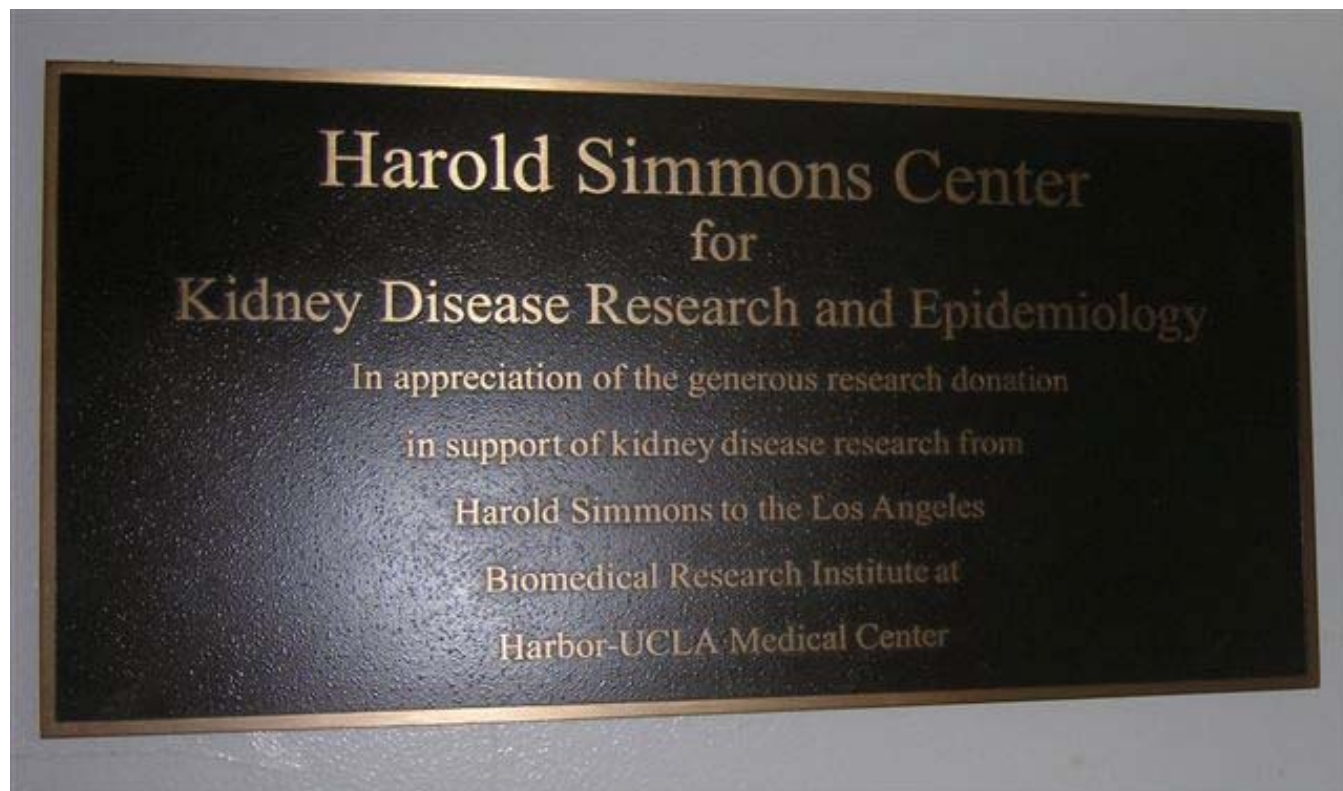




LABioMed
Los Angeles
Biomedical
Research Institute
at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Harold Simmons Center for Kidney Disease Research and Epidemiology

Five Years of Harold Simmons Center for Kidney Disease Research and Epidemiology 2006-2011



Harold Simmons Center for Kidney Disease Research & Epidemiology
Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
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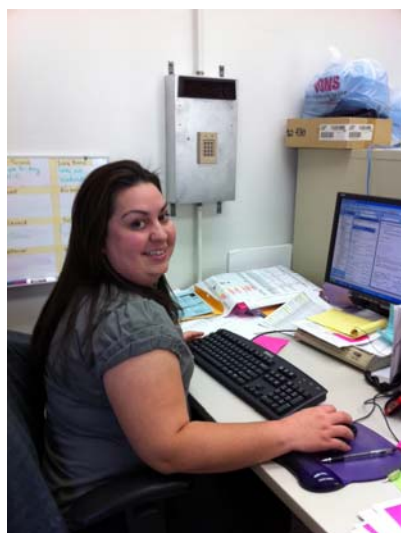
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Report Release: January 2011

The Harold Simmons Center for Kidney Disease Research and Epidemiology is located on the campus of Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, California. The Center is funded by a philanthropic grant from Mr. Harold Simmons in addition to funding from NIH and various other sources. The Center is headed by Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh, M.D. Ph.D who is Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics & Epidemiology at UCLA Schools of Medicine & Public Health, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. Besides its main mission of kidney disease research, the Center provides research training for doctoral students from the UCLA School of Public Health, students and recent college graduates interested in pursuing careers in medicine and/or medical research, and young investigators from all over the world.



Claudia Luna-Clinical Study Coordinator

I am the first person in my family to go to college and graduate with a degree in Psychology. My parents were not educated and worked all of their lives. They insisted we all get an education. My dad always told me that I could accomplish more in my years of college than he ever could in his lifetime. After graduating I taught elementary school children but wanted to pursue career in research. I was lucky enough to be hired by Dr. Kalantar to work on the AIONID Study and now continue with his recent FrEDI food study. Not only do I work in something I enjoy but I also have a hand in maybe someday saving lives. That means a great deal to me. I get to meet the wonderful patients and learn a few things about their lives. I am inspired to continue my work in research and help present and future patients.

