

HDU NEWS

Working for you. Our Day, Our Way

INSPIRE

As dialysis patients, care partners, nurses, nephrologists, renal professionals, and supporters and friends of those with chronic kidney failure we encourage our members, both veterans of dialysis and newcomers to treatment, and the community that supports them.

INFORM

We desire an extraordinary quality of life for all dialyzors. The dialyzor comes first and care must be patient centered. We believe those on dialysis deserve to live a “new normal” life, whether that be working, volunteering, or traveling, and that they should be able to be full participants in family and community life.

ADVOCATE

We advocate proactively for issues impacting the home dialysis community. We will stand up for what is best for the patients and don't hesitate to push buttons or stretch the envelope in order to ensure the best health care for those with kidney disease and chronic kidney failure.

Home Dialyzors United Announces 2016 Award Winners



Home Dialyzors United (HDU) is delighted to announce the winner's of its 2016 awards. The awards will be presented at an Awards Luncheon, which will be held during HDU's Meet Up and Conference at Circus Circus Resort in Las Vegas, NV, October 7-10, 2016. This year, HDU is teaming up with NxStage to promote nocturnal dialysis and launch “Nxspeditions”, a new travel program at NxStage. The theme of the conference is *Home Dialysis: It's a Safe Bet*.

As at past conferences, the HDU meet-up will consist of a national audience of patients, care partners, and renal professionals coming together in an atmosphere of shared learning and collaboration. The awards luncheon will be held after a morning of panel discussions, on October 8.

The Chris Blagg Award, named after Northwest Kidney Center's Director Emeritus, is given annually to an individual whose pioneering vision best exemplifies the spirit of innovation in dialysis. No one has done more to inspire a new vision of innovation in dialysis than Shuvo Roy and his team, inventors of the implantable artificial kidney.

The Trailblazer Award is given to an individual or group who has consistently led the way in fostering knowledge about home dialysis and access to home treatment. Because of its commitment to home dialysis, Satellite Healthcare has been chosen as this year's recipient. Kay Deck, Vice President of Home Services, replied “I'd like to thank HDU for honoring



DONATE

HDU recently implemented a

Memorial Page

to honor those who left us to soon. If you wish to honor someone's memory, please donate in their name here:

[http://
homedialyzorsunited.org/
donate-in-memory](http://homedialyzorsunited.org/donate-in-memory)

UPCOMING EVENTS

AAKP ANNUAL MEETING

Nashville, TN ~ September 23-25th

HDU board members will be representing HDU in Nashville

HDU MINI CONFERENCE

HOME DIALYSIS IN
LAS VEGAS
October 7-10th

Hope to see you there!

Register HERE:

[http://
homedialyzorsunited.org/save-
date-lv-home](http://homedialyzorsunited.org/save-date-lv-home)

ASN KIDNEY WEEK
Chicago, IL ~ November 15-29

Satellite Healthcare with your prestigious 2016 Trailblazers Award! The recognition of our commitment to home dialysis supports our initiative to Re-Imagine Home because we know that home dialysis provides the best outcomes for patients and the best opportunity to live the life they love.”

The Rich Berkowitz Memorial Award is given to an individual who has shown exceptional and creative leadership in patient education and advocacy and embodies the spirit of Home Dialyzors United's founder. The HDU board is thrilled to honor Mark Neumann of Nephrology and News Issues for his constant support of Home Dialyzors United and the dialysis community in general. Throughout the years, he has championed the cause of home dialyzors and their families at both local and national levels and has been a loyal supporter to the organization.

The work of all the honorees has not only improved the lives of countless patients who have benefited from their pioneering efforts but also the families who are impacted by their loved one's chronic kidney failure.

Please join HDU to recognize these winners and to explore “It's a Safe Bet” in Las Vegas. Register for the conference and luncheon at the Home Dialyzors United website:

<http://homedialyzorsunited.org/save-date-lv-home>

THE ABCs OF HDU:

*Advocacy, Building for the Future,
and Communicating Our Message*

Last February, over a year after HDU's founder, Rich Berkowitz, passed on, the Board of Directors convened at the Annual Dialysis Conference in New Orleans. It was an energizing experience for new and old board members, and together we developed an aggressive strategic plan for the upcoming year(s). So as 2016 comes to a close, it seems only appropriate to summarize those accomplishments:

Advocacy

1. Met with key people and commented on documents at CMS, GAO, PCORI, The Alliance for Home Dialysis.
2. Attended lobby days on Capitol Hill with ANNA, NRAA, ASN.
3. Participated in two meetings of the Kidney Health Initiative.
4. Met with the FDA regarding key issues affecting home dialyzors.

