnel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences at Tufts University</td>
<td>Mentor fellows during their independent research and thesis preparation in pursuit of a Masters of Science degree</td>
<td>Drs. Levey and Sarnak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUSM Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics</td>
<td>Coordinate the Nephrology Section of the Advanced Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology Course</td>
<td>Dr. Gilbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufts Medical Center</td>
<td>Renal Ward Service Nephrology Consultation Service Intern and Resident Teaching</td>
<td>Division Attendings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KBPC senior medical residents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Morning Report and Noon Conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Fellowship Programs**

**Clinical Fellowship Training**

Dr. Gilbert is the Director of the highly respected clinical fellowship training program. A well-organized curriculum emphasizes breadth and depth of clinical experiences with rotations at Tufts Medical Center and SEMC.

Over the past 15 years, approximately 39% of the 38 graduates of the fellowship program have continued in full-time academic positions. Another 16% have become private practitioners with substantial teaching responsibilities, many in hospitals with university affiliations. The remaining graduates are largely engaged in private practice.

During the past academic year, 86 applications to the clinical fellowship program were reviewed for 2 open positions available in 2016. Table 15 and Table 16 list graduating and current clinical fellows.

Table 15: Graduated Clinical Fellows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Training Period</th>
<th>Current Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Drew, MD, MS</td>
<td>2011-2015</td>
<td>Academic Nephrologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tufts Medical Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Michener, MD, MS</td>
<td>2012-2015</td>
<td>Private Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Winchester Nephrology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitender Goyal, MD</td>
<td>2013-2015</td>
<td>Kidney Transplant Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>University of Minnesota</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 16: Current Clinical Fellows
Research Fellowship

Continuing Research Fellowship Training Initiatives
The Division offers training in clinical research under the direction of Drs. Levey and Sarnak at Tufts Medical and Drs. Jaber and Madias at SEMC.
Clinical Investigator Track: NIDDK Training Grant

The NIDDK Institutional Research Training Award in "Epidemiology, Clinical Trials and Outcomes Research in Nephrology" funds three trainees per year in the Clinical Investigator Track. This program is designed for fellows aspiring to a career as an independent investigator in clinical research in nephrology. The program has been focused primarily on chronic kidney disease, although in recent years, there is a growing interest in acute kidney injury. The specific aims of the Training Program are:

1. **Didactic Training** - course work in fulfillment of the MS degree in the Graduate Program in Clinical Research at the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences at Tufts University;

2. **Independent Study** - a hypothesis-based research project supervised by a nephrologist mentor and a research team of faculty with expertise in other disciplines;

3. **Training in Presentation** - participation in conferences and seminars designed to improve trainees’ oral and written presentations.

Nephrologist mentors ensure integration of all aspects of the curriculum with trainees’ research projects.

Research Fellowship Program Statistics

We have 3 current research fellows in training. We received 22 applications in 2015 for 1 open research fellowship position in 2016. See Table 17 and Table 18 for listings of graduated and current research fellows.

Table 17: Graduated Research Fellows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Training Period</th>
<th>Current Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Osama Amro, MD, MS</td>
<td>2012-2015</td>
<td>Nephrologist, Swedish Hospital Seattle, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth Wright, MD, MS</td>
<td>2012-2015</td>
<td>Academic Nephrologist Tufts Medical Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 18: Current Research Fellows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Prior Institution</th>
<th>Nephrology Mentor</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pranav Garimella, MD, MPH</td>
<td>Nephrology Clinical Fellow Tufts Medical Center Boston MA</td>
<td>Mark J. Sarnak, MD, MS</td>
<td>NIH T32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Leonberg-Yoo, MD</td>
<td>Nephrology Clinical Fellow Tufts Medical Center Boston MA</td>
<td>Mark J. Sarnak, MD, MS</td>
<td>NIH T32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rita McGill, MD</td>
<td>Nephrologist Alleghany Medical Center Pittsburgh PA</td>
<td>Daniel E. Weiner, MD, MS</td>
<td>NIH T32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continuing Medical Education

2015 Medical Education Initiatives

Table 19 lists the continuing education presentations given by Division faculty in 2015. The table excludes presentations given within the Division, as all faculty are expected to present one Journal Club and one Research Conference annually.

