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## **ASN HIGHLIGHTS PROPOSED CHANGES TO KIDNEY ALLOCATION SYSTEM WITH PODCAST AND ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM**

*ASN podcast to address kidney allocation system in follow-up to articles in ASN Kidney News*

**Washington, DC (May 20, 2009)**—*ASN Kidney News*, a news magazine which launched in January 2009, highlights issues related to kidney transplantation in its May 2009 issue. Of special interest are two articles that center on proposed changes to the kidney allocation system (KAS). ASN has launched its first podcast (<http://asn-online.org/publications/kidneynews/podcast.aspx>) and readers' forum (<http://www.asn-online.org/publications/kidneynews/discuss.aspx>), to encourage conversation on the topic of kidney allocation.

In 2004, the Kidney Transplantation Committee of the United Network for Organ Sharing/Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (UNOS/OPTN) began a comprehensive review of kidney allocation with the goal of maximizing the total distribution of kidney to ensure that as many kidneys are donated to those in need as possible. The Committee is recommending that the following three components are utilized to determine a patient's Kidney Allocation Score (KAS):

1. Life Years from Transplant (LYFT): determines the estimated survival a recipient of a specific donor kidney may expect to receive vs. remaining on dialysis.
2. Dialysis Time (DT): Time spent on dialysis allows candidates to gain priority based upon the length of time they have been receiving this treatment.
3. Donor Profile Index (DPI): provides a continuous measure of organ quality based on clinical information.

Two articles in the May issue of *ASN Kidney News* provide insight into a variety of issues surrounding kidney allocation. The authors, John Curtis, MD (Department of Internal Medicine–Nephrology at the University of Alabama, Birmingham) and Mark Stegall, MD (Chair, Division of Transplantation Surgery at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota), are interviewed during the podcast by the *ASN Kidney News* Editor-in-Chief, Pascale Lane, MD, FASN (Professor, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE) about the Committee's recommendations.

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From May 18 through June 3, 2009, readers have the opportunity to provide comments about the kidney allocation system online via an ASN forum on the Society's website at <http://www.asn-online.org/publications/kidneynews/discuss.aspx>.

*ASN Kidney News* is a news magazine that examines trends in medicine, industry, and policy affecting all those who work with kidney disease research and treatment and other specialties that are involved with the effects of kidney health and disease. *ASN Kidney News* is available online at <http://asn-online.org/publications/kidneynews>.

Founded in 1966, the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) is the world's largest professional society devoted to the study of kidney disease. Comprised of 11,000 physicians and scientists, ASN continues to promote expert patient care, advance medical research, and educate the renal community. ASN also informs policymakers about issues of importance to kidney doctors and their patients. ASN funds research, and through its world-renowned meetings and first-class publications, disseminates information and educational tools that empower physicians.

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