2015 Building synergies and advancing nephrology in all regions of the globe
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Nephrology is at different stages of development globally, and we work hard to tailor the support we give, through the ISN Programs to the particular needs of each country and region. The advice and guidance of ISN’s Regional Boards is crucial to help us succeed.

The landscape of our Programs is changing. Traditionally input from North America and Europe provided the bulk of expertise, but ISN is supporting more and more partnerships between countries in the same region, as well as between developing countries.

At present, Africa is our most active applicant, but we welcome candidates from all over the emerging world, and our Regional Boards are working hard to make us all aware of the great opportunities available.

We know that much more can be done, and we are very pleased that the available resources are steadily increasing through partnerships with a wide range of organizations and individuals, who share our vision to build sustainable nephrology capacity in low-and-middle income countries.

All of this would be impossible without the passion and commitment of the many who give their time and expertise generously and freely to ensure the best education and training experience – I thank you all.

ISN Programs Chair John Feehally
The ISN Programs are made up of five educational programs tailored to the needs of nephrologists.
THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM gives physicians from emerging countries hands-on training in a developed renal center. Returning home, they share what they have learned, improve local care and start more ISN Programs.

THE SISTER RENAL CENTERS PROGRAM links renal centers in emerging countries with centers of excellence in the developing world. With educational support and guidance, the emerging centers become self-sufficient offering better care for patients. The ISN-TTS Sister Transplant Center Program is a joint partnership set up between ISN and The Transplantation Society (TTS) to create new kidney transplant centers and develop existing kidney transplant programs in emerging countries.

THE CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM offers essential teaching and training to developing medical communities. Expert speakers from both sides of the world share their knowledge and experience in clinical care and research.

THE EDUCATIONAL AMBASSADORS PROGRAM sends experts to developing renal centers for one to four weeks to provide specific hands-on training or help develop new services, community-based research or screening programs.

THE CLINICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM funds screening and prevention programs as well as clinical research projects addressing local needs about kidney disease in emerging countries.

CREATING SYNERGIES ACROSS REGIONS OF THE WORLD

The Regional Boards represent ISN regionally and were set up to work more effectively on the mission of advancing kidney care worldwide. They are the ‘eyes and ears’ of ISN across its whole range of activities, and are a major means of integration with affiliated societies.

ISN has established 10 Regional Boards:
- Africa
- Eastern and Central Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Middle East
- North America and the Caribbean
- North and East Asia
- Oceania and South East Asia
- NIS and Russia
- South Asia
- Western Europe

To find out more about the ISN Programs, visit www.theisn.org/programs
Discover all of the ISN Regional Boards, visit www.theisn.org/regions
In Africa, 2015 was marked by the start of a renal transplantation program in Ethiopia. Dialysis programs were set up for Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) patients in Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. We saw an improvement in renal pathology skills for doctors in Nigeria.

Holding the World Congress of Nephrology on African soil was a valuable tribute to the extraordinary efforts of our nephrology community. Many of Africa’s countries still need support to provide dialysis services (such as in Burundi, Central African Republic, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and South Sudan), and renal pathology diagnostics (most of sub-Saharan Africa).

Building Chronic Kidney Disease and AKI early detection and prevention programs is key, as well as gathering more epidemiological data with renal registries and surveys.

—Mohammed Ben Gharbi, Chair of the ISN Regional Board Africa

Life-saving transplants in Ethiopia

In September 2015, a team from the University of Michigan helped carry out kidney transplant operations at St-Paul’s Hospital, Millennium Medical College (SPHMMC) in Addis Ababa. They will visit every four to six weeks to support future procedures, with local surgeons taking over in two years.

ISN Fellow Momina Ahmed says: “It has taken almost two years to prepare this program, from developing the legislation, establishing chronic dialysis services, getting all the necessary medical equipment and medication, to creating the framework to assure its sustainability.”

