

Renal Section Newsletter

Nirupama Ramkumar, Editor



Fall 2023

Firstly, I would like to extend thanks from the whole of the Renal Section to [Katie Hering-Smith](#) for all of her hard work the last 3 years as Chair of the Section. She did a tremendous job and the Section remains in a strong position within APS, and on solid ground financially for what is sure to be a challenging period ahead with changes at various levels of APS and the switch to Open Access publishing. How these changes will effect those within the Renal Section are currently unclear, but the Steering Committee looks forward to working with all our Renal Section members to keep our section strong and moving forward during these transitions. From a personal perspective the last few months as Chair have been exciting and interesting. I also now appreciate more all the hard work that both the [Steering Committee and APS staff \(especially Brooke Bruthers, Ann Marie Bocus and Kathy Lovato\)](#) are doing behind the scenes to keep us pushing forward with the new APS annual meeting, with the second APS Summit 2024 only about 6 months away!



Dr. Robert Fenton
Chair, APS Renal Section

A couple of highlights from the 2024 Summit. The Carl W. Gottschalk Distinguished Lectureship of the APS Renal Section for 2024, which has been awarded to [Professor Gerardo Gamba](#), Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición Salvador Zubirán, Mexico City, Mexico. His talk is entitled: 'The cross-talk between the Calcium Sensing Receptor and the NaCl cotransporter'. Congratulations Gerardo! The Renal Section's 2024 Young Investigator Award (YIA) goes to [Daria Ilatovskaya](#). Congratulations! Of note, at the APS 2024 summit the YIA and the Gottschalk Lectureship will be in separate sessions featuring abstract based talks, giving our young scientists the chance to mingle with the Kidney Superstars!

Also different in 2024 is that the [Posters & Professors](#) will take place on [Friday April 5, 2024](#), with the Renal Dinner and Business Meeting on [Saturday April 6, 2024](#). Many thanks to our treasurer, [Mykola Mamenko](#), along with the awards committee [Aylin Rodan](#) and TAC [Christine Klemens](#), who are doing a tremendous job of getting all the details organized and scheduled. Keep an eye out for further details in the Renal Section Hub once everything is in place.

Finally - the images are in and it's time to check out all the fantastic entries into this year's "[Clash of the Kidneys: Return of the Electrolytes](#)" scientific art contest. Cast your vote today to decide the winners! Deadline: [November 1](#). Vote [here](#)

American Physiology Summit

April 4-7, 2024

Long Beach, CA

Register [here](#)

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News from AJP-Renal Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Heddwen Brooks

We are excited about the increase of the AJP Renal Impact Factor to 4.2! *AJP Renal Physiology* offers a competitive average time to first decision (17 days) and average time to Articles in Press publication (14 days). We are also now ranked in the top quartile of all Physiology journals. We have over 1.2 million article downloads, 39K cumulative citations, and 2,000+ Twitter followers (@AJPRenal).

Our *AJP Renal* Team would like to thank the Editorial Board Members for their outstanding reviews and submissions to the journal. We also thank all the guest editors and trainees who promote the journal through citing the relevant papers and promoting the journal on social media. Please use the link provided to submit to [AJP-Renal](#).

Editorial Board Meeting at Summit 2024

The AJP Renal Editorial Board Meeting is on **Friday April 5th, 12-1:00 pm**, Convention Center (room# to be announced later). Invitations will be emailed to the board; we have room for up to 80 members. Please join us!

Fast track submission papers

After a year of piloting this program we are pleased to announce that you can submit manuscripts for fast-track consideration, particularly those manuscripts which have recently been declined by a high impact journal. The *AJP-Renal* Editorial Team will review your manuscript to determine eligibility for minor review or acceptance. Our goal is to make a decision within **7 days**. Please contact us before you submit so that all files can be uploaded including the response to previous reviews.

Minor Revision Decision Changed

The decision is now Minor Revisions-Accepted Pending Satisfactory Minor revisions. The *AJP-Renal* team understands that receiving a minor revision decision can be confusing, we have set this new standard so that you understand exactly what we need from you to accept your manuscript for publication.

