

Nephrology Division Newsletter

November-December 2021

Announcements

- We mourn the loss of **Dr. Anitha Toke** who passed away on September 17, 2021. Dr. Toke was an outstanding teacher, mentor, role model, Nephrologist, colleague, friend, and leader. She was widely viewed as a highly insightful diagnostician and skilled clinician. She had a unique ability to get to the heart of even the most complex clinical cases and seemed to know exactly what to do in any clinical situation. Her skills and personal characteristics – including her candor and sense of humor – led her to become a key leader in nephrology at UCSF and throughout our region. A new fellowship award, the Anitha Toke, MD Memorial Scholarship will be created in her honor.
- **Fahimeh Vafai** has joined our staff in the newly created position of project manager. She comes to us from UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital where she has worked for two years as a project manager.
- Welcome to **Jonathan Thomas** who started as an Assistant CRC with Dr. Chi-yuan Hsu’s group. He is currently a student at UC Berkeley where he is finishing his BA in Molecular and Cell Biology.
- **Dr. Sindhu Chandran** has become an Associate Editor for the American Journal of Transplantation.
- ASN has a new Health Care Justice Committee and **Dr. Anthony Muiru** is an inaugural member.
- **Dr. Elaine Ku** co-chaired the recent KDIGO Novel Anemia Therapies in the CKD Conference.

Fellowship Program

- **Dr. Tiffany Troung** first authored “Is Prioritization of Kidney Allografts to Combined Liver-Kidney Recipients Appropriate?” *Kidney360* October 2021, 10.34067/KID.0001632021; DOI: <https://kidney360.asnjournals.org/content/3/6/993>
- **Dr. Debbie Chen** finished her AJKD Editorial Internship and wrote this perspective piece. “The Impact of COVID-19 on Nephrology Fellows – A Perspective from the 2020-2021 AJKD Editorial Intern Class.” *AJKD* October 16, 2021, DOI: [10.1053/j.ajkd.2021.09.001](https://doi.org/10.1053/j.ajkd.2021.09.001)
- **Dr. Alex Dinh** has been supported by his own F32 grant (F32DK128985) since the start of this academic year.

Accomplishments and Awards

- **Dr. Chi Chu’s** first author paper with **Dr. Delphine Tuot** as senior author “CKD awareness among US adults by future risk of kidney failure” (*AJKD* 2020; 76:174-183) was won an AJKD Editors’ Choice Award: NKF Mission Award, which recognizes research with great promise to enhance the lives of those affected by kidney disease.
- The American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) announced the election of 95 new members for 2022. Our very own **Kathleen Liu, MD, PhD** was one of them.

- **Michelle Estrella, MD** is PI on two new R01s – a new grant and a competitive renewal: “Advanced Kidney Health Monitoring in Persons Hospitalized with Heart Failure” (DK130870) and “Biomarker-Based Diagnostic Algorithms to Prevent, Detect, and Guide Treatment of Kidney Disease in Persons Living with HIV” (AG034853).
- **Dr. Chi-yuan Hsu’s** first author paper with **Dr. Anthony Muiru** as co-author “Race, genetic Ancestry, and estimating kidney function in CKD” (NEJM 2021; 385:1750-1760) was selected by NEJM Editors as one of 14 Notable Articles in 2021 "most meaningful in changing medical practice and improving patient care." The study was also featured in the October 21, 2021 NIH Director’s Blog.

Congratulations to all our award-winning faculty, fellows and staff.

For more news and updates, please follow us on Twitter @UCSFNephrology