Amanda Luna-Research Associate

I am a recent graduate from USC with a degree in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Studies. Since being diagnosed with Systemic Lupus at the age of 16 I have been inspired to work in the health and research field. Working at the Harold Simmons Center, I have found a great passion and interest for research in nephrology and more specifically with dialysis patients. I am currently at the age of 24, undergoing dialysis treatments weekly. My kidney disease has shaped my future endeavors, as I am applying to medical school this year. I have great drive and determination in improving the nutrition and overall health of those affected by kidney disease. I am very thankful to have been given this opportunity from Dr. Kalantar to be a part of groundbreaking research in Nephrology. This job has given me first-hand experiences into the world of nephrology and the advances that have been made, but has also shown me that there is still a great deal of research that continues to be needed. I hope to become an advocate for the improvement of nutrition and wellness among dialysis patients for years to come.



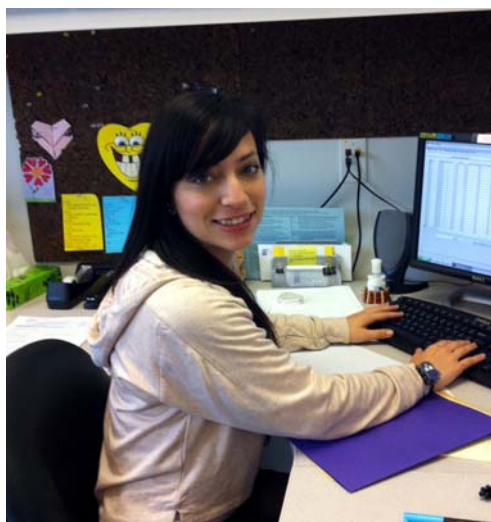
Mayra Gomez-Research Associate

I have just recently earned my MPH at California State University Long Beach, and I am passionate about eliminating health disparities among disadvantaged populations. As a child, I contributed greatly to the care of my mother, who was diagnosed with brain cancer. Because of this experience early in life I am now determined to pursue a career in medicine, and I will be applying to medical school this year. Working as an assistant study coordinator at the Harold Simmons Center has given me valuable experience in research which I will incorporate into my future medical career along with my public health background and life experiences.



Brenda Richter-Former Research Associate

I am a first generation American citizen. My family immigrated to the United States from Lima, Peru in 1982. Lacking medical insurance for several years I witnessed and experienced first hand the difficulties patients face in receiving competent and compassionate health care and from a young age decided that I wanted to pursue a career in the health care field in order to help improve patient's quality of life and care. Pursuing my dream I enrolled at the University of Southern California and majored in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Studies. During my time at USC I became friends with Amanda Luna, who was then and is still working with Dr. Kalantar. She informed me of an opportunity to work at LABioMed doing research in Nephrology with Dr. Kalantar. I jumped at the chance. Working as a research associate at The Harold Simmons Center for Kidney Disease Research and Epidemiology has been a truly fulfilling and wonderful learning experience. It is a great feeling to know that I am surrounded by individuals who are just as focused and passionate about making a change in people's lives for the better. I hope as a future Nurse Administrator in a Los Angeles County hospital that I am able to continue my work in research and facilitate future research projects.



Jennie Jing-Senior Data Manager

I consider myself the "mother" of the staff of the Harold Simmons Center. I have worked in cancer epidemiology, genetic epidemiology, vaccine research, and now kidney disease research and epidemiology for all of my 38 years as a biostatistician and senior data manager. I enjoy working with and mentoring this young and dedicated staff whose diversity from all walks of life and all corners of the world have made working at the Harold Simmons Center all the more rewarding. I have worked with so many investigators during my career but Dr. Kalantar is definitely one of a kind when it comes to working "all the time." Who else would be working on his laptop while in a public movie theater with his kids!





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Introducing the Graduate Students and Post-Doctoral Fellows

Since its inception in mid 2007, the Harold Simmons Center has provided excellent environment to train, educate and mentor a number of promising graduate students and post-doctoral fellows from a variety of disciplines.

Seen in the picture are some of the students, post-doctoral fellows and staff in November 2007 (from L to R): Jessica Miller Leanne Streja, PhD, Rulin Kai Hechter, PhD, Elani Streja, Deborah Regidor, PhD, Dr. Kalantar, Elani Streja, Mehdi Rambod, MD, Jennifer Lee, MS.

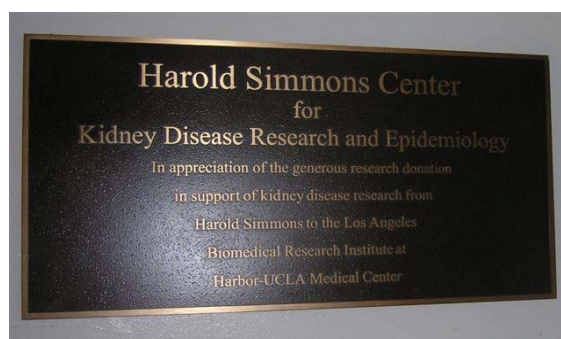


Graduate Students from UCLA School of Public Health



Dr. Kalantar has been mentoring doctoral students from the Division of Epidemiology at the UCLA School of Public Health for many years. These students have gained valuable hands on experience while at the Harold Simmons Center. After completing the doctoral program, former alumni Ryan Kilpatrick and Debby Regidor accepted positions as epidemiologists at Amgen while Rulin Hechter accepted a position as a post-doctoral research fellow at the Research and Evaluation Department at Kaiser Permanente.

Seen in the picture are current students (from L to R): Lilia Lukowsky, Elani Streja, Dr. Kalantar, Joni Ricks, and Jessica Miller.



Jessica Miller-PhD Student, UCLA



I am a doctoral student in Epidemiology at UCLA. I have worked in the Harold Simmons Center as a research associate since 2007. My past work has focused primarily on dialysis treatment and calcium levels in maintenance hemodialysis patients and has led to several abstracts and published journal articles. My current work is based on Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER), a popular analysis method in health care which directly compares the risks and benefits of treatments and interventions. Thanks to funds from Mr. Harold Simmons, I recently was able to attend a specialized course on CER at the American Society of Nephrology. Here is a list of my publications at the Harold Simmons Center:

Miller JE, Streja E, Kovesdy CP, McAllister CJ, Van Wyck D, Kopple JD, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Time-Dependent Association Between Dialysis Dose and 5-Year Survival in Contemporary Maintenance Hemodialysis Patients. *Am J Kid Dis [National Kidney Foundation 2008 Spring Clinical Meeting, April 2-6, 2008, Dallas, TX]*. 2008 [Abstract];51(4):B1-B36.

Miller JE, Kovesdy CP, Van Wyck D, Kopple JD, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Mortality Predictability of the 5-Year Time-Averaged Serum Calcium in 151,555 Maintenance Hemodialysis Patients. *J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2008 [ASN abstract];19(abstract issue):F-PO1819.

Miller JE, Kovesdy CP, Jing J, Van Wyck D, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Independent Association of Hemodialysis Treatment Session Time and 5-Year Survival in 88,153 Maintenance Hemodialysis Patients. *J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2008 [ASN abstract];19(abstract issue):SA-PO2612.

Miller JE, Streja E, Kovesdy CP, Van Wyck D, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Association between Time-Averaged (Cumulative) Hemodialysis Dose and 5-year Survival CKD Patients. *J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2008 [ASN abstract];19(abstract issue):SA-PO2613.

Kalantar-Zadeh K, Streja E, Miller JE, Nissenson AR. Intravenous iron versus erythropoiesis-stimulating agents: friends or foes in treating chronic kidney disease anemia? *Adv Chronic Kidney Dis*. 2009 Mar;16(2):143-51. Review

Kalantar-Zadeh K, Lee GH, Miller JE, Streja E, Jing J, Robertson JA, Kovesdy CP. Predictors of hyporesponsiveness to erythropoiesis stimulating agents in hemodialysis patients. *Am J Kidney Dis*. 2009 May;53(5):823-34.

Miller JE, Kovesdy CP, Norris KC, Mehrotra R, Nissenson AR, Kopple JD, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Association of Cumulatively Low or High Serum Calcium Levels with Mortality in Long-Term Hemodialysis Patients. *Am J Nephrol*. 2010;32:403-413.

Kalantar-Zadeh K, Miller JE, Kovesdy CP, Mehrotra R, Lukowski LR, Streja E, Ricks J, Jing J, Nissenson AR, Greenland S, Norris KC. Impact of race on hyperparathyroidism, mineral disarrays, administered vitamin D and survival in hemodialysis patients. *J Bone Miner Res*. 2010 Jul 1.

Miller JE, Kovesdy CP, Nissenson AR, Mehrotra R, Streja E, Van Wyck D, Greenland S, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Association of Hemodialysis Treatment Time and Dose With Mortality and the Role of Race and Sex. *Am J Kidney Dis* 55 (2010) pp. 100-112.

Elani Streja-PhD Student, UCLA



I am a 5th year doctoral student in the Department of Epidemiology at UCLA. I have been working at the Harold Simmons Center since 2007. My first project resulted in a publication of which I was a first author. The project investigated high platelet levels and survival in hemodialysis patients. I have also worked on projects investigating survival of hemodialysis patients based on racial/ethnic health disparities, presence of polycystic kidney disease, serum creatinine levels as a surrogate for muscle mass, and survival of transplant patients and waitlist transplant patients based on BMI. Currently, I am working on a project investigating factors that may affect survival of elderly patients. The analytical and statistical skills I have learned while working at the Harold Simmons Center has not only prepared me for my dissertation work, but has also trained me in novel skills that are marketable in the competitive workforce.