Review process

AJP-Renal Physiology has changed the number of reviewers from three to two. If there is a split decision, the Associate Editor will act as the third reviewer to render a decision. This change will speed up the review process.

Congratulations to the 2023 Early Career Editorial Fellowship Program

This is the third year of our Early Career Editorial Fellowship. The goal of this program is to train the next generation of editorial board members. Postdoctoral fellows and early career faculty are eligible to apply. This year's awardees started in July 2023. Each awardee is working directly with an Associate Editor on the process of reviewing manuscripts. They are also learning the expectations of an Associate Editor in making final decisions and are getting feedback on giving constructive comments to authors and to the Associate Editor. On successful completion of this program the awardees will join the [editorial board](#) of AJP Renal.

Dr. Olha Kravtsova, University of South Florida

Dr. Stephanie Franzen, Uppsala University

Dr. Justine Abais-Battad, Augusta University

Dr. Agustin Gonzalez-Vicente, Case Western Reserve University

Dr. Paulo Caceres, Henry Ford Hospital, Wayne State University
Dr. Juan Pablo Arroyo Ornelas, Vanderbilt University
Dr. Megan Rhoads, University of Alabama Birmingham
Dr. Evangeline Deer, University of Mississippi
Dr. Prerna Kumar, Tulane University

Calls for Papers and Guest Associate Editors

We have several guest associate editors at AJP Renal assisting with our Calls for Papers. Thank you to Dr. Danielle Kirkman, Dr. Sybille Köhler, Dr. Jeffery H. Miner, Dr. Eman Gohar and Dr. Autumn Harris.

[Exercise and the Kidney in Health and Disease](#)

Guest Editor: Dr. Danielle Kirkman

Deadline: December 31, 2023

[Podocyte Physiology and Pathophysiology](#)

Guest Editors: Dr. Jeffrey Miner, Dr. Sybille Köhler,

Deadline: December 31, 2023

[Sex Differences in Renal Function, Transport, and Hypertension](#)

Guest Editors: Dr. Autumn Harris, Dr. Eman Gohar

Deadline: December 31, 2023

[Diabetic Kidney Disease and Metabolic Dysregulation in Kidneys](#)

Guest Editors: Dr. Sandeep K. Mallipattu, Dr. Kyung Lee

Deadline: December 31, 2023

AJP-Renal Social Media Connections

We encourage the Renal Section to connect with our journal and the editorial team on social media!

AJP Renal Twitter: @AJPRenal

Heddwyn Brooks: @AJPRenalEIC

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Timo Rieg: @RiegTimo

Michelle Gumz: @MLGumz

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Robert Fenton: @rofe6065

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Instagram @AJPRenal

Facebook AJP Renal:

<https://www.facebook.com/AJPRenal>



Trainee Advisory Committee Updates

Chair, APS Renal TAC Representative

Dr. Christine Klemens

Hello everyone! Deadlines for the APS Summit [Trainee Awards](#) are right around the corner, so update those CVs and finish those abstracts! One of the best things about APS is how many opportunities they provide for trainees to present their work and get exposure at a national level. This is my last year as the Renal TAC Representative, but I'm sure you will be in great hands with the incoming rep! Also, the incoming chair will form a new TAC subcommittee in Spring 2024, which is a great opportunity for trainees to get involved with APS. Details on how to apply will be in the Spring 2024 Newsletter.

We are eagerly planning the next [Posters and Professors](#) Networking Event and hope to keep building on our past successes. Keep an eye out for email invitations from the Renal TAC subcommittee to RSVP. This year it is **very important for trainees and Pls to register**, more details will be provided soon! Mentor emails will go out in mid-January, and trainee emails will go out in mid-February 2024. Also keep an eye out for the trainee career development sessions and trainee networking events that will be advertised in the APS newsletters.