Table 19: 2015 Local, National, and International Presentations by Division Faculty

LOCAL/REGIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Meyer
- Current Concepts in the Treatment of Hypertension South End Community Health Center Grand Rounds Boston, MA

Dr. Perrone
- Progress in Polycystic Kidney Disease: Disease Mechanisms and Pathways to Drug Development University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center Worcester, MA

Dr. Sarnak
- Challenging Renal Cases for the Boards Meet the Professor Luncheon Harvard Brigham Nephrology Course

NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Levey
- Living Donation is Safe: Fact or Fiction? The Real Heroes: Live Kidney Donors American Transplant Congress
Philadelphia, PA
GFR Performance Equations and Monitoring Progression of CKD
ASN BRCU 2015
Chicago, IL
Controversy: Age-stratified thresholds of GFR for defining CKD
National Kidney Foundation Spring Clinical Meeting
Dallas, TX

Dr. Meyer  Patient Engagement, Satisfaction and Experience of Care
NRAA Medical Director Symposium
Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista, FL
The New Dialysis Unit: Real-Time Data Collection and Innovative Learning Systems
Annual Meeting of the American Society of Nephrology
San Diego, CA
Anemia Management Strategies. Satellite Symposium
Annual Meeting of the American Society of Nephrology
San Diego, CA

Dr. Richardson  How Every Caregiver Can Improve the Patient’s Experience of Care.
Central Missouri Annual Nephrology Update
Columbia MO

Dr. Sarnak  Applying JNC 8 and KDIGO Blood Pressure Recommendations in the CKD Population
American Society of Nephrology
San Diego, CA
Cardiorenal Syndrome from the Nephrologists Perspective
American Heart Association
Washington, DC

Dr. Weiner  How to Make Real Changes in a Dialysis Facility
National Kidney Foundation Spring Clinical Meeting
Dallas, TX

INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Perrone  Why Do We Need to Predict Disease Progression
Can We Predict the Future for ADPKD Patients Symposium
World Congress of Nephrology
Cape Town, South Africa
Using Total Kidney Volume to Predict Disease Progression in ADPKD: Results from the
PKD Outcomes Consortium
University of Groningen
Groningen, Netherlands
Practical Management of ADPKD: How to Utilize Total Kidney Volume
**Editorial Appointments**

**American Journal of Kidney Diseases**

The Division houses the editorial office of the *American Journal of Kidney Diseases (AJKD)*, the official journal of the NKF, and division members lead a multi-institution effort to continue to enhance *AJKD*’s position as the preeminent clinical journal in nephrology. The first issue of *AJKD* compiled by Tufts Medical Center appeared in January 2007; in January 2012, the Tufts-based team began its second five-year term as the site of the editorial office.

Dr. **Levey** is the Editor-in-Chief and Dr. **Weiner** serves as the Deputy Editor. Other Tufts Medical Center–based editors of *AJKD* include Drs. **Gilbert** and **Foster** and Mr. **Tighiouart**. The Editorial Board includes several additional Editors affiliated with other hospitals, as well as 100+ editorial board members worldwide.

The editorial office is staffed by **Nijsje Dorman** (Managing Editor), **Elizabeth Bury** (Associate Managing Editor), **Elizabeth Frank** (Features and Projects Editor), **Caroline Blanchard** (Editorial Assistant), and **Barbara Saper** (Editorial Office Associate). The editorial office is located on the first floor of the Traders Building at 35 Kneeland Street.

Continuing a trend of increasing manuscript submissions, AJKD received nearly 1,800 submissions in the 2015 operating year, with just under 12% of original research articles accepted for publication. According to the 2015 Journal Citation Reports, published by Thomson Reuters, the 2014 impact factor for AJKD reached a new high of 5.900, making it the top-ranked journal focusing on clinical nephrology.

A core mission of the journal is publishing information that helps physicians provide their kidney disease patients with the highest standard of care. To that end, in November 2015 *AJKD* published a long-awaited update to hemodialysis adequacy clinical practice guidelines from KDOQI (the NKF’s Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative).
In June 2015, AJKD published the inaugural Peer Kidney Care Initiative (Peer) report as a journal supplement. Peer’s mission is to improve the quality of dialysis patient care in the United States via a collaborative quality initiative collecting data on health status of new dialysis patients, hospitalization and mortality, and the 5-Star Quality Rating System for Medicare-certified dialysis facilities.

The journal also renewed its longstanding relationship with the US Renal Data System, publishing its 2014 Annual Data Report on the epidemiology of kidney disease in the United States as a supplement to the July 2015 issue of AJKD. This comprehensive resource gives authoritative data on prevalence and trends in chronic kidney disease and its treatment in the United States.

