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ASN CREATES LECTURESHIP IN MEMORY OF DR. JACK W. COBURN

Washington, DC (Sep. 29, 04)— This fall, the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) will begin honoring nephrologists in the field of bone and mineral metabolism with a new, endowed lectureship, in memory of ASN member Dr. Jack W. Coburn. This endowed lectureship is made possible through a restricted educational grant from Amgen.

Dr. Coburn's significant contributions to nephrology stemmed from his research in minerals in the kidneys and intestines and his extraordinary patient care. His work laid the foundation for the care of dialysis patients with secondary hyperparathyroidism, which profoundly affected the treatment of renal osteodystrophy. The majority of Dr. Coburn's more than 250 scientific papers and reviews specifically relate to bone and divalent ion metabolism. Last year, he and his colleague, Dr. Jacob Lemann, were co-recipients of ASN's 2003 Belding H. Scribner Award, a tribute to his outstanding contributions to clinical nephrology and patient care.

The 2004 recipient of this lectureship, Dr. Anthony Portale, professor of Pediatrics, chief of the Division of Pediatric Nephrology, and director of the Pediatric Dialysis Program at the University of California, San Francisco Children's Hospital, will speak at Renal Week, the Society's annual conference. Dr. Portale has conducted groundbreaking research on an enzyme that plays a central role in converting vitamin D into the active hormone essential for bone growth and health. This research is of particular concern to his young patients, who are prone to rickets if they do not have sufficient vitamin D to promote bone growth. His more than 80 publications focus on genetic and acquired disorders of calcium, phosphorous, and vitamin D metabolism, and metabolic bone diseases in children.

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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