



1725 I Street NW • Suite 510 • Washington, DC 20006
Tel 202-659-0599 • Fax 202-659-0709 • www.asn-online.org

Contact: Shari Leventhal: 202-416-0658, sleventhal@asn-online.org

ASN JOINS KIDNEY ORGANIZATIONS WORLDWIDE IN WELCOMING WORLD KIDNEY DAY

Washington, DC (March 8, 2006) — The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) is pleased to join the International Federation of Kidney Foundations in supporting the first annual World Kidney Day on Thursday, March 9.

ASN recognizes the significance of promoting awareness of this deadly disease, in which over 1,000,000 individuals in the developed world suffer from yearly and as many as 250,000 new patients are diagnosed each year.¹

“It is incredibly important to raise awareness of kidney disease,” said ASN’s President, Thomas DuBose, Jr., MD, FASN recently. “The extent and severity of kidney disease has long been under-appreciated, and the ASN looks forward to the full development of World Kidney Day and the benefits that this level of focus will bring to kidney patients worldwide.”

World Kidney Day will provide a platform for raising awareness about kidney disease among government health officials, general physicians, allied health professionals, and other individuals across the globe; advocating for early detection and prevention of kidney disease in all countries; and recognizing the many billions of dollars spent on research and treatment of renal disease.

Kidney disease is a significant disease in patients with diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease with major morbidity and mortality and high costs to the healthcare system. Patients with chronic kidney disease have a marked increase in risk for developing cardiovascular disease.

The disease is easy to detect with simple, routinely available tests (serum creatinine and urine albumin). Chronic kidney disease and potentially associated cardiovascular complications can be effectively treated and prevented with intensive blood-pressure control, glucose control in diabetic patients, lipid-lowering medications and use of kidney-protective medications, such as angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors or angiotensin receptor blockers.

¹ Dirks, J. A world perspective on renal care: the challenges of prevention and treatment. *EDTNA ERCA J.* 2005; 31:72-74.

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“Prevention and slowing the progression of chronic kidney disease are desperately needed to address the ever-increasing numbers of end-stage renal disease patients and reduce the associated cardiovascular risk in these patients,” said DuBose.

World Kidney Day will be observed yearly on the second Thursday of March worldwide, and an inauguration is being planned for March 8, 2007.

The ASN is a not-for-profit organization of 9,500 physicians and scientists dedicated to the study of nephrology and committed to providing a forum for the promulgation of information regarding the latest research and clinical findings on kidney diseases.

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