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AGRE, NOBEL LAUREATE TO GIVE PLENARY LECTURE AT ASN'S 37TH ANNUAL MEETING

Washington, DC (Sep. 29, 04) — The American Society of Nephrology is honored to announce that Peter C. Agre, MD, co-recipient of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and distinguished Professor of Biological Chemistry and Medicine at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, will present the opening State-of-the-Art Lecture during its 37th annual fall meeting in St. Louis, Missouri.

Dr. Agre's groundbreaking discovery in 1988 of the water channel, or aquaporin, earned him The 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, and created a means of exploring the molecular mechanisms that allow proteins to function as filters and maintain osmotic equilibrium. Researchers worldwide are now able to perform biochemical, physiological and genetic studies of water channels in bacteria, plants and mammals, and have linked aberrant water transport to a multitude of human diseases and conditions. Dr. Agre, recipient of two U.S. patents on the isolation, cloning and expression of aquaporins 1 and 5, will present his lecture entitled, "Aquaporin Water Channels: Blueprints for Cellular Plumbing Systems" during Renal Week 2004 on Friday, October 29 beginning at 8:00 am in Hall 5 of the America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

Dr. Agre, a longtime ASN member, joined the Departments of Medicine and Cell Biology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1984. He previously served as Director of the Johns Hopkins Graduate Program in Cellular and Molecular Medicine, the first program in Molecular Medicine to receive funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He also serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* and the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

The ASN is a not-for-profit organization of 9,000 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. ASN's Renal Week 2004, the largest nephrology meeting of its kind, will provide a forum for more than 12,000 nephrologists to discuss the latest findings in renal research and engage in educational sessions relating advances in the care of patients with kidney and related disorders from October 27-November 1, 2004 at the America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

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