

March 11, 2010

Dear Colleagues:

World Kidney Day (WKD) is a global health awareness campaign designed to inform lawmakers and the public about the prevalence of kidney disease and the importance of improving the lives of the nearly 500 million people who suffer from kidney disease worldwide. ASN leaders will gather in Washington, DC, Thursday, March 11, 2010, to commemorate World Kidney Day by participating in advocacy efforts.

Representing over a dozen states, ASN representatives will meet with key members of Congress and their staff to promote kidney disease as a major public health threat and to advocate for ASN's major legislative priorities for 2010:

- Address Profound Health Care Disparities
- Improve the Success of Kidney Transplants
- Fund Medical Research that Improves Kidney Health
- Fix the Flawed Sustainable Growth Formula

ASN—along with the American Kidney Fund, Dialysis Patient Citizens, and the National Kidney Foundation—will also host a reception for members of Congress, patient advocates, and kidney professionals. Special guest Grizz Chapman of the NBC show 30 Rock will speak about his experiences with kidney disease.

In conjunction with WKD, ASN is promoting to the media a study by Yoshio Hall, MD, and colleagues that addresses kidney failure rates in poor minority adults and non-Hispanic whites. A podcast interview with Dr. Hall is available for download on the ASN website.

As World Kidney Day 2010 approaches, please consider how you can encourage change that benefits the kidney community. Whether you are among the representatives traveling to the nation's capital or are highlighting the importance of World Kidney Day in your community or at your workplace, every ASN member should be armed with talking points to make the case for programs that improve treatment. To obtain informational material and talking points that ASN will take to Capitol Hill on World Kidney Day, please visit the fact sheets section of ASN's policy page.

Sincerely,

Sharon Anderson, MD, FASN
President