Building for the Future

5. Updated the logo and created a new image for branding/marketing purposes, Updated the Bylaws to reflect necessary changes to HDU operations and initiated an Ethics Guidelines for all board members.
6. Developed a new exhibit display using new marketing designs, and exhibited at targeted conferences, ASN Kidney Week, AAKP, ADC.
7. Applied for and received funding from several grants, expanded funding sources to include website sponsors.
8. Created an Advisory Board and invited 5 key professionals in the renal community to sit on the Board.

Communicating Our Message

9. Created a targeted email media/marketing list, expanded Facebook group, established a Twitter feed, and developed a newer, user friendly website.
10. Began a quarterly newsletter which is emailed to media/marketing list, handed out at conferences, and posted on the website.
11. Relunched the HDU Meetup and Conference, in Las Vegas.

The HDU Board is an entirely volunteer, working board. Most of us deal with dialysis, jobs and/or are care partners, or even all three, and still we find the time to represent you, our members, on issues that are important to all of us! Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you, and we look forward to a new year of exciting challenges for dialyzors everywhere!

ANNOUNCEMENT

HDU Ambassadors Programs

HDU is in the progress of creating a program designed to increase our ability to educate and advocate more broadly. At the NKF, we found that representatives from various companies and organizations approached our booth wondering if HDU would be interested in speaking with them in more depth about home dialysis and the dialysis patient perspective.

We are looking for ambassadors – HDU members – who would be willing to speak, answer questions and represent HDU by attending events or arranging visits to various healthcare companies or other interested groups in order to provide information, answer questions, and help ensure that the patient perspective remain in consideration as dialysis technology and healthcare evolve.

If you are interested in representing HDU as an ambassador in your area, please email:

ngedney@homedialyzorsunited.org

MEET THE BOARD

BEN RUBACK ~ After a brief leave of absence from the HDU Board, Ben is back at work volunteering for HDU. Benjamin Ruback is a high school science teacher who received an FSGS diagnosis at the age of five and an unsuccessful transplant at the age of ten. He experienced a variety of dialysis modalities, including peritoneal, in-center, short daily home hemo and nocturnal home hemo. Ben's had to switch from peritoneal to in-center dialysis only months before he began college at Harvard. He quickly sought out another alternative and completed home hemo training in between classes. After three years of short daily treatments using the NxStage System One, Ben convinced his dialysis center to support his desire to free up his days and transition to nocturnal home hemo. Home hemo dialysis has vastly improved Ben's quality of life. He credits the treatment modality for allowing him to complete his masters degree in education, lead a normal dating life, pursue a rewarding career in teaching and raise a loveable but demanding two year old yellow lab.

VANESSA EVANS has been on dialysis for the past 17 years and considers herself an expert. For the last 11 years she has been doing home hemodialysis with NxStage which changed her life. Since being a home patient, she was able to have two wonderful boys via a surrogate, start a language business (she is fluent in English and Spanish) for children, and consult for patient advocacy issues. "Being a patient has never been easy, but I choose to be optimistic and live life to its fullest no matter what obstacles are in the way." Vanessa loves sharing her story by speaking with other patients, at conferences, and to professionals. Vanessa wants to inspire others to live life to the fullest. She believes that dialysis does not have to be a death sentence and anything is possible. She hopes to help those with ESRD have a better understanding of what to expect during the dialysis and transplant processes from a patient's point of view.



KEN PORTER was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease in May 2010. Ken has overcome many obstacles to being self-sufficient with his dialysis until eventually he started doing his treatments completely solo. He suffers from peripheral neuropathy dysfunction and has very limited use of his hands and feet. Through creativity and innovation he has made systems and tools that help him perform his own dialysis. It is Ken's belief that most people who think they cannot do home dialysis really are quite capable with a little hard work and ingenuity. Ken is married and has three beautiful daughters. His wife, after being his hemodialysis "nurse" for two years decided to enroll in nursing school and has just completed her first semester. It is Ken's passion to help dialyzors have the best quality of life possible through getting great dialysis treatments in a manner that fits best with their lifestyle and health goals.



MEET OUR SPONSORS

HDU is pleased to welcome the following sponsors. We look forward to partnering with each of them in a unique way, to improve the quality of life for the dialyzor community:

