

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**NORTHWEST KIDNEY CENTERS EMERITUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TO EDIT HEMODIALYSIS INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL**

Dr. Christopher Blagg is an expert on hemodialysis at home

(SEATTLE) -- Christopher Blagg, MD, FRCP, emeritus executive director of Northwest Kidney Centers, is the new editor of *Hemodialysis International*, the official journal of the International Society of Hemodialysis.

Blagg also is a professor emeritus of medicine at the University of Washington. He is internationally known as a home hemodialysis expert.

Blagg devoted much of his career to focusing the U.S. government's energies and resources to improve the well-being of patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). He and others helped shape national policy, and as a result, in 1972 Congress voted to extend Medicare coverage for dialysis and kidney transplantation.

In addition to his advocacy on behalf of kidney patients, Blagg encourages the use of home hemodialysis as a form of treatment that provides better patient survival and quality of life, more patient independence and increased opportunity for rehabilitation.

The International Society of Hemodialysis was formed in 1999 and has more than 200 members worldwide. Its journal, *Hemodialysis International*, has grown from a single annual issue to five issues per year.

About Northwest Kidney Centers: Northwest Kidney Centers, established in 1962 as the world's first out-of-hospital dialysis facility, is a model for saving and sustaining the lives of people with chronic kidney disease, focusing on improving the quality of patients' lives. A not-for-profit organization staffed by a skilled, knowledgeable 525-member staff, Northwest Kidney Centers provides personalized care for patients in the Puget Sound region and is the central community resource for kidney disease prevention, treatment and education. A world pioneer in home dialysis, Northwest Kidney Centers is dedicated to developing innovative treatment options and promoting research to find the cure for chronic kidney disease.

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