- 1: Streja E, Kovesdy CP, Molnar MZ, Norris KC, Greenland S, Nissenson AR, Kopple JD, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Role of Nutritional Status and Inflammation in Higher Survival of African American and Hispanic Hemodialysis Patients. *Am J Kidney Dis.* 2011 Jan 14. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 21239093.
- 2: Kalantar-Zadeh K, Golan E, Shohat T, Streja E, Norris KC, Kopple JD. Survival disparities within American and Israeli dialysis populations: learning from similarities and distinctions across race and ethnicity. *Semin Dial.* 2010 Nov;23(6):586-94. doi: 10.1111/j.1525-139X.2010.00795.x. PubMed PMID: 21175833.
- 3: Kalantar-Zadeh K, Streja E, Kovesdy CP, Oreopoulos A, Noori N, Jing J, Nissenson AR, Krishnan M, Kopple JD, Mehrotra R, Anker SD. The obesity paradox and mortality associated with surrogates of body size and muscle mass in patients receiving hemodialysis. *Mayo Clin Proc.* 2010 Nov;85(11):991-1001. PubMed PMID:21037042; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2966362.
- 4: Molnar MZ, Lukowsky LR, Streja E, Dukkipati R, Jing J, Nissenson AR, Kovesdy CP, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Blood pressure and survival in long-term hemodialysis patients with and without polycystic kidney disease. *J Hypertens.* 2010 Aug 17. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 20720499.
- 5: Kalantar-Zadeh K, Miller JE, Kovesdy CP, Mehrotra R, Lukowsky LR, Streja E, Ricks J, Jing J, Nissenson AR, Greenland S, Norris KC. Impact of race on hyperparathyroidism, mineral disarrays, administered vitamin D mimetic, and survival in hemodialysis patients. *J Bone Miner Res.* 2010 Dec;25(12):2448-58. doi: 10.1002/jbmr.177. Epub 2010 Jul 7. PubMed PMID: 20614473.
- 6: Park JC, Kovesdy CP, Duong U, Streja E, Rambod M, Nissenson AR, Sprague SM, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Association of serum alkaline phosphatase and bone mineral density in maintenance hemodialysis patients. *Hemodial Int.* 2010 Apr;14(2):182-92. Epub 2010 Mar 24. PubMed PMID: 20345388.
- 7: Miller JE, Kovesdy CP, Nissenson AR, Mehrotra R, Streja E, Van Wyck D, Greenland S, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Association of hemodialysis treatment time and dose with mortality and the role of race and sex. *Am J Kidney Dis.* 2010 Jan;55(1):100-12. Epub 2009 Oct 22. PubMed PMID: 19853336; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2803335.
- 8: Kalantar-Zadeh K, Lee GH, Miller JE, Streja E, Jing J, Robertson JA, Kovesdy CP. Predictors of hyporesponsiveness to erythropoiesis-stimulating agents in hemodialysis patients. *Am J Kidney Dis.* 2009 May;53(5):823-34. Epub 2009 Apr 1. PubMed PMID: 19339087; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2691452.
- 9: Kalantar-Zadeh K, Streja E, Miller JE, Nissenson AR. Intravenous iron versus erythropoiesis-stimulating agents: friends or foes in treating chronic kidney disease anemia? *Adv Chronic Kidney Dis.* 2009 Mar;16(2):143-51. Review. PubMed PMID: 19233073.
- 10: Streja E, Kovesdy CP, Greenland S, Kopple JD, McAllister CJ, Nissenson AR, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Erythropoietin, iron depletion, and relative thrombocytosis: a possible explanation for hemoglobin-survival paradox in hemodialysis. *Am J Kidney Dis.* 2008 Oct;52(4):727-36. Epub 2008 Aug 29. PubMed PMID: 18760517.

Joni Ricks-PhD Student, UCLA



I am a 5th year doctoral Student in the Department of Epidemiology at UCLA. Originally from Chicago, I moved to Los Angeles in the Fall of 2006 to pursue my degree. I have been working at the Harold Simmons Center since 2009. My research focuses on survival in maintenance hemodialysis patients and its links to body mass index (BMI) and glucose levels. Because of my interest in racial/ethnic health disparities, I am investigating how these factors may have different effects between different race groups. Because of the excellent data resources available to us, I have had the opportunity to use more advanced statistical techniques that most students do not get exposed to. I have completed several abstracts and coauthorships and this year I am looking forward to my first-authored publication.

Presentations:

Ricks, J., Kovesdy, C.P., Kopple, J., Norris K., Kalantar-Zadeh, K. (2010). Racial and Gender Differences of the Survival Advantage of Obesity in Maintenance Hemodialysis Patients. Poster presented at the American Society of Nephrology Renal Week 2010. November 18 - November 21. Denver, CO.

Ricks, J., Streja, E., Miller, J.E., Jing, J., Nissenson, A.R., Derose, S.F., Kovesdy, C.P., Kalantar-Zadeh, K. (2009). Obesity is associated with even Greater Survival Advantage in African American Hemodialysis Patients Compared to other Races. Poster presented at the American Society of Nephrology Renal Week 2009. October 27- November 1. San Diego, CA.

Miller, J.E, Ricks, J., Streja, E., Norris K., Nissenson, A.R., Kovesdy, C.P., Kalantar-Zadeh, K. (2009). Higher Doses of Administered Paricalcitol is Associated with Greater 5-Year Survival in African American Hemodialysis Patients Compared to other Races. Poster presented at the American Society of Nephrology Renal Week 2009. October 27- November 1. San Diego, CA.

Miller, J.E., Streja, E., Ricks, J., Norris K., Nissenson, A.R., Kovesdy, C.P., Kalantar-Zadeh, K. (2009). Examining Survival Benefits of Higher Doses of Paricalcitol in Hemodialysis Patients: Propensity Score Matching and Overadjustment Bias. Poster presented at the American Society of Nephrology Renal Week 2009. October 27- November 1. San Diego, CA.

Kalantar-Zadeh, K., Miller, J.E., Streja, E., Ricks, J. Norris K., Nissenson, A.R., Kovesdy, C.P. (2009). Proposed Bundling System and Active Vitamin D Administration for African American Hemodialysis Patients. Poster presented at the American Society of Nephrology Renal Week 2009. October 27- November 1. San Diego, CA.

