

The NewsWire

FINAL Number 7 Nov. 16, 2011

Sponsored by



American Society of Nephrology Kidney Week 2011 Philadelphia

Kidney Week draws to a close

Over a six-day period, more than 13,000 renal professionals and members of industry canvassed the Pennsylvania Convention Center in downtown Philadelphia to hear about new developments in the field of kidney disease. ASN's 44th annual meeting presented updates in the sciences and outcomes-related research, as well as in the renal economics/regulatory arena, offering lectures and posters that covered relevant topics for 2011. The meeting also included several prepared debates on topics such as the role of albumin, the value of intense dialysis, and the value of initiating dialysis early.

Some of the sessions that *NN&I* reported on in *The Newswire* this past week included:

- **Barriers to PD Utilization** (*Matthew J. Oliver, MD*)

Using data from Canada, Oliver showed how peritoneal dialysis could become a more popular choice if patients are given the proper education and tools to use the modality. "The idea that PD is underused because patients don't want to do it is wrong," Oliver said.

- **United States Renal Data System Update** (*panel*)

TheUSRDS group offered an informative look into the outcomes and care for kidney patients. There is good news: Mortality rates are steadily declining, and primarily because of the drop in cardiovascular mortality rates.

- **Accountable Care Organizations: A new model of care for patients with CKD**

Former CMS chief Mark B. McClellan lead this discussion on how ACOs will impact nephrology in the future. He said, "if you get quality right, you will solve many of your problems" in a health care system.

- **The usefulness of albumin as a biomarker for nutrition**

This was a spirited debate about the use of albumin as a biomarker. Both doctors agreed that there is no absolute way to measure nutrient levels in patients, and much of their disagreement centered on varying definitions of

ASN Kidney News Podcasts

Friday, Nov. 11

In the first of three Kidney Week 2011 podcasts, ASN President Elect Ronald J. Falk, MD, FASN interviews three meeting participants about Thursday's presentations. Talking with Dr. Falk are Eberhard Ritz, MD (Ruperto Carola University of Heidelberg), Julia K. Inrig, MD (UT Southwestern Medical Center), and Raymond M. Hakim, MD, PhD (Fresenius Medical Care).

Saturday, Nov. 12

Falk talks with R. Tyler Miller, MD (Case Western Reserve University), Susan E. Quaggin, MD (Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute), and Michelle A. Josephson, MD (University of Chicago).

Sunday, Nov. 13

Falk talks with Alfred K. Cheung, MD (University of Utah), Kenar D. Jhaveri, MD, FASN (Hofstra NSLIJ School of Medicine), Suzanne Wainick, MD (Portland VA Medi-

patients, and much of their disagreement centered on varying definitions of malnutrition.

- **The DOPPS Dialysis Practice Monitor**

Ronald L. Pisoni, PhD, presented DOPPS data that showed parathyroid levels have risen substantially since the implementation of the ESRD payment bundle. The rise has been greatest in black dialysis patients.

- **Kidney Transplant Plus One: Dual organ transplants**

Speakers reviewed the risks and rewards of simultaneous kidney-pancreas, heart-kidney, and kidney transplant after non-renal organ transplant.

cal Center) and 2011
Young Investigator
Award recipient Katalin
Susztak, MD, PhD (Albert
Einstein College of Medi-
cine).