

A look at educational opportunities for dietitians at NKF Spring Clinical Meetings '09

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The National Kidney Foundation 2009 Spring Clinical Meetings offers a five-track multidisciplinary program. Full day pre-conference workshops and sessions throughout the meeting will provide an in-depth review of cutting-edge topics for both the nephrology and the non-nephrology dietitian who want to advance their careers and practice. Experts will examine advanced concepts in physical assessment, nutrition care process, eating disorders and dialysis, diabetes, kidney stones, pregnancy, disaster preparation issues, and nutrition for the renal dietitian.

Pre-conference courses will be held on Wednesday, March 25. "Strategies I: Building the Foundation" will offer basic information on treating the renal patient in a dialysis setting. Case studies will examine technologies of dialysis, nutrition guidelines, and introductions to dialysis adequacy, anemia management, and bone disease. The "Tools for Advanced Practice Dietitian in Nephrology Care" pre-conference course is for more experienced renal dietitians and will examine concepts in physical assessment, nutrition

care process, standardized language, and research for the renal dietitian. The last pre-conference course, "Motivational Interviewing and Health Coaching" will help the dietitian identify and initiate new ways to interact with patients and facilitate a successful working environment.

Workshops and discussions will begin on Thursday morning, March 26 and extend through Sunday morning. Thursday's session begins with a panel discussion entitled "Kidney survivor: Lessons learned from experience" and a session covering acute kidney injury (AKI). Early afternoon topics on the renal dietitian program range from diabetes to oncology issues, and the day concludes with a session explaining how experienced renal dietitians "took the road less traveled" to fulfill alternate careers in renal dietetics.

Friday's research track will be of interest to those seeking information on getting started in conducting research. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn how to develop a poster or write an abstract; how to develop ideas, secure funding, and collect data. Early morning sessions on Friday will analyze disaster preparedness, hypertension management, and a much-anticipated debate regarding hemodialysis versus peritoneal dialysis and the transition from PD to in-center HD. On Friday afternoon, a panel of experts will discuss various gastrointestinal issues such as ostomies, gastroparesis, and pancreatitis. Another concurrent session will focus on eating disorders and renal nutrition.

The first part of the "Micronutrient Homeostasis in Functional Deficit" will begin the weekend sessions, integrating physiology, assessment, and replacement. Hypertension in pregnancy and preclampsia with a focus on novel findings regarding pathogenesis and diagnosis will be addressed in another Saturday morning session. On Saturday afternoon, highlights include a discussion of the NKF's 2008 Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Improvement Initiative pediatric nutrition guidelines, diabetic nephropathy, cardiovascular risk, metabolic syndrome, and patient exercise programs. The day will conclude with the second part of "Micronutrient Homeostasis in Functional Deficit" and a media-influenced session entitled "Grey's Anatomy: The Neighborhood Drama of Renal Physiology."

The meeting will end on Sunday with riveting presentations on strengthening adherence in the dialysis patient as well as discussion of electrolytes—hospital-acquired hypernatremia, disorders of calcium sensors, hypokalemia, and hypomagnesemia. **N**



Dietitian Program
2009 Spring Clinical Meetings
Council of Renal Nutrition
The National Kidney Foundation
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For more information, visit www.nkfclinicalmeetings.org.
Early bird registration deadline is Jan. 15, 2009.

Ms. Kent is the Dietitian Program Chair and **Ms. Hutton** is the Program Co-Chair for the NKF Spring Clinical Meetings.