Be sure to check out the [APS Career Gateway](#) and the [Graduate Student Ambassador](#) Fellowship Program. The Career Gateway has webinars and articles on a broad range of topics including leadership development, career planning, imposter syndrome, diversity in science, building networks, and more. The [Graduate Student Ambassador](#) Fellowship Program is a joint venture between the TAC and the APS Council to encourage graduate students to share their experiences and serve as a liaison between APS and local undergraduate students. It is a great opportunity to build leadership, communication, and outreach skills and help influence the next generation of incoming trainees!

Please contact me or any of the subcommittee members with any ideas, questions, or suggestions. We would love to hear from you!

Trainee Award Deadlines:

November 10th: Renal Section Research Recognition Awards

December 8th: Martin Frank Diversity Travel Award and the Translational Research Award

January 15th: Dale J. Benos Early Career Service Award,

January 15th: Porter Physiology Development Fellowship

January 24th: Graduate Student Ambassador Fellowship

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Choose your favorite SciArt

Check out all the fantastic entries to this year's 'Clash of the Kidneys: Return of the Electrolytes' scientific art contest.

Cast your vote today to decide the winners ! Vote [here](#)

Deadline: November 1, 2023



Awards Committee Updates

Dr. Aylin Rodan, Chair

Dr. Kelly Hyndman, Co-Chair



The APS Renal Section Awards Committee received a large number of applications in every category for 2023 awards. The abstracts and applications were of extraordinary quality and the competition was strong. In addition to the finalists and awardees listed, there were many other highly meritorious applicants that the Committee was unable to recognize individually. The Renal Section is grateful to the Awards Committee judges: Kelly Hyndman, Shengyu Mu, Kerim Mutig, Oleg Palygin, Aylin Rodan, Blythe Shepard, María Castañeda-Bueno, Paulo Caceres, Carmen de Miguel, Jan Williams, and Malgorzata Kasztan. Thank you very much to all participants in this year's competition.

See details below for how to nominate others - or yourself - for Renal Section awards for the upcoming year. We look forward to your applications!!! Complete information can be found [here](#). Contact Awards Chair Dr. Aylin Rodan (aylin.rodan@hsc.utah.edu) with any questions.

Robert W. Berliner Award for Excellence in Renal Physiology

Recognizes distinguished lifetime achievement in renal physiological research by a living scientist.

- Candidates must be at least 60 years old and a major contributor to the field of renal physiology over a lifetime.
- Accomplishments should include research, teaching, training, and activities within APS
- Receive nomination from an APS member
- Be a current or former APS member

Deadline: December 1, 2023

2024 Carl W. Gottschalk Distinguished Lectureship of the APS Renal Section

- Major contributions to understanding physiological processes.
- Receive a nomination from an APS member
- Submit a summary of contributions to renal physiology

Deadline: February 28, 2024

2025 Renal Section Mid-career Achievement Award

- Be an APS member in good standing with primary affiliation with the Renal Section
- Receive nomination from an APS member
- Hold rank of Associate Professor or above and be < 20 years beyond doctoral degree
- Have published original work in the *American Journal of Physiology–Renal Physiology*

Deadline: February 28, 2024

Renal Section New Investigator Award

- Outstanding investigator in the early stages of career
- Previous winners are not eligible to apply
- Be an APS member with primary affiliation with the Renal Section
- Receive nominations from at least two regular members of the APS
- Be equivalent to or below the rank of Assistant Professor or a comparable position in a research track at an academic institution or in industry

Deadline: December 1, 2023

Predoctoral Excellence in Renal Research

- Predoctoral students who are first authors on renal-based abstract presented at Summit
- Be an APS member in good standing

Deadline: November 10, 2023

Postdoctoral Excellence in Research

- Postdoctoral students who are first authors on renal-based abstract presented at Summit
- Be an APS member in good standing

Deadline: November 10, 2023

APS Research Recognition Award

- Graduate student or Postdoc & first author on Summit 2024 abstract

Deadline: November 10, 2023

Open to individuals with primary membership in Renal Section, or, for RRAs, are submitting an abstract to the Renal Section. Renal Section will offer Steve M. Horvath RRA to top applicant from underrepresented racial/ethnic background.