Publications:

Kalantar-Zadeh, K., Miller, J.E., Kovesdy, C.P., Mehrotra, R., Lukowski, L.R., Streja, E., Ricks, J., Jing, J., Nissenson, A.R., Greenland, S., Norris K. (2010) Impact of Race on Hyperparathyroidism, Mineral Disarrays, Administered Vitamin D and Survival in Hemodialysis Patients. J Bone Miner Res.

Lilia Lukowsky-PhD Student, UCLA



I am a PhD candidate at UCLA Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health. I have been working at the Harold Simmons Center since May of 2009. I am currently working on my PhD thesis which examines mortality among hemodialysis patients in the first two years after start of dialysis treatment. The goal of my thesis project is to try to determine why many patients die shortly after starting dialysis. I am currently working on the first publication for this project. In addition to my thesis I also work on two other projects. The first examines survival in hemodialysis patients with polycystic kidney disorder, and another involves looking at the differences in survival between peritoneal dialysis and hemodialysis patients as well as the reason for why patients may change the modality of treatment. During the time I worked at the Center, I had an opportunity to be part of a very productive research group and learn how to perform advanced statistical and methodological analysis. My work at the Center has led to co-authorship for two publications and several poster presentations. I am very proud to be a part of this group, and I feel that our work makes an important contribution in understanding changes associated with ESRD and can lead to improving survival and quality of life among dialysis patients.

Miklos Z Molnar, Lilia R Lukowsky, Elani Streja, Ramanath Dukkipati, Jennie Jing, Allen R Nissenson, Csaba P Kovesdy, Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh. Blood pressure and survival in long-term hemodialysis patients with and without polycystic kidney disease. *J Hypertens*. 2010 Aug 17

Kalantar-Zadeh K, Miller JE, Kovesdy CP, Mehrotra R, Lukowsky LR, Streja E, Ricks J, Jing J, Nissenson AR, Greenland S, Norris KC. Impact of race on hyperparathyroidism, mineral disarrays, administered vitamin D and survival in hemodialysis patients. *J Bone Miner Res*. 2010 Jul 1.

Lilia R Lukowsky, Leeka I Kheifets, Onyebuchi A. Arah, Csaba P. Kovesdy, and Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh. Comparing Demographic Factors as Predictors of the First 90-Day Mortality in Incident Hemodialysis Patients. ASN 2010 [abstract was accepted for a poster presentation at Renal Week 2010, Denver, CO]

Lilia R Lukowsky, Leeka I Kheifets, Onyebuchi A. Arah, Allen R. Nissenson, Csaba P. Kovesdy and Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh. Relative Mortality Trends in the First 2 Years among Incident Hemodialysis Patients. ASN 2010 [abstract was accepted for a poster presentation at Renal Week 2010, Denver, CO]

Lilia R Lukowsky, Leeka I Kheifets, Onyebuchi A. Arah, Allen R. Nissenson, Csaba P. Kovesdy and Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh. Laboratory Measures as Predictors of the First 3-Month Mortality in Incident Hemodialysis Patients. ASN 2010 [abstract was accepted for a poster presentation at Renal Week 2010, Denver, CO]

Debbie Benner, Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh, Lilia R. Lukowsky, Steve Wilson, Kathy Lahr, Karen Spach, Mahesh Krishnan. Association of the Malnutrition-Inflammation Score with First 90-day Mortality in Incident Hemodialysis (HD) Patients. ASN 2010 [abstract was accepted for a poster presentation at Renal Week 2010, Denver, CO]

Lilia Lukowsky, Gabriel McNeill, Elani Streja, Jennie Jing, Mahesh Krishnan, Allen R Nissenson, and Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh. Comparing Mortality-Predictability of Hyper-Phosphoatemia in Maintenance Hemodialysis Patients with and without Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD). *Am J Kidney Dis* 2010 [abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the NKF Spring Clinical Meeting 2010, Orlando, FL].

Gabriel McNeill, Elani Streja, Lilia Lukowsky, Csaba P Kovesdy, Jennie Jing, Mahesh Krishnan, Allen R Nissenson, Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh: Secondary Hyperparathyroidism & Survival in Hemo-Dialysis Patients with and without Polycystic Kidney. *Am J Kidney Dis* 2010 [abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the NKF Spring Clinical Meeting 2010, Orlando, FL]

Lilia Lukowsky, Mahesh Krishnan, Jessica E Miller, Jennie Jing, Allen R Nissenson, Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh. Examining the Patterns of Mortality and its Changes Over Time During the First Months of Maintenance Hemodialysis Treatment. *Hemodial Int* 2010 [abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the Annual Dialysis Conference, 2010 Seattle, WA].

Miklos Zsolt Molnar, MD, PhD



I am a staff research associate at Harold Simmons Center, Division of Nephrology, UCLA-Harbor Medical Center. I have been working at the Harold Simmons Center since July of 2010. Prior to working full time in this capacity, I worked as a transplant nephrologist in Hungary where I ran my own research projects on kidney transplanted patients and dialysis patients. At the Harold Simmons Center I am responsible for designing and conducting outcome epidemiology research in kidney transplanted and dialysis patients as well as supervising and helping young researchers in our lab with methodologies and data analysis strategies. My main interest is clinical epidemiology research in kidney transplanted patients. Currently I am working on several papers dealing with clinical questions of transplant and dialysis nephrology. I have an opportunity to be part of a very productive research group and learn how to perform advanced statistical and methodological analysis. I am very happy and proud to be a part of this group.