Finally, AJKD continues to be a strong advocate of World Kidney Day and associated disease awareness activities. The March 2015 issue contained an editorial from the World Kidney Day initiative highlighting the increased burden of chronic kidney disease in disadvantaged populations around the world.

Other Editorial Board Appointments
In addition to their responsibility for editorship of American Journal of Kidney Diseases, members of the Division serve on other editorial boards.

- Dr. Madias is a member of several editorial boards including Hippokratia, Hellenic Medicine, Kidney: A current survey of world literature, International Angiology, and Arterial Hypertension.

2015 Education Awards and Honors
- Dr. Gilbert received the Dr. Jack Mitus Special Faculty Recognition Award from the TUSM Senior Class (M’15). Recipients must demonstrate an exceptional dedication to teaching, a commitment to academic scholarship, and a concern for the general well-being of medical students. As part of the award, Scott led the faculty procession at commencement. Dr. Gilbert also received an Outstanding Lecturer Award.

PUBLIC POLICY

2015 Policy Initiative Accomplishments
- Along with colleagues from the Polycystic Kidney Disease Outcomes Consortium, Dr. Perrone was the lead author and Dr. Miskulin a co-author on an AJKD publication that established the first ever data standard applicable to kidney disease. Data standards for any given therapeutic area allow for mapping and pooling of data into a common data
set and provide the basis for future studies, sharing data and long-term registries. In ADPKD, having consensus data standards is the foundation for improving understanding of disease progression and treatment.

**Continuing Policy Initiatives**

**Chronic Kidney Disease in Nicaragua**

Dr. **Weiner** is collaborating with public health researchers from Boston University School of Public Health to investigate chronic kidney disease among workers in rural Nicaragua. The objective of this research is to explore the reported high prevalence of kidney disease among working age residents in rural northwest Nicaragua to better define prevalence and to develop hypotheses regarding cause.

**DCI Information Systems**

Dr. **Meyer** serves as Medical Director for Information Systems for Dialysis Clinic, Inc., chairs its Medical Director Computer Steering Committee, and serves on its Quality Management Committee. Dr. Meyer is one of the principal architects of DCI’s information system, which sets an industry standard for quality of care and of information, and continues to participate in its development. In 2015, DCI began general release of DARWIN Direct, software which replaces the hemodialysis treatment sheet with software that acquires hemodialysis machine data and observations made by staff about patients at the chair-side, as well as presenting prescription information and other relevant information about the patient to the staff. This software, called DARWIN Direct, can accept data from any hemodialysis machine. Data are transmitted immediately to DCI’s virtual servers in Chicago, and are summarized on a computer screen at the charge nurse’s desk, allowing him or her to have an overview of the treatment of each patient being dialyzed. Beta testing was performed at DCI Boston under the leadership of **Maria Ippolito RN**, Nurse Educator. With implementation of DARWIN Direct, DCI Boston has made important improvements in the process of care, and has also been able to enhance patient care outside the dialysis unit: our secretary **Gail Simmons**, who in the past had been responsible for faxing treatment sheets to the billing office, and for following up on discrepancies and missing data, now spends her time coordinating patient appointments and transportation. DARWIN Direct is being used not only by DCI facilities, but by the facilities of the Rogosin Institute, another member of the Non-profit Kidney Care Alliance (http://www.nonprofitkidneycare.org/)
DCI Outcomes Monitoring Program
Dr. Richardson directs the corporate-wide DCI Outcomes Monitoring Program. The program oversees patient-reported outcomes using surveys to improve care. Health-related quality of life is assessed using the SF-36+24 or the KDQOL-36 questionnaire. Dr. Richardson and her staff work with DCI Corporate and clinic-level staff to incorporate the results of the health-related quality of life surveys into patient care and quality improvement initiatives. Patient experience is evaluated bi-annually using the CMS-mandated ICH CAHPS survey. Data are collected from all DCI chronic dialysis units.

Dr. Miskulin leads the Comorbidity Assessment Program, as part of the Outcomes Monitoring Program. She also works with the DCI Research Department to review and develop new studies to implement in DCI dialysis units and is the medical monitor for the Safety and Effects of Supplementation with Ergocalciferol on Erythropoietin Dosing in Hemodialysis Patients, A Randomized Trial. and supporting DCI clinical research coordinators in implementation of clinical trials.