Congratulations to the 2023 Renal Section Award Winners

Robert W Berliner Award for Excellence in Physiology

This award recognizes distinguished lifetime achievement in renal physiological research by a living scientist. The 2023 awardee was: **Susan Wall MD**, Emory University



Carl W. Gottschalk Distinguished Lectureship of the APS Renal Section

This award recognizes a distinguished and engaging speaker who has made major contributions to understanding physiological processes through state-of-the-art research. The 2023 awardee was: **Ora Weisz, PhD** University of Pittsburgh.



Young Investigator Award

This award recognizes an outstanding mid-career investigator pursuing renal physiological research. The 2023 awardee was: **Alison Kriegel, PhD**, Medical College of Wisconsin.



New Investigator Award

This award recognizes an outstanding investigator in the early stages of their career (not above the rank of Assistant Professor). The 2023 awardee was: **Malgorzata Kasztan, PhD**, University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Research Recognition Award Winners

Adesanya Akinleye, University of Mississippi Medical Center
Chaoling Chen, Virginia Commonwealth University
Melissa Dennis, University of Arizona
Lashodya Dissanayake, University of South Florida
Mykhailo Fedoriuk, Medical University of South Carolina
Sarah McLarnon, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
Savanna Smith, University of North Texas Health Science Center
Biyang Xu, University of South Florida
Ava Zapf, University of Maryland



Steve M. Horvath Research Recognition Award

This award recognizes top ranked applicant (graduate student/postdoctoral fellow) from an underrepresented racial/ethnic background with a first-author abstract presented at APS 2023. The 2023 awardee was: [Desmond Moronge PhD](#), Augusta University



Predoctoral Excellence in Renal Research Award

Winner: Jazmine Benjamin, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Finalists: Alemayehu Jufar, Monash University
Mohammad Sako, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Mariia Stefanenko, Medical University of South Carolina
He Zhou, Tulane University School of Medicine



Postdoctoral Excellence in Renal Research Award

Winner: Victoria Nasci, Vanderbilt University

Finalists: Juheb Akhter, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Hannah Costello, University of Florida
Julia De La Cruz, University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Stephanie Franzén, Uppsala University



Special thanks to Dr. Chris Klemens and Dr. Subhashini Bolisetty for providing the pictures from APS 2024

News from the Treasurer

Dr. Mykola Mamenko

Mark your calendars for the 2024 Renal section banquet at the 2024 American Physiology Summit. The event will take place in the [Seaview Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Long Beach Hotel](#), on **Saturday, April 06, 2024, at 19:30 - 22:30**. Looking forward to seeing you there, let's make it a fabulous experience!



My sincerest congratulations go to the 2024 Young Investigator Award recipient, **Dr. Daria Ilatovskaya**, Augusta University, on this well-deserved achievement recognizing her outstanding contributions to the field of renal physiology, pathophysiology and hypertension.

To better serve the Section's mission, meet the need to recognize the achievements of the mid-career scientists in the field of renal research and avoid the confusion between the New Investigator and the Young Investigator awards, the latter has been transformed into the [Mid-career Achievement Award](#). I would like to thank the Section's Chair, Program Working Group and Steering Committee members for their dedicated help and valuable feedback on this initiative. We all hope that the concept and philosophy of the Mid-career Achievement Award will allow highlighting the important role played by our best members at this professional stage. Please, check the eligibility requirements and apply [here](#). The deadline for application submissions is [February 28, 2024](#).

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank our donors and encourage all members to support the Renal Section. The donation matching program was discontinued by APS in 2022, increasing the importance of the monetary contributions coming from our donors. Your donations allow supporting the Section's activities at the meetings, sponsor awards and subsidize travel and events for our trainees, consolidate our membership and promote the Section's mission. Please consider donating to the Renal section. [Follow this link and choose the Renal Section General Fund](#). Your support is a long-term investment in the Section's welfare and success!