My publications supported by Harold Simmons Center:

- 1, Noori N, Kovesdy CP, Dukkipati R, Feroze U, Molnar MZ, Bross R, Nissenson AR, Kopple JD, Norris KC, Kalantar-Zadeh K, Racial and Ethnic Differences in Mortality of Hemodialysis Patients: Role of Dietary and Nutritional Status and Inflammation, *American Journal of Nephrology*: in press (2011) IF: 3.48
- 2, Streja E*, Molnar MZ*, Kovesdy CP, Bunnapradist S, Jing J, Nissenson AR, Mucsi I, Danovitch G, Kalantar-Zadeh K, Associations of Pre-Transplant Weight and Muscle Mass with Mortality in Renal Transplant Recipients *CJASN*: in press (2011) IF: 4.844
- 3, Feroze U, Noori N, Kovesdy CP, Molnar MZ, Martin D, Reina-Patton A, Bross R, Norris KC, Kopple JD, Kalantar-Zadeh K, Subjective quality of life scores and mortality in long-term hemodialysis patients, *CJASN*: in press (2011) IF: 4.844
- 4, Duong U, Mehrotra R, Molnar MZ, Noori N, Kovesdy CP, Nissenson AR, Kalantar-Zadeh K Glycemic Control and Survival in Peritoneal Dialysis Patients with Diabetes Mellitus, *CJASN*: in press (2011) IF: 4.844
- 5, Feroze U, Molnar MZ, Dukkipati R, Kovesdy CP, Kalantar-Zadeh K: Insights Into Nutritional and Inflammatory Aspects of Low Parathyroid Hormone Levels in Dialysis Patients, *Journal of Renal Nutrition*: 21(1): 100-104 (2011) IF: 1.949
- 6, Molnar MZ, Streja E, Kovesdy CP, Bunnapradist S, Sampaio MS, Jing J, Krishnan M, Nissenson AR, Danovitch GM, Kalantar-Zadeh K, Associations of Body Mass Index and Weight Loss with Mortality in Transplant-Waitlisted Maintenance Hemodialysis Patients, *Am J Transplant*: in press (2010) IF: 6.433
- 7, Streja E, Kovesdy CP, Molnar MZ, Norris KC, Greenland S, Nissenson AR, Kopple JD, Kalantar-Zadeh K Role of Nutritional Status and Inflammation in Higher Survival of African American and Hispanic Hemodialysis Patients *Am J Kidney Dis*: in press (2010) IF: 5.152
- 8, Molnar MZ*, Lukowsky LR*, Streja E, Dukkipati R; Jing J, Nissenson AR, Kovesdy CP, Kalantar-Zadeh K Blood pressure and survival in long-term hemodialysis patients with and without polycystic kidney disease *J Hypertens*: in press (2010) IF: 4.988



Nazanin Noori, M.D., Ph.D.



I am a Post-Doc fellow at the Harold Simmons Center at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. I have been working here since May of 2009. I am currently working on the effect of Omega 3 and the ratio of Omega6 to Omega 3 on survival in hemodialysis patients. Also I am working on two more papers. My goal is to improve nutritional patterns in kidney patients and to find the best diet pattern for them which leads to better survival. That is why in all of my papers I am focusing more on the patients' survival. During the time I worked with Dr Kalantar, I learned substantial epidemiological and statistical knowledge which help me more easily continue my research goals. I think there are still a lot of unknown areas in the field of nutrition in kidney patients that should be addressed and I hope

our work makes an important contribution in improving the diet and quality of life among dialysis patients.

Publications:

1: Noori N, Kovesdy CP, Bross R, Lee M, Oreopoulos A, Benner D, Mehrotra R, Kopple JD, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Novel equations to estimate lean body mass in maintenance hemodialysis patients. *Am J Kidney Dis.* 2011 Jan;57(1):130-9.

2: Kalantar-Zadeh K, Streja E, Kovesdy CP, Oreopoulos A, Noori N, Jing J, Nissenson AR, Krishnan M, Kopple JD, Mehrotra R, Anker SD. The obesity paradox and mortality associated with surrogates of body size and muscle mass in patients receiving hemodialysis. *Mayo Clin Proc.* 2010 Nov;85(11):991-1001.

3: Noori N, Kopple JD, Kovesdy CP, Feroze U, Sim JJ, Murali SB, Luna A, Gomez M, Luna C, Bross R, Nissenson AR, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Mid-arm muscle circumference and quality of life and survival in maintenance hemodialysis patients. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol.* 2010 Dec;5(12):2258-68.

4: Noori N, Kovesdy CP, Dukkipati R, Kim Y, Duong U, Bross R, Oreopoulos A, Luna A, Benner D, Kopple JD, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Survival predictability of lean and fat mass in men and women undergoing maintenance hemodialysis. *Am J Clin Nutr.* 2010 Nov;92(5):1060-70.

6: Dukkipati R, Noori N, Feroze U, Kopple JD. Dietary protein intake in patients with advanced chronic kidney disease and on dialysis. *Semin Dial.* 2010 Jul-Aug;23(4):365-72.

7: Bross R, Noori N, Kovesdy CP, Murali SB, Benner D, Block G, Kopple JD, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Dietary assessment of individuals with chronic kidney disease. *Semin Dial.* 2010 Jul-Aug;23(4):359-64.

8: Noori N, Kalantar-Zadeh K, Kovesdy CP, Murali SB, Bross R, Nissenson AR, Kopple JD. Dietary potassium intake and mortality in long-term hemodialysis patients. *Am J Kidney Dis.* 2010 Aug;56(2):338-47.