National Kidney Disease Education Program
Dr. Inker is a member of the National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP) of the NIDDK. Dr. Levey has participated in the efforts of the NKDEP to recommend reporting GFR estimates by clinical laboratories and to standardize serum creatinine assays for more accurate GFR estimation.

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT OF THE DIVISION

Continuing Philanthropic Initiatives

The Driscoll Family Fund

The Driscoll Family Fund in Nephrology was created in 2014 through the generosity of Ms. Dolores Driscoll and is under the direction of Dr. Levey. The purpose of The Driscoll Family Fund in Nephrology is to specifically fund research in the area of kidney disease.

We are extremely honored by the following Founding Gift to The Driscoll Family Fund in Nephrology:

- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Driscoll (Fund Founders)

2015 Driscoll Family Fund Updates

- We are grateful for the following gifts to the Driscoll Family Fund in 2015:
  
  Dolores and Robert Driscoll
  The Benevity Community Impact Fund
  Christine L. Blier
• In 2015, gifts to the Driscoll fund are being used to fund the following research:
  • Low Osmolar Diet and Adjusted Water Intake for Vasopressin Supression in ADPKD - PI: Osama Amro
  • Association of Urinary Uromodulin with Acute Kidney Injury after Cardiac Surgery - PI: Pranav Garimella

The Inker Family Fund

The Inker Family Fund was created in 2010 through the generosity of Lesley Inker, MD and Ben Inker, in honor of their wedding on January 16, 2011. The Inker Family Fund is under the direction of the Chief of the Division of Nephrology, with an initial goal to provide direct support to kidney patients, whether they are in the Kidney Transplant Program; receiving dialysis through the DCI or another dialysis provider; or receiving any type of treatment for kidney disease. A committee comprised of Dr. Perrone, Kathleen Murray, MSW (dialysis social worker), Katie Saunders, MSW (transplant social worker), and Linda Mazzola, RN (pediatric nephrology nurse) has the discretion to easily meet patient needs based on the Inker Family Fund criteria. Funds are available to provide emergency support to patients with kidney disease for which there are no other sources of support.

We are extremely honored by the following Founding Gifts to the Inker Family Fund:

Individual Donors
  • Dr. Lesley Inker & Mr. Benjamin L. Inker (Fund Founders)
  • Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence J. Beaser
  • Mr. and Mrs. Ray A. Beaser
  • Mr. and Mrs. Murray Blankstein
  • Dr. and Mrs. Barry Borden
  • Dr. Ilana Braun and Mr. Jed Wise
  • Ms. Rhoda Brown
  • Mr. and Mrs. Adam Cohen
  • Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Cohen
  • Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cohen
  • Dr. Josef Coresh and Dr. Michelle J. Hindin
  • Mr. and Mrs. Domenic Esposito
  • Mr. Morley Faber and Dr. Adeera Levin
  • Dr. and Mrs. Irv Feferman
  • Ms. Elizabeth J. Fitzgerald
  • Dr. Don Gaddy

As a thank you, a former recipient of the Inker Fund raises money and gives it to the Fund each year, the anniversary of their transplant.
At the age of 8 months old I was diagnosed with Liver Cancer. I received two liver Transplants, Chemotherapy and Radiation. Over the years, I have succumb to many difficult health issues. As of now I am battling with stage 4 Kidney disease along with other complications. I am currently living with my mother...

One of our most difficult struggles has been our financial needs. Tony Lee has been a great support for my mother and I. He was the person to help us discover your foundation. My mother and I would like to Thank you for all of your financial generosity. Your generosity has been such a blessing and we can't thank you enough.
• Mr. and Mrs. Murray A. Silver
• Mr. and Mrs. Hy Spector
• Ms. Ann M. Spruill
• Dr. and Mrs. Howard Stevens
• Dr. Ali Taradash and Mr. Jeremy Dacks
• Dr. Joshua Tepper
• Dr. and Mrs. George Theodosiou
• Dr. Kathryn Tinckam and Mr. Takashi Yamahito
• Ms. Donna Valikoff
• Mr. and Mrs. George Weinberger
• Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wener
• Rabbi Eric and Amy Yoffie
• Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Zimmerman

Corporate/Institutional Donors
• Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co., LLC (Matching gift)
• The Ira Gluskin & Maxine Granovsky Gluskin Charitable Foundation