If you have any questions about the donations, would like to suggest a sponsor, or any form of financial support, please contact the Renal section treasurer, Mykola Mamenko (mmamenko@augusta.edu).



Program Working Group Updates

Dr. Jim McCormick, Chair

Dr. Daria Ilatovskaya, Co-Chair

Dr. Nick Ferreri, Advisor



Greetings! Last year's inaugural APS Summit in Long Beach was a huge success! We thank all members for submitting their outstanding work that showcased the strengths and diversity of our section. We encourage you to submit abstracts for the 2024 Summit to be held in Long Beach, CA on April 4-7, 2024. The site is currently open for abstract submissions [here](#).

The submission deadline for abstracts is November 3, 2023. Trainees can apply for abstract-based awards until November 10, 2023 (please note the two different dates).

The Renal Section PWG has streamlined submission topic category names. If your abstract does not clearly fit into any specific topics on the list, please submit to "General renal physiology and pathophysiology". Feel free to contact Jim at mccormij@ohsu.edu if you have any questions regarding abstract submissions.

If you prefer an oral presentation, please indicate this since it will assist with selection of speakers for the section-specific sessions **Advances in Renal Physiology**, **Young Investigator Award (Dr. Daria Ilatovskaya)**, and the **Carl W. Gottschalk Distinguished Lectureship (Dr. Gerardo Gamba)**. Poster presentations will also be selected from abstracts.

The PWG has finalized the main sessions for the 2024 Summit. In addition to section-specific content, there will be several cross-disciplinary sessions of particular interest to the renal section, outlined below along with the times of section-specific content. This is not an exhaustive list, and many other excellent sessions have been programmed!

APS Summit 2024 Renal Section Programming

Thursday (pre-meeting)

1.00-1.30pm (subject to change): Epithelial Transport Group Hebert Award - Dr. Volker Vallon

Friday

8.30-10.00am: Kidney as the culprit of cardiorenal, immunological, and metabolic diseases

3.30-5.00pm: Young Investigator Award (includes talks selected from abstracts)

Saturday

1.30-3.00pm: Advances in Renal Physiology

3.30-5.00pm: Carl W. Gottschalk Distinguished Lectureship (includes talks selected from abstracts)

Sunday

8.30-10.00am: Inhibiting sodium-glucose-cotransporters improves cardiovascular and kidney disease outcomes

10.30am-12.00pm: Cardiovascular complications of chronic kidney diseases

Committee on Committees Updates

Dr. Blythe Shepard



Greetings, APS Renal Section!

Have you been itching to get more involved in APS and the Renal Section? If so, consider applying for membership to an APS committee. This is a great opportunity to make a difference within APS and to meet a variety of members across sections. APS members at all career stages are encouraged to apply.

This year, the application window has been shifted slightly and applications will officially open up in April 2024. Please be on the lookout for more information once the applications open. In the meantime, it is never too early to learn more about the APS committees.

The following committees are in need of at least one Renal Section member (membership to begin May 1, 2025):

- Animal Care & Experimentation Committee
- Awards Committee
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Finance Committee
- Physiologists in Industry Committee
- Science Policy Committee
- Women in Physiology Committee



How does this process work?

1. Applications will be announced on the [APS online system](#)
2. All nominations will be reviewed by the Committee on Committees in early 2024
3. The Committee on Committees makes a recommendation for committee membership to the APS Council and final decisions will be announced at the conclusion of the APS Summit in April 2024

How to boost your chances of success:

1. Pay special attention to the [rubric](#) while preparing your application
2. Address why YOU are the perfect fit for the committee assignment. Make sure that you show that you understand the committee's mission!
3. Obtain STRONG letters of support that reinforce your fit. Ideally, your letter will come from an APS member known more broadly in the society.
4. Select committees that do not have strong Renal Section membership already - we like to spread the positions around. The list above represents your best chances at joining a committee.
5. Reach out to your Renal Section representative to the Committee on Committees (that's me - blythe.shepard@georgetown.edu) so that I can review your application ahead of the due date.



