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**HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
TEACHING HOSPITAL**

**October 29, 2024**

Dear Members of the ASPN Awards Committee,

It gives us great pleasure to nominate our colleague Vikas Dharnidharka, M.D. for the ASPN Outstanding Service Award in recognition of his long-standing service to ASPN and commitment to advancing the society's mission of promoting optimal care for children with kidney disease through advocacy, education, and research. The society's success is determined by the active participation of its members and their meaningful contributions to its various committees. Despite his busy academic and administrative pursuits in our field outside of ASPN involvement, Vikas has always volunteered his time to advance the mission of ASPN. He has been a member of key ASPN committees dating back almost two decades since 2005. He has been an active member of the Training and Certification, Member Education, and Program committees. His participation in the Program Committee started in 2008 and culminated in chairing the group for the 2012 annual scientific meeting at PAS. His dedication to the society was reflected in his election to ASPN Council from 2020-2024.

Vikas is a prolific academic researcher. He has consistently provided guidance and mentorship to trainees and junior faculty alike to advance their academic career. He has sponsored many residents and fellows to attend the PAS annual meeting over the years. We, among others, attest to his significant impact helping us find our academic footing and launch successful collaborative research projects with other colleagues in the field.

Vikas has been a reliable advocate for workforce issues, participating as an invited guest in the 2023 ASPN workforce summit. He is committed to fostering interest in pediatric nephrology among trainees and can regularly be found mentoring medical students and residents at the annual PAS and ASN Kidney Week meetings on poster walks and at trainee breakfast sessions. The wisdom he brings to ASPN's speed mentoring sessions, for fellows navigating their careers, is deeply valued by trainees and his colleagues.

Vikas has a passion for education. In addition to his instrumental leadership during his tenure with the Member Education Committee that continues to produce relevant and regular educational webinars benefitting our community, he has had a regular presence as a faculty speaker in the ASPN Board Review course since 2013. In addition, he has chaired and moderated numerous scientific sessions and workshops at the annual PAS meeting. We would be remiss if we didn't mention his other educational leadership roles with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), including as chair of the AAP Section on Nephrology and editorial board member of PREP Nephrology). His work has been vital in providing nephrology content in the annual AAP meeting and American Society of Transplantation Annual Transplant Congress, which collectively help advance the field of pediatric nephrology in concert with the mission of ASPN.



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Vikas is not only a leader in research and clinical care but also an exceptional mentor. Over the years, he has trained and guided many pediatric nephrology fellows, many of whom have gone on to hold leadership roles in major academic institutions. His ability to inspire young physicians and support their career development has earned him widespread recognition within ASPN and beyond.

While the above is not an exhaustive account of Vikas' service to our society, we hope that it has conveyed why we believe he has not only earned this nomination for the ASPN Outstanding Service Award but also the respect and gratitude of his peers. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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*Isa Ashoor*  
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**Isa F. Ashoor, M.D.**  
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