After training at the University of Witwatersrand Hospital in 2011 and through a growing collaboration with the University of Michigan, Ahmed established nephrology programs at SPHMMC to cater for more kidney transplants and treat AKI.
Senegal Society and Saving Young Lives (SYL) host country’s first dialysis course

The Aristide Le Dantec hospital in Dakar hosted a dialysis workshop with the Senegal Society of Nephrology, focusing on peritoneal dialysis (PD) and hemodialysis. A session dedicated to pediatric care of AKI, in the context of the Saving Young Lives project, presented the challenges and opportunities of setting up an Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) treatment program in Western Africa, while it emphasized the value of PD.

SYL has now helped develop acute PD programs in eight centers in Africa, where dialysis was previously unavailable. It is now working to establish treatments in three other sites. Between January 2013 and September 2015, 175 children and adults received dialysis in these centers. Challenges continue to be the high costs of transporting consumables in a sustainable way. In many cases, the only solution is to use locally-made supplies and improvising catheters.

AKI awareness in Malawi

Sister Renal Center pair, the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (QECH) in Malawi and Barts Health Renal Unit in UK, is changing how Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) is perceived and treated. The team also successfully set up QECH’s new hemodialysis unit.

Participants from Southern Malawi, colleagues from the Kamuzu Central Hospital Dialysis unit in Lilongwe and the private dialysis unit at Mwaiwathu Hospital in Blantyre joined the country’s first symposium in March 2015. They developed and refined teaching skills on a subject familiar to them, which they contextualized and delivered to a resource-limited setting.

Following the meeting, a team from Barts travelled to five district hospitals to raise awareness about the acute dialysis services at QECH and urine dipstick testing. A SYL course at the Red Cross Hospital focused on developing new skills in pediatric emergency care and specifically peritoneal dialysis for AKI.

Skills necessary to move towards a study in 2016 that will comprehensively assess the aetiology, prevalence and outcomes of pediatric AKI.

“\The course in Benin was instrumental in improving the management of patients with nephrotic syndrome in the country.\” – Giovanni Battista Fogazzi

ISN Educational Ambassador Giovanni Battista Fogazzi has developed long-lasting ties with the Hopital Saint-Jean de Dieu, the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Cotonou and the Centre Hospitalier Departemental du Borgou, Parakou.
Opportunities for young nephrologists were aplenty in 2015 as we organized several local and international meetings, including the BANTAO Congress in Opatija, Croatia and the Budapest Nephrology School.

Sister Renal Center partnerships, Educational Ambassador visits, refresher courses that promote research and networking are all aspects of the ISN Programs that have had a real impact on nephrology in our region. Communication and awareness about kidney disease has also changed since World Kidney Day was established. It is especially the case in Belarus and Lithuania where we have an active Sister Renal Center Trio partnership with the University of Ghent in Belgium.

— Rumeyza Kazancioglu, Chair of the ISN Regional Board Eastern and Central Europe

Training support for young Hungarian nephrologists

During the 22nd Budapest Nephrology School, international speakers provided updates in nephrology, hypertension, dialysis and transplantation. “We devoted a whole day to discussing the most important aspects of nephrology practice,” says László Rosivall. Organized in collaboration with the Hungarian Society of Nephrology, participants were encouraged to present their posters, raise questions and consult other colleagues on problematic cases. There was also time to visit dialysis and research units.
Training clinical staff was the key success of the trio Sister Renal Center partnership with Brest Regional Hospital, The Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Hospital Kaunas Clinics and Ghent University Hospital.

Exchanging the latest knowledge has significantly influenced renal services in and around Brest. Several nephrology and dialysis departments have undergone a reorganization, hemodialysis (HD) and peritoneal dialysis (PD) services have expanded. There has also been spectacular progress in developing transplantation and continuous research programs.

Five doctors and eight nurses from Brest Regional Hospital trained at the institutes in Kaunas and Ghent. Senior nephrologists from Kaunas gave lectures in Russian at the National Nephrology conferences in Minsk and Brest.

A project was set up to improve dialysis facilities in Belarus by testing water quality before implementing online hemodiafiltration. Dialysis water and dialysate samples from 30 centers were sent to Ghent for endotoxins level. The results were discussed with each dialysis center and recommendations were made.

Abdullah Ozkok, from Istanbul Medeniyet University, Goztepe Training and Research Hospital, Turkey trained at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Division Disease and Hypertension, USA.