9: Noori N, Kopple JD. Effect of diabetes mellitus on protein-energy wasting and protein wasting in end-stage renal disease. *Semin Dial.* 2010 Mar-Apr;23(2):178-84. Review.

10: Noori N, Sims JJ, Kopple JD, Shah A, Colman S, Shinaberger CS, Bross R, Mehrotra R, Kovesdy CP, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Organic and inorganic dietary phosphorus and its management in chronic kidney disease. *Iran J Kidney Dis.* 2010 Apr;4(2):89-100.

13: Noori N, Kalantar-Zadeh K, Kovesdy CP, Bross R, Benner D, Kopple JD. Association of dietary phosphorus intake and phosphorus to protein ratio with mortality in hemodialysis patients. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol.* 2010 Apr;5(4):683-92.



Usama Feroze, M.D.



In year 2006, I began my pursuit for post graduation training in USA. Being an international medical graduate, I certainly required USA based experience to come up as a competitive candidate and to acquire this experience I joined Department of Nephrology at Harbor UCLA Medical Center in October, 2009. Since then I have worked under the supervision of Dr Joel Kopple and Dr Kalantar on various research projects. As it was my first ever research experience, I consider myself lucky that I got the opportunity to work with such great supervisors who guided me at every moment during the last 16 months. I believe Harold Simmons Center is a great place for young investigators like me who are in pursuit of their career goals. My main area of research has been “Mental health and quality of life in Dialysis patients” and I believe this research experience will always remain the most valuable and memorable part of my professional career.

- 1) Feroze U, Molnar MZ, Dukkipati R, Kovesdy CP, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Insights into nutritional and inflammatory aspects of low parathyroid hormone in dialysis patients. J Ren Nutr. 2011 Jan; 21(1):100-4.
- 2) Feroze U, Martin D, Reina-Patton A, Kalantar-Zadeh K, Kopple JD. Mental health, depression, and anxiety in patients on maintenance dialysis. Iranian Journal of Kidney Dis. 2010 Jul; 4(3): 173-80.
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- 6) Dukkipati R, Noori N, Feroze U, Kopple JD. Dietary Protein Intake in Patients with Advanced Chronic Kidney Disease and on Dialysis. Seminars in Dialysis. 2010 Jul; 23(4): 365-372.
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- 10) Noori N, Murali S, Dukkipati R, Sim J, Feroze U, Bross R, Benner D, Kovesdy C, Kopple J, Kalantar-Zadeh K.. Dietary Omega-3 Fatty Acid, Ratio of Omega-6 to Omega-3 Intake and Survival in Long-Term Hemodialysis Patients.[Abstract was accepted for a poster presentation at Renal Week 2010, Denver, CO].

Uyen Duong, MD, MPH, Research Associate



I have been working at Harold Simmons Lab since 2007. I started as research assistant working part-time while attending school at UCLA. I was hired as a full-time research associate since August 2009. My work has focused primarily on survival in peritoneal dialysis patients, and its association with different clinical factors, laboratory measurements. The results of my work as led to a number of abstracts and publications. I am grateful to be mentored and supported by Dr. Kalantar over the years I've worked here. It has been a pleasure to be a part of this research group.

U Duong, R Mehrotra, M Molnar, N Noori, C Kovesdy, A Nissenson, and Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh: Glycemic control and survival in peritoneal dialysis patients with diabetes mellitus. Clin J Am Soc Nephrol (in press).

Noori N, Kovesdy C, Dukkipati R, Kim Y, Duong U, Bross R, Oreopoulos A, Luna A, Benner D, Kopple J, Kalantar-Zadeh K: survival predictability of lean vs. fat mass in men and women undergoing maintenance hemodialysis. Am J Clin Nutr (in press).

Kalantar-Zadeh K, Shah A, Duong U, Hechter RC, Dukkipati R, Kovesdy CP: Kidney bone disease and mortality in CKD: revisiting the role of vitamin D, calcimimetics, alkaline phosphatase, and minerals. Kidney Int 2010; 78 (Suppl 117): S10-S21.

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Bunnapradist S, Sampaio M, Anastasi B, Duong U, Machnicki G, Yu F: Mycophenolate Mofetil Dose Reductions and Discontinuations after Gastrointestinal Complications Are Associated with Increased Renal Transplant Graft Failure in Asian-American Recipients. Transplantation May 2010.

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Hanna Lievense-Visiting Medical Student



I am a medical student from the Netherlands. Every medical student there has to spend 6 months doing research. You can choose for yourself where and in which subject you want to do your research. Kidney failure has always interested me, because of the crucial role kidneys play in maintaining everything in the human body in balance. Dialysis is a good way to help patients with failing kidneys, but the treatment is far from perfect. That is why I am very happy that I have been given the chance to spend 6 months here in the Harold Simmons Center. I work on BMI and weight change over time, in relation to mortality and transplant eligibility. I hope that my research will contribute to improving quality of life for dialysis patients.



Selected Former Staff and Collaborators

Ryan Kilpatrick, PhD -Pharmacoepidemiologist, Amgen



I began working with Kam Kalantar-Zadeh while in the 2nd year of my Epidemiology doctoral program at UCLA, prior to the formal creation of the Harold Simmons Center. Although my dissertation work was focused on HIV/AIDS (via an NIH training grant) the Harold Simmons Center provided an opportunity to apply what, up to that point, had been only theoretical concepts and methods to important and complex questions in the field of Nephrology. Due in no small part to the experience gained through this opportunity, after finishing my doctoral training in 2007, I began a career in pharmacoepidemiology focusing on Nephrology at Amgen, Inc. Currently, I work within The Center for Observational Research at Amgen studying CKD related bone and mineral disorder.