2015 Inker Family Fund Updates
• We are grateful for the many donations to the Inker Family Fund in 2015:
  Dr. Lesley A. Inker and Mr. Benjamin Inker
  Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Anderson
  Ms. Debra J. Basler and Ms. Carolyn M. Cuoto
  Mr. and Mrs. Laurence R. Carroll
  Mr. Frederick Clarke
  Mr. Douglas B. Colpitts
  Mr. and Mrs. George P. Corbett
  Ms. Sheila R. Farrell
  Mr. and Mrs. John Flanagan
  Mr. Kevin M. Hensley and Ms. Mary Emily Murphy-Hensley
  Mrs. Anne Indelicato
  Intrinsix Corporation
  Mr. and Mrs. Matthew T. Kdnar
  Ms. Alexandra Kroen
  Ms. Shirley Lai
  Mr. Jeremy Lapon
  Ms. Eunice Law and Ms. Emily Law
  The Constance Marchiel Trust
  Mrs. Barbara Marley
  Drs. Klemens and Laura Meyer
  Dr. Ronald D. Perrone and Ms. Diane Price
  Dr. Mark J. Sarnak and Dr. Flora Sam
  Mr. John P. Stankiewicz
Basic necessities such as grocery store gift cards, utility payments, coats and shoes, medical and insurance copayments have been provided by the *Inker Family Fund* in 2015.

**Dr. Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman Professor of Medicine Endowed Chair in Nephrology at Tufts University School of Medicine and Tufts Medical Center**

The Dr. Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman Professor of Medicine Endowed Chair in Nephrology at Tufts University School of Medicine and Tufts Medical Center was established in 2001 with Dr. Andrew S. Levey as its first recipient. The fund is used to support the operations for clinical care, research, and education in nephrology within the Division.

Gerald J. Friedman, MD was an internist known as a superb diagnostician, as well as a specialist in diabetes, cardiac disease, endocrinology, and nutrition.

A lifelong New Yorker, Dr. Friedman earned his bachelor’s and medical degrees from New York University College, returning to teach there for most of his career. After serving as commanding officer at the 222nd Station Hospital in World War II, he joined the staff of Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, where he remained for the rest of his career, serving on almost every significant committee and as President of the Medical Board.

Dr. Friedman always maintained an active practice and a reputation for thorough physical examinations in the city. For more than 30 years beginning in 1957, he was also international medical director for the United Parcel Service, and an active member of the Industrial Medical Association.

He wrote extensively on the management of diabetes, especially in the workplace, at a time when many employers discriminated against people with diabetes. He also helped the New York Diabetes Association establish a summer camp in upstate New York for children with diabetes.

While playing saxophone during his days as a medical intern, Dr. Friedman met and married Dorothy Ross, a Boston-born jazz pianist and recording artist. While Mrs. Friedman stopped...
performing professionally after her husband finished his residency, her private playing has always entertained the Ross and Friedman families and friends.

Dr. Friedman died on November 25, 2004 at the age of 91. He is survived by his wife Dorothy and his niece, Jane Friedman.

**William B. Schwartz Nephrology Fund**

Bill Schwartz founded the Division of Nephrology at Tufts Medical Center in 1950 and served as its chief until 1971. He developed the Division into a preeminent referral center for patients with kidney diseases in the New England region and beyond, and he cared personally for hundreds of patients. He made landmark discoveries that revolutionized our understanding of the pathophysiology and management of acid-base and electrolyte disorders. But most importantly, he created a school of rigorous pathophysiological thought and analytical reasoning, whose graduates have contributed greatly to the field of nephrology.

We have endeavored to preserve Dr. Schwartz’s academic legacy by establishing the **William B. Schwartz Nephrology Fund**. The fund was created in 2000 by charitable gifts to Tufts Medical Center on the 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Division and reunion of faculty and trainees. The Fund supports a number of academic initiatives of the Division, including research and training opportunities for both junior and senior investigators within the Division.