“I highly recommend the ISN Fellowship Program to those looking to improve their skills in research and academic life.”

— Abdullah Ozkok
Partnering with national societies has increased ISN Fellowship and Continuing Medical Education Programs applications in the region. It has also meant a growing interest in the ISN Sister Renal Centers and Educational Ambassadors Programs and helped us participate in the 0by25 Initiative alongside the Sociedad Latinoamericana de Nefrologia y Hipertensión (SLANH).

However, the Clinical Research Program does need more development to respond to issues such as so-called Mesoamerican nephropathy and Acute Kidney Injury (AKI), affecting large communities and sub-regions.

A major task ahead is to promote ISN membership to general nephrologists and trainees, and take part in as many activities as possible to assure the success of the World Congress of Nephrology 2017 in Mexico.

—Ezequiel Bellorin-Font Chair of the ISN Regional Board Latin America

“It set the environment for research and program design that will hopefully improve health care services.”

—Jaime Restreppo

Jaime Restreppo from Fundacion Valle del Lili, Cali, Colombia welcomed ISN Educational Ambassador Maria Ferris from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for a course on clinical nephrology.
Sister Renal Centers in Mexico and Canada

Clinical staff training and meetings between faculty and policy makers through the sister renal partnership between the Hospital Civil de Guadalajara, Mexico and University of Alberta, Canada have helped improve the functioning of a multidisciplinary and mobile clinic. The collaboration has also developed a strategic plan for future research and clinical initiatives. Funding has gone towards remodeling the patient’s waiting area and upgrading the interventional nephrology unit with new surgical lamps and a vital signs monitor. Maintaining its international level membership at the Mexican Council of Science and Technology has allowed the Mexican center to continue training Mexican fellows living in emerging countries as well as welcome others from Guatemala and Jamaica. Four nephrology fellows and three faculty members co-authored and published three original papers, three reviews, and two case reports. The World Kidney Day editorial on “Kidney disease in Disadvantaged Populations”, co-authored by Guillermo Garcia Garcia and Vivek Jha was published in 50 journals worldwide.

Trio success

In 2015, ISN set aside 1,500 USD to support more educational activities between the Boston Children’s Hospital (USA), the Hospital Susana López de Valencia in Popayan and the Fundacion Valle del Lili in Cali, both located in Colombia. This went towards developing more specific training in pediatric nephrology. Fundacion Valle del Lili and Boston Children’s Hospital have been sister centers for several years. They joined forces to share their expertise with a third center in Colombia.

“Participants had no previous experience in handling ultrasound equipment or performing scans. At the end, they were able to scan and make reports by themselves.”

—Octavio Salgado

ISN Educational Ambassador Octavio Salgado from University of Zulia, Venezuela visited Caldas University, Health Science Faculty Clinical Department in Manizales, Colombia and expects more applications for renal ultrasound imaging training courses as it is an essential tool for interventionists.
The Continuing Medical Education Program is the most important ISN activity in the Middle East. We rely on valuable support from nephrology societies in Jordan, Lebanon, and most recently, Iran after sanctions were lifted in September 2015.

This year, the ISN sponsored Pan-Palestine nephrology and kidney transplant conference held in Nablus and Gaza helped exchange knowledge. Thanks to the ISN-TTS Sister Transplant Center program, it also led to two kidney transplants operations on patients from the region.

In Kuwait, two workshops dedicated to vascular access were possible in collaboration with the vascular access committee. This will help improve dialysis services for patients. Celebrating World Kidney Day on a yearly basis plays an important part in our activities.

—Mona Alrukhaimi, Chair of the ISN Regional Board Middle East

ISN Programs open to participants from Iran

Following the OFAC license issued to Iran, ISN Program activities can now take place in the country. OFAC issued Iran with a general license E (GL E) under the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations (ITSR). This authorizes non-governmental organizations to export or re-export services to or related to Iran in support of certain not-for-profit activities that are designed to directly benefit the Iranian people, including humanitarian projects to meet basic human needs in the country.
Palestine course gives hope for more kidney transplants

The growing ISN-TTS Sister Renal Center partnership between the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, UK and the Al Shifa Hospital Gaza, Palestine has helped professionals from Palestine gain more knowledge on kidney transplantation and all aspects of nephrology.