Kilpatrick RD, McAllister CJ, Kovesdy CP, Derosé SF, Kopple JD, Kalantar-Zadeh K. Association between serum lipids and survival in hemodialysis patients and impact of race. *J Am Soc Nephrol.* 2007; 18:293-303.

Kalantar-Zadeh K, Kilpatrick RD, McAllister CJ, Miller LG, Daar ES, Gjertson DW, Kopple JD, Greenland S. Hepatitis C virus and death risk in hemodialysis patients. *J Am Soc Nephrol.* 2007; 18:1584-93

Arezu Dezfuli, MD - Medical Director in Poppenbüttel-Hamburg, Germany



I am a medical doctor from Germany specializing in internal medicine and nephrology. In my present position as medical director of dialysis center in Poppenbüttel-Hamburg I work primarily as a clinician providing service for internal medicine, chronic kidney disease and dialysis patients. I was fortunate to proceed with my research experience with Dr. Kalantar at Harold Simmons Center from 2007 to 2008. I attended the research team of nutritional investigations in dialysis patients. Major part of my work as study director was preparing and designing the AIONID Study. Designing the study protocol, being the connection between investigators, study participants and statisticians has been absolutely impressive. Later I developed study protocols, forms as well as guidelines and trained the study coordinators. I also helped statisticians to design a special program for data collection. Every part of the work implied different challenges and has been rewarding in different ways. Definitely, my commitment to this study has inspired me in a way that my professional insight changed. In a

larger context I have been gradually facing the impact of multi factorial conditions in health care system rather than only every single individual. My future goal now is to contribute to disease management and preventive health care.

Dezfuli, A, Ricker, M, Scholl, D, Lindenfeld, SM & Kalantar-Zadeh, K: Hypoalbuminemia Severity Predicts Intradialytic Parenteral Nutrition (IDPN) Effectiveness in Hemodialysis Patients. Am J Kid Dis [National Kidney Foundation 2008 Spring Clinical Meeting, April 2-6, 2008, Dallas, TX], 51: B1-B36, 2008

Dezfuli, A, Scholl, D, Lindenfeld, SM, Kovesdy, CP & Kalantar-Zadeh, K: Severity of hypoalbuminemia predicts response to intradialytic parenteral nutrition in hemodialysis patients. *J Ren Nutr.* 19: 291-7, 2009



Youngmee Kim, PhD, RN, FNP-C-Red Cross College of Nursing, Seoul, Korea



Currently I work for Red Cross College of Nursing, Seoul, Korea, and hold the position of Associate Professor. After earning my PhD in nursing at UCLA, I worked as a post-doctoral fellow at the Harold Simmons Center for Kidney Disease Research and Epidemiology in 2009. My research focuses on the effect of change in body composition (lean body mass and fat) on survival. Thus far, I have presented several abstracts and published a few manuscripts as a co-author in the area. The publication list as follows:

Abstracts

Kim, Y, Luna, C., Luna, A., Nissenson, A. R., Benner, D., Kovesdy, C. P., & Kalantar-Zadeh, K. Association of body fat and survival in hemodialysis patients. ASN Abstract, October 31, 2009.

Kim, Y., Raj, D. S. C., Shah, V., Ferguson, J., Wyck, D., Kovesdy, C. P., & Kalantar-Zadeh, K. Association of paricalcitol dose with higher circulating lipopolysaccharide binding Protein (LBP) in hemodialysis patients. ASN Abstract, October 31, 2009.

Kim, Y., Mehrotra, R., Bross, R., Kopple, J. D., Nissenson, A. R., Kovesdy, C. P., & Kalantar-Zadeh, K. Association of lean body mass with serum creatinine in hemodialysis patients. ASN Abstract, October 31, 2009.

Kim, Y., Patel, T., Rambod, M., Benner, D., Nissenson, A. R., Kovesdy, C. P., & Kalantar-Zadeh, K. Relative contributions of inflammation and protein intake to hypoalbuminemia in maintenance hemodialysis patients. October 31, 2009. ASN Abstract, October 31, 2009.

Oreopoulos, A., Kim, Y., Salameh, W., Reitz, R. E., Caulfield, M. P., Nissenson, A., Kovesdy, C. P., & Kalantar-Zadeh, K. Association of LDL particle size and survival in maintenance hemodialysis patients. ASN Abstract, October 31, 2009.

Streja, E., Kovesdy, C. P., Kim, Y., Ramdod, M., Sprague, S. M., Nissenson, A. R., & Kalantar-Zadeh, K. Higher serum total alkaline phosphatase associated with lower bone mineral density in hemodialysis patients. ASN Abstract, October 31, 2009.

Publications:

Noori, N., Kovesdy, C. P., Dukkupati, R., Kim, Y., Duong, U., Bross, R., Oreopoulos, A., Luna, A., Benner, D., Kopple, J. D., & Kalantar-Zadeh, K. (2010). Survival predictability of lean and fat mass in men and women undergoing maintenance hemodialysis. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 92(5), 1060-1070.

Shantouf, R., Kovesdy, C. P., Kim, Y., Ahmadi, N., Luna, A., Luna, C., Rambod, M., Nissenson, A. R., Budoff, M. J., & Kalantar-Zadeh, K. (2009). Association of serum alkaline phosphatase with coronary artery calcification in maintenance hemodialysis patients. *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*, 4(6), 1106-1114.