We are extremely honored by the following Founding Gifts to the William B. Schwartz Nephrology Fund:

**Individual Donors**
- Mr. and Mrs. John P. Brogan
- Dr. John Harrington
- Dr. Jerome and Sheridan Kassirer
- Dr. Andrew Levey and Dr. Roberta Falke
- Dr. David and Lynn Lowance
- Drs. Nicolaos and Ourania Madias
- Dr. Dwight and Rhonda Makoff
- Dr. Mark and Judy Needle
- Dr. Brian and Dr. Sunita Pereira
- Dr. Jill Speigel

**Corporate/Institutional Donors**
- AMGEN, Inc.
- Dialysis Clinic, Inc. Boston
2015 Schwartz Fund Updates

- In 2015, gifts to the Schwartz fund are being used to fund the following research:
  - Urinary uromodulin, kidney function, and cardiovascular disease in elderly adults—PI: Pranav Garimella

- We are appreciative to receive gifts in 2015 from the following:
  Walter Bonin Financial Services
  Mr. John Farinacci
  Mr. and Mrs. Richard Farinacci
  Ms. Kay J. Forsmo
  Dr. and Mrs. Howard B. Garfinkel
  Mr. Douglas R. Gooding
  Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Levasseur
  Ms. Lorraine Mastropieri

Dr. John T. Harrington Endowed Fund

The Dr. John T. Harrington Endowed Fund was created in 2006. It was established by charitable gifts to Tufts Medical Center in honor of Dr. Harrington’s 70th birthday. Through his outstanding career, Dr. Harrington, Dean Emeritus at TUSM, has played a vital role in Tufts Medical Center’s Division of Nephrology. Widely known as a gifted nephrologist who has brought long-term hope to seriously-ill patients, his contributions to the field of Nephrology are many. In the early 1970s, Dr. Harrington developed the hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis and kidney transplant programs. Another of his most notable contributions to medical education and nephrology was his leadership of the “Nephrology Forum” in Kidney International, the official journal of the International Society of Nephrology. The Forum served as an invaluable resource of information and perspective for nephrologists around the globe for over 25 years.

The Dr. John T. Harrington Endowed Fund supports a mission that Dr. Harrington holds near and dear – the continuous medical education of physicians, both young and more senior, on the delivery of the highest-quality care possible to patients suffering from kidney disease. Each year, the Harrington Fund supports a Visiting Professor in the Division of Nephrology to participate in the evaluation of the Division’s research training program and to speak at Grand Rounds in the Department of Medicine. In addition, the Harrington Fund can support other
educational programs and initiatives within the Division, include innovative research projects that require seed funding and special patient care projects.

We are very grateful for the following Founding Gifts for the Dr. John T. Harrington Endowed Fund:

**Individual Donors**
- Mr. Thomas F. and Mrs. Mary J. Shields
- Mr. and Mrs. John P. Brogan
- Drs. Nicolaos and Ourania Madias
- Dr. and Mrs. Howard B. Garfinkel
- Dr. and Mrs. James A. Strom

**Corporate/Institutional Donors**
- Dialysis Clinic, Inc.
- Tufts University School of Medicine
- Merck & Co., Inc.

**Visiting Professors:**

1st Annual John T. Harrington Grand Rounds—2007  
Nicolaos E. Madias, MD, Visiting Professor  
St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center  
*Shared Primacy of Sodium and Potassium in the Pathogenesis of Hypertension*

2nd Annual John T. Harrington Grand Rounds—2008  
Sharon Moe, MD, Visiting Professor  
University of Indiana  
*Chronic Kidney Disease: Looking for Bone in All the Wrong Places*

3rd Annual John T. Harrington Grand Rounds—2009  
Eberhard Ritz, MD, Visiting Professor  
Department of Internal Medicine, Ruperto Carola University of Heidelberg, Germany  
*The World Kidney Day: The Kidney and Hypertension*

4th Annual John T. Harrington Grand Rounds—2010  
Bertram Kasiske, MD, Visiting Professor  
Professor of Medicine, Head of Transplant Nephrology at the University of Minnesota, Director of the Renal Division at Hennepin County Medical Center  
*Guidelines for the Management of Kidney Transplant Patients*

5th Annual John T. Harrington Grand Rounds—2011  
Jonathan Himmelfarb, MD, Visiting Professor  
Professor of Medicine, Joseph W. Eschbach Endowed Chair for Kidney Research from
the University of Washington Division of Nephrology, Seattle WA  
*Kidney Disease as a Public Health Problem: Problems, Progress, and Prospects*

Adeera Levin, MD Visiting Professor
Staff nephrologist at St. Paul’s Hospital
Professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, British Columbia. *Global Burden of CKD: Challenges and Opportunities.*