Dr. Benjamin Thomson, from Queen’s University Division of Nephrology, Kingston General Hospital in Canada, was joined by a team of specialists from Liverpool and Canada’s Western University, who presented talks on renal pathology, kidney transplantation, Chronic Kidney Disease, vasculitis, and peritoneal dialysis. Dr. Hammad and Dr. Mehra presented half the talks at the conference and performed two kidney transplants.

Hosted by An-Najah University Hospital in Nablus and Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza, Dr. Thomson says the ongoing partnership with ISN will improve how clinical care is delivered across Palestine. He adds that they are “crucial to continue to alleviate the multiple challenges faced by the resilient and determined Palestinian physicians.”

Iran continues to be the country with the most nephrologists, counting over 350. Palestine, Qatar and Bahrain are at the bottom of the ladder with under 50. Hemodialysis patients are the most prominent in Iran and Saudi Arabia, followed by Syria and Jordan. Iran, Saudi Arabia and Jordan are the countries with the highest number of transplant centers. Every year, over 1400 transplants take place in Iran, over 450 in Iraq and just under 400 in Saudi Arabia.

Behrooz Broumand (Iran) received the 2015 ISN Pioneer Award for the Middle East region.

ISN Pioneer Awards honor the ‘unsung heroes’ of nephrology. They reward doctors who have carried out extraordinary efforts to advance nephrology in a specific country or region. A strong supporter of ISN, Prof. Broumand was also president of the Iran Society of Nephrology.
ISN Programs helped to develop services and treatment especially in China and Mongolia. Nephrology is in its early stages in Mongolia. The Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Sister Renal Center (SRC) Trio Programs, focusing on renal pathology and pregnancy-associated renal diseases, have brought new knowledge and improved the diagnosis of renal disease.

In China, although the development of nephrology is heterogeneous in different socio-economic regions, ISN Programs have provided various training opportunities for nephrologists in under-developed parts of the country.

Three ISN Educational Ambassadors from well-developed nephrology programs in Beijing and Shanghai shared expertise in clinical nephrology and renal pathology in South West China. With no language barrier between trainees and Educational Ambassadors the course was a major success.

Thanks to an ISN research grant, Chinese nephrologists took part in the 0by25 Initiative’s Global Snapshot in China. The results of this nationwide survey on hospitalized AKI patients was published in The Lancet.

—Ming-hui Zhao, Chair of the ISN Regional Board North and East Asia

Helping nephrology grow in Mongolia

Following a long-established ISN Sister Renal Center partnership, the State Second General Hospital of Mongolia welcomed ISN Educational Ambassador Mohamed Atta for an interactive clinical nephrology training course. Local staff were also introduced to the results of international studies, clinical trials and recommendations to improve their practice. He explains: “It is invaluable to comprehend the clinical use of the current and new treatment methods in particular diabetic kidney disease, Acute Kidney Injury. Most importantly, understanding renal biopsy results and their use deciding treatment.”

The hope is that the junior nephrologists will continue learning by working remotely with the Educational Ambassador, guiding them on the optimal treatment following a particular diagnosis.
The ISN Educational Ambassadors Program improved communication between an advanced and local hospital so they can collaborate on common clinical research, education and training programs. China is an example of the program has built a network across a country.

Chen Meng-hua from the Renal Division of the General Hospital, Ningxia Medical University welcomed ISN Educational Ambassador Hong Zhang from the Renal Division of Peking University First Hospital.

This program has “set up a bridge” with Peking University, which will be beneficial in the future. “We get the unprecedented opportunity for all doctors including trainees and residents to communicate with top experts in China. This way our clinical, pathology and scientific research ability get great promotion,” says Meng-hua.

