

Dr. Lance Dworkin: A Pioneer in Medicine and Research

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This past year, the annual Department of Internal Medicine Research Symposium was renamed after Dr. Lance Dworkin. As the Mercy Professor & Chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Toledo College of Medicine & Life Sciences since 2016, Dr. Dworkin has transformed the research footprint within his department and at the University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences. His program building efforts span all levels of research trainees, including undergraduates, medical students, residents, fellows, postdoctoral fellows, and early career faculty. One particular highlight is the medical student research program that he built from scratch, focused on getting interested students connected with clinical and basic research faculty.

Dr. Dworkin's direct contributions during his career as a researcher also warrant special mention. His research spans key areas, notably exploring the hemodynamic basis for the progression of chronic kidney disease. Dr. Dworkin's pioneering studies provided a groundbreaking hypothesis on glomerular capillary hypertension, fundamentally influencing strategies for aggressive blood pressure reduction in chronic kidney disease. Dr. Dworkin's has also studied hepatocyte growth factor in chronic kidney disease, revealing its multifaceted effects as an antifibrotic and anti-inflammatory factor. His work identified downstream mediators, including glycogen synthase kinase 3β . His studies on small molecule inhibitors of GSK 3β point to transformative potential in ameliorating inflammation and injury, offering new avenues for kidney therapeutics.

In a significant contribution to clinical practice, Dr. Dworkin played a pivotal role in the CORAL trial, conclusively demonstrating the efficacy of medical therapy over renal artery stenting in atherosclerotic renal-artery stenosis. This landmark trial has reshaped clinical decisions and interventions for patients with this condition.

In addition to his impactful leadership and research in chronic kidney disease, Dr. Dworkin has been a driving force in international nephrology organizations. Serving on the Nominating Committee and North American Regional Council of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN), he actively contributes to shaping the future of nephrology on a global scale. Dr. Dworkin has been deeply involved in the ISN Global Outreach programs. As a key leader and ISN ambassador, he has established several exemplary and impactful ISN Regional Sister Renal Center programs in China and Kenya.

Further, as the President of University of Toledo Physicians since 2019, Dr. Dworkin's impact on healthcare administration is profound. His prior role as Vice President from 2017 to 2019 laid the

foundation for his influential leadership. Dr. Dworkin's illustrious career is marked by exceptional leadership in healthcare administration and groundbreaking contributions to medical research.

Dr. Dworkin's enduring commitment to advancing medical knowledge, coupled with his international influence, highlights his outstanding contributions. His leadership, mentorship, transformative research, and dedication to improving patient outcomes underscore his pivotal role in shaping the future of medicine and nephrology. For the second year in a row, *Translation*, the Journal of Medical Sciences for the University of Toledo, is honored to publish the meeting abstracts for the Dr. Lance D. Dworkin Department of Medicine Research Symposium.

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