Lessons learned over the course of my career in renal physiology

Dr. Susan M. Wall

Professor of Medicine
Emory University

As the 2023 Berliner Award recipient, I was asked to provide suggestions for young people starting a research career. After reflecting on my own career, I have put together the following six suggestions.

Suggestion #1: Stay on good terms with the competition.

You may need something from them. Positive relationships with people can help you, whereas negative relationships rarely do. I am reminded of Dr. Dennis (Denny) Ausiello's description of his first encounter with Barry Brenner when he (Ausiello) first arrived at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Barry Brenner was a prominent renal physiologist who did much of the original work on single nephron GFR. Dr. Ausiello said Barry took him under his wing and advised him: "Just remember, the toes you step on today, may be connected to the [derriere] you have to kiss tomorrow" (In full disclosure, the original quote was much more colorful).

As a corollary, share your projects, data and reagents with your colleagues. We have the tendency to try to protect what we are doing. Sharing data with others does raise the possibility of being "scooped". However, it is more likely that you will benefit scientifically from that colleague's input. Moreover, it might reduce the time needed to complete a project. Sharing reagents and data can also spark collaborations. For example, my long-standing collaboration with Dr. Paul Welling started with his request for our pendrin antibody. That evolved into a collaboration and then many years of NIH funding with a multi-PI grant.

Suggestion #2: Take your grant scores with a "grain of salt".

To some extent, when one evaluates grants, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Very early in my career, I became acutely aware that getting one's grant funded not only takes a great deal of effort, but also a bit of luck. About 30 years ago, I submitted my first project both as a National Institutes of Health FIRST Award (R29) application and an American Heart Association Established Investigator application. Both grant mechanisms were designed for new investigators. Both applications were submitted on the same day with the same project. The NIH loved it and put it in the 12th percentile, which was easily within the fundable range. In contrast, the AHA hated it and scored it in the bottom half. In writing this essay, it was fun to reexamine the reviews of these applications. The NIH said that my project examined an important physiological question that was previously undefined. They also thought that clear hypotheses were presented with a logical, feasible experimental plan. Conversely, the AHA did not like the experimental approach and felt that these studies would yield predictable results, not likely to be significant.

The moral to this grant story is that it pays to be persistent and to take your "lumps" in stride.

Suggestion #3: Think like an entrepreneur.

For all intents and purposes, running a lab means running a small business. Both small businesses and small research labs have fundamentally the same challenges. In both, you must meet payroll, advertise your work or product(s), recruit and retain talent, and manage budgets. As a PI, you must identify your strengths and determine what will be your “core business”. You must stay focused on that core business and know where your money is going. As manager, you must be in the lab to know what is going on and to be cognizant of the problems your people are having.

Suggestion #4: Be a good citizen.

Reviewing grants and papers, as well as serving on national committees, such as the American Physiological Society, helps with promotions as well as networking and establishing collaborations.

Suggestion #5: Get your papers out!

Investigators need to get their work out in a timely fashion and remember that “perfection is the enemy of success”. Your best-ever paper does not exist until it is published.

Suggestion #6: Have fun!

A scientific career can be stressful, but it is also tremendously satisfying. Research careers provide a conduit through which one can forge a legacy. It also enables one to be creative, interact with many fun and smart people, and travel the world. So, remember to enjoy the ride.

Acknowledgements: I thank Drs. Jeff Sands, Douglas Eaton and Alexander Staruschenko for their helpful suggestions.

Important Dates and Deadlines

APS Summit 2024: April 4-7, 2024

Registration and housing sites open: December 11, 2023

Early bird registration: ends on January 17, 2024

Abstract submission deadline: November 3, 2023

Late breaking abstract deadline: January 31, 2023

Abstract-based awards deadline: November 10, 2023

Abstract acceptance notifications: Mid-February 2024

Housing deadline: March 11, 2024

Regular registration deadline: March 11, 2024

On-site registration rates apply: March 12 onwards 2024

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