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“We deeply understand the importance of improving clinical and research skill.”
— Caili Wang

Caili Wang,
First Affiliated Hospital Baotou Medical University, China.
The ISN Fellowship Program has been particularly well supported this year thanks to a contribution from the local Cross Regional Education and Exchange in Dialysis (CREED) Program, Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology (APSN) and a grant from Fresenius. The Pacific Islands are challenging, as the majority of these have under-developed health systems and especially poorly-developed nephrology care. A recent STEPS survey identified 30% of Fiji’s adult population as diabetic and the incidence of stage five Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) was recently estimated at 680 per million population. Fiji often acts as a central point for many of the Island nations but has “user-pays” dialysis only. Our efforts to assist with developing nephrology in Fiji are encouraging and hopefully can expand to other nations.

—Peter Kerr, Chair ISN Regional Board Oceania and South East Asia

CME takes AKI and CKD awareness to the South Pacific

A first ISN CME course took place in Fiji’s capital Suva, uniting the country’s medical community to talk about better kidney health. Thanks to a developing ISN Sister Renal Center partnership with Australia, Dr. Amrish Krishnan (Fiji) and Dr. Angus Ritchie (Australia) worked together to set up the course. Dr Krishnan is the only formally trained nephrologist in Fiji.

The two-day course covered the policies and processes surrounding CKD awareness, screening, and management as well as specific nephrology topics including approaches to Acute Kidney Injury (AKI). The country’s Health Minister, the Honorable Jone Usamate has given his commitment to further recognize CKD as part of Fiji’s non-communicable disease (NCD) strategy. It is hoped that acute peritoneal treatment for AKI will be explored following the symposium.

“IT IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO SEE VARIED RENAL CASES AND LEARN FROM NEPHROLOGY EXPERTS.”
—Marie Stella Navarro

ISN Fellow Marie Stella Navarro, University of Santo Tomas, Manila in the Philippines who believes a lot of rural areas still lack nephrology practitioners and facilities.
“My training will help to establish kidney biopsy services, start regular catheter insertions and improve the level of care in transplantation.”

—Mukunda Kafle

Helping Nepal’s nephrologists

A regular renal transplant service is not available outside Kathmandu. As an ISN-CREED Fellow Shailendra Shrestha, from the Nobel Medical College and Teaching Hospital got advanced exposure to ISN Past Fellow Dibya Singh Shah’s work as well as the renal transplantation program at Monash Medical Center. He hopes to keep the collaboration going to bring transplantation to patients at his institution in Eastern Nepal.

He feels more confident as a nephrologist and renal transplant physician and learned about the adequacy and membrane characteristics of chronic Peritoneal Dialysis patients and endovascular interventions in vascular access.

Live donor transplants have been possible since 2008 in Nepal. Dr. Dibya Singh Shah, after training in Australia, led the first successful renal transplant program at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital. Transplants have also taken place at Bir Hospital and the Human Organ Transplant Center in Kathmandu.

Hands-on interventional nephrology training for Vietnam’s kidney patients

ISN Educational Ambassador Jan Swinnen from Westmead Hospital, Sydney, Australia shared his expertise with doctors and nurses at Cho Ray Hospital (CRH) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. This was a valuable onsite training that is set to change how local doctors and nurses will carry out their interventional procedures.

Dr Swinnen explains: “I do believe that the local medical professionals can achieve 80% of what we achieve in Australia in terms of hemodialysis outcomes at a small fraction of the cost, by adapting hemodialysis access systems to the local setting.”

Tran Huong from Ho Chi Minh City University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Vietnam adds: “I would recommend other institutions get involved in this program.” This workshop helped improve Vietnamese physicians’ understanding of AVF theory and practice.

Sister Renal Centers the Cho Ray Hospital (CRH) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and Westmead Hospital in Sydney, Australia have been working together since 2014. According to Swinnen, “CRH acts as a referral center for South Vietnam.”

Their greatest achievement is the multi-disciplinary training at various staff levels which contributed to developing CRH’s transplant center and improving patient care.

“With English being the barrier for physicians in Vietnam and the financial limitations of overseas training, Educational Ambassador visits are the most effective and valuable way of staying up to date with knowledge,” says Huong.
To improve the level of care for kidney disease patients in industrial cities and remote regions, it is crucial to share the latest knowledge and educate practitioners locally. This year, Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programs were conducted across the Volga, East Siberia and Far East Region, the North West, the Ural and Central Region of Russia as well as Georgia.