7th Annual John T. Harrington Grand Rounds—2013
Josef Coresh, MD, PhD Visiting Professor
G.W. Comstock Professor of Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Medicine
Director, George W. Comstock Center for Public Health Research and Prevention and the Cardiovascular Epidemiology Training Program
Johns Hopkins University Baltimore MD
*Chronic Kidney Disease — A Challenge for All Ages*

8th Annual John T. Harrington Grand Rounds—2014
Kai-Uwe Eckardt, MD Visiting Professor
Professor of Medicine and Head of the Department of Nephrology and Hypertension
University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany
*Getting a Handle on CKD—an Observational Approach*

9th Annual John T. Harrington Grand Rounds—2015
Joachim Ix, MD, MAS, FASN Visiting Professor
Chief of Nephrology and Professor of Medicine
University of San Diego, California
*Calcium and Phosphate in Chronic Kidney Disease: Insights into their Associations with Cardiovascular Disease*

2015 Harrington Fund Updates

- We are honored to have received the following new gift in 2015: Dr. and Mrs. Howard B. Garfinkel

- Joachim Ix, MD, MAS, FASN, Chief of Nephrology and Professor of Medicine at the University of San Diego, California was the 2015 Visiting Professor for the 9th Annual John T. Harrington Grand Rounds. He spoke on Calcium and Phosphate in Chronic Kidney Disease: Insights into their Associations with Cardiovascular Disease

- Dr. John Gill, MD, a Transplant Nephrologist from the University of British Columbia and former Division fellow will be the visiting professor for the 10th Annual John T. Harrington Grand Rounds.
The Hortense “Diddy” Seybolt Fund for Staff Enrichment in Nephrology

The Hortense “Diddy” Seybolt Fund for Staff Enrichment in Nephrology was established in 2008 by the family and friends of Diddy Seybolt in recognition of her great appreciation for the compassionate care provided to her by technicians, nurses, and other medical care providers in conjunction with her dialysis treatments at Tufts Medical Center and DCI Boston. Mrs. Seybolt was a long-time benefactor of Tufts Medical Center and a former member of the Hospital’s Board of Trustees.

The purpose of the Hortense “Diddy” Seybolt Fund for Staff Enrichment in Nephrology is to support professional development and training in nephrology with a special focus on staff that care for dialysis patients. Examples of professional development and training include participation in conferences, seminars, coursework and other continuing medical education opportunities that will advance the knowledge, skill, and careers of technicians, nurses, and other medical care providers who care for dialysis patients.

To support these enrichment activities, it is expected that the Fund will distribute multiple awards every year in the range of $500—$1,500 each, depending on funding available. The awards will provide important recognition to the hardworking staff that cares for dialysis patients and awardees will be acknowledged as receiving support from the Hortense “Diddy” Seybolt Fund for Staff Enrichment in Nephrology.

Mrs. Seybolt’s determination, good humor, grace, and dignity inspired both her fellow dialysis patients and the physicians and staff who were privileged to care for her. Even as she confronted a rigorous treatment for an exhausting chronic illness, she was attentive to the experiences and aspirations of the staff who performed her hemodialysis treatments. The Division is profoundly grateful to her family and friends for memorializing Mrs. Seybolt’s concern and sense of community in this fund.
We are grateful for the following Founding Gifts received:

- The Friends and Family of Hortense “Diddy” Seybolt

**2015 Diddy Seybolt Fund Updates**

- In 2015, proceeds from the *Diddy Seybolt Fund* were used for a variety of educational purposes for dialysis clinic staff.

**Friends of the Division and DCI**

We also recognize extraordinary gifts to the Division and the DCI Boston dialysis clinic.

- In 1986, on the occasion of the opening of the DCI’s first dialysis clinic in Boston, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Brogan donated televisions for patients in the clinic.

**Information to Make Gifts to the Division**

The Division is always appreciative of new gifts. If you wish to make a contribution to the Friedman Fund, please designate that you would like your contribution to support that Fund. You can make your contribution to Tufts University School of Medicine online at https://www.alumniconnections.com/donate/tufts/ or mail it to:

Tufts University School of Medicine  
Office of Development & Alumni Relations  
136 Harrison Avenue  
Boston, MA 02111

To support any of the other funds, please indicate the specific name of the fund to which you wish your gift to be directed. Contributions can be made to Tufts Medical Center online at http://tuftsmedicalcenter.org/giving or mailed to:

Tufts Medical Center Trust  
800 Washington Street  
Box 231  
Boston, MA 02111  
617-636-7656 (phone)  
617-636-7659 (fax)