

Message From the Chairperson: Season's Greetings!



Judy Kirk, MS, RDN, CSR, CDN, FNKF

ON BEHALF OF the National Kidney Foundation (NKF)/Council on Renal Nutrition Executive Committee, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season. This month I will communicate updates to our membership; but first, let us start by marking your calendars for the 2017 NKF spring clinical meetings, April 18–22, 2017 in Orlando, Florida.

Some recent activities include the CRN Rules and Regulations update. In August–September, a letter to the membership went out regarding the 2016 Rules and Regulations, previously amended in 2011. This was finalized with your feedback, and any local council may adapt it for use in their chapter. Affiliation of local CRNs was completed in October. This is a process that is done every 2 years to collect demographic information about local councils so the NKF can better understand and serve the needs of the regional and local membership. Local CRNs can have a website through the NKF for their chapter, and the NKF will link to a local CRN facebook account; maintenance of the facebook account will be the local chapter's responsibility. If you are a newly forming council or for some unforeseen reason missed the date for affiliation, please contact your region representative for assistance. A list of regions is located on the NKF website along with region representatives and alternate representatives if you have any questions.

I was excited to see all the nominations for our annual CRN awards. The award selections were for Outstanding Service Award, Recognized Renal Dietitian, Recognized Regional Renal Dietitian, Susan Knapp Award, and Joel Kopple Award. All awardees were selected and notified in September. Announcements and award presentation will be at the Spring Clinical Meeting in Orlando and shared with the full membership in a future chairperson message.

Project updates include the Low Cost Meal Planning, National Renal Diet, KDOQI guidelines update, and the research grant. The Low Cost Meal Planning project began their conference call planning in August, thank you to all the membership volunteers on this committee. We look forward to this new resource for our patients. The National Renal

Diet project began meeting in January 2015. This is a comprehensive project rewriting both the professional and patient guides which were last written in 2002. The draft of the professional guide was completed this September and forwarded for review. The patient guide revision is next, and both expected to be completed in 2017. KDOQI guidelines project still in progress, and their recommendations will be incorporated into the new National Renal Diet. We are giving careful consideration in coordinating the education so whether a professional or patient seeks information from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the National Kidney Foundation, or KDOQI, they will find consistency. As for the \$70,000 research grant, Keryx is awarding through NKF to a dietitian, we were pleased to receive wonderful applications. The research grant committee was formed this July, thank you to the membership volunteers who are on this committee. The selection process was ongoing at the time of preparation for this issue, further updates in future chairperson messages planned.

What's new on PERC (Professional Education Resource Center)? A few examples of recent offerings include

- The Potassium Challenge in Chronic Kidney Disease: Managing Acute and Chronic Hyperkalemia (1.5 CEU)
Faculty: Robert Toto, MD, Peter McCullough, MD, Kamyar Kalantar-Zebeh, MD, MPH, PhD
- Management of Secondary Hyperparathyroidism in Chronic Kidney Disease (1.0 CEU)
Faculty: Geoffrey Block, MD, Linda McCann, RD, CSR

A few offerings that will soon be coming off include

- Polypharmacy (1.5 CEU) on PERC until 12/1/16
Faculty: Wendy St. Peter, PharmD, FNKE, FASN, FCCP
- Albumin—Marker of Malnutrition or Inflammation? (1.5 CEU) on PERC until 12/1/16
Faculty: Alison Steiber, PhD, RDN

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you to all the volunteers working with our projects and remember there are many opportunities to be involved with whatever amount of time you have to offer; the product update is a great example of a short time commitment and editor, Sharon Stall, is always looking for features to publish in the online journal. The patient education feature is another terrific opportunity, the feature editor, Stacey Phillips, will welcome your ideas.

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