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Executive Summary

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The 17th Annual Southeastern Regional Nephrology Young Investigators' Forum (NYIF), sponsored by the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSCI) with generous support from an educational grant from AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, was held February 21, 2018, in New Orleans, LA. The NYIF served as a pre-course to the Annual Southern Regional/Southern Society for Clinical Investigation Meetings, which occurred February 22-24, 2018.

Postdoctoral fellow trainees in nephrology programs throughout the Southeast were invited to present their research at the NYIF, which continued in the pattern of previous meetings with all of the presentations representing superior quality research. This year, twenty fellows representing twelve academic medical centers in seven states were selected to participate. In addition to the nephrology fellow presenters and the panel of five judges (Figure), there were a number of mentors present for the meeting. The research presentations were divided into basic and clinical research categories with the morning devoted to clinical research presentations and the afternoon program dedicated to basic science talks. All those present contributed to a lively and constructive question-and-answer session following each of the presentations.

The event was initiated with a particularly excellent and relevant lecture entitled "*Transitioning from Fellow to Faculty: The Junior Faculty Perspective*" by Jeanie Park, MD, MS, who is presently an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Renal Division at Emory University. Dr. Park's research is funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and by several foundation awards. She combined discussion of not only her ongoing research efforts but also ways in which to manage the challenges of creating work-life balance. Her presentation was very informative and received outstanding reviews from attendees.

Subsequent presenters all performed at a very high level, and their knowledge of their area of research and the background literature was impressive. Similarly, their ability to address wide-ranging and probing questions from the audience was equally impressive. This year's program, as with past programs, continued to reflect the superior investigative talent in nephrology training programs in the Southeast.

This year, awards were presented to the four top-rated presentations in each of the Clinical Science and Basic Science categories. An alternate was also selected in each category. The winners advanced to the National Nephrology Young Investigators Forum that will be held in conjunction with the 2018 Spring National Kidney Foundation Clinical Meeting. This year's award winners are:

Clinical Science Research Awards

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