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Dr. William G. Couser is currently Affiliate Professor of Medicine in the Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, WA, USA.. From 1982 through 2004 he was the Belding H. Scribner Professor of Medicine and (through 2002) Head of the Division of Nephrology at the University of Washington. He has been a member of the Executive Committee of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) since 2001 and is the current President of the International Society of Nephrology (2005-07).

Dr. Couser was born in Lebanon, NH, USA, and received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College, and his M.D. degree, *cum laude*, from Harvard Medical School. He completed Internal Medicine residencies at the University of California in San Francisco and Harvard. He served as Captain in the US Army during the Vietnam conflict and received the purple heart and bronze star for valor awards. After completing a Nephrology fellowship at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, Dr. Couser joined the faculty at the University of Chicago in 1971, and went to Boston University in 1973 before moving to the University of Washington in Seattle in 1982.

Dr. Couser is nationally and internationally recognized for both his clinical skills and his research into disease processes of the kidney, particularly immunologic mechanisms of kidney disease. He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in internal medicine and nephrology. He was one of nine nephrologists listed in Americas Top Physicians by American Health magazine and is listed in the Guide to America's Top Physicians published by the Consumer Research Council of America. He has published approximately 300 peer-reviewed scientific articles, reviews and book chapters and has lectured in over 25 countries. He is co-editor of the reference textbook *Immunologic Kidney Diseases*. He is currently Editor-in-Chief of the top ranked *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*. He served as President of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) in 1995-96, and as the Inaugural President of the Council of American Kidney Societies in 1996-97. Dr Couser is a member of the American Society for Clinical investigation (ASCI) and American Association of Physicians (AAP) among other groups. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, the American Heart Association, the American Society of Nephrology, and the Royal College of Physicians (London).

Dr. Couser was the recipient of 35 years of continuous research grant funding from the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), from 1972 to 2007, including a prestigious MERIT award. He was the Director of one of seven NIH funded George M. O'Brien Kidney Research Centers from 1993-2003 and of an NIH Training Grant for research training in renal disease from 1982 to 2004 that trained over 30 young investigators. Finally, he served on four NIH and US Veterans Administration study section grant review groups, was Chairperson of one such group, and has served on numerous other *ad hoc* review and consulting groups for the NIH.