The ISN Educational Ambassadors Program (EAP) has also helped improve kidney pathology and interventional nephrology. In 2015, an Educational Ambassador trained local doctors on Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) management and dialysis. We now have nine active Sister Renal Center pairs and trios in Russia, Belarus and Georgia. They have been instrumental in developing kidney transplantation, dialysis, pediatric and general nephrology.

In 2015, four fellows from Kazakhstan and Moldova trained in Europe, the US and Canada. Now, the challenge is the ISN Clinical Research Program, which is not active yet. We hope to bridge this gap with the new ISN Regional Board structure and by appointing individual Regional Board members as responsible for activating programs in our region.

—Helena Zakharova, Chair of the ISN Regional Board NIS and Russia
AKI related training in Russia

Past ISN President Giuseppe Remuzzi lectured at the Moscow City Nephrology Center. He updated the audience on the latest understandings of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP) and hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) and looked at new insights into defining, treating and the pathophysiology of membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis (MPGN).

“It was a unique opportunity to get an expert view from the person who implemented this term in nephrology,” adds Boris Bikbov, Associate Professor and Chair of Nephrology at the Moscow State University of Medicine and Dentistry. The Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research in Bergamo, Italy, has led research on these syndromes and recently helped to implement a novel diagnostic test for measuring complement C5b-9 complex activity in the solid phase. This provides the crucial information to define the pathophysiological state of the complement activation and adjusting treatment in HUS.

Bikbov adds: “The collaboration between our centers has also helped in the global improvement of prevention, detection, management and awareness of Chronic Kidney Disease and Acute Kidney Injury.”

CME on renal care in Georgia

A specific Continuing Medical Education took place in Tbilisi in Georgia thanks to a partnership between the University Hospital Ghent, Belgium and the High Technology Medical Center, University Clinic. It focused on nephrology patients care, understanding of multidisciplinary approach to kidney disease, Acute Kidney Injury and Chronic Kidney Disease prevention and improving care for renal replacement therapy patients. This also broadened the understanding of good nephrology care for intensivists, internists, vascular surgeons, cardiologists, hepatologists, oncologists, and nurses/paramedical personel associated within these specialties.
SOUTH ASIA

The ISN programs have been immensely helpful in developing niche areas of services in South Asia, thanks to a rich weaving of the Sister Renal Center (SRC), Educational Ambassador and Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programs.

ISN-TTS Sister Renal Transplant Centers programs are developing gap areas like pediatric transplants, immune monitoring of transplant recipient and managing sensitized transplant recipients. Pathology courses run by the ISN-ANIO Committee are hugely successful. The ISN-ANIO Apprenticeship program has trained technicians and nurses who are able to develop ancillary services.

CMEs such as the one held at the Medicity Hospital in Gurgaon, Delhi are now developing materials, like the guideline for setting up vascular access services - available on the Indian Society of Nephrology website.

Specific research programs have underlying themes of developing basic research skills including data management and epidemiology. Specific research programs by the ISN-ANIO Committee will add to this growing basket of research programs.

A heartening development of ISN Fellowship applications is the change in focus from the traditional North American and Western European destinations to host centers in unconventional locations that allow more specific and hands-on training - like in Korea and even Venezuela. We are very supportive of this trend. The agreement with the Indian Society of Nephrology is specifically targeted to developing all the ISN Programs in the region.

—Vivekanand Jha, Chair of the ISN Regional Board South Asia

The Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) has sought advice from St Georges’ University Hospital, UK. They are working together to build a comprehensive vascular access program in India. Dr. Vinod Bansal believes that “such a program does not only improve the vascular access scenario in India but also acts as a template for the whole Indian subcontinent.”

Between 60,000 and 70,000 patients are on dialysis in India. About 90% of them are on hemodialysis and the rest on peritoneal dialysis. Most patients are not aware of renal replacement therapy options before starting dialysis due to a lack of education about Chronic Kidney Disease.
Happier lives for young kidney patients

The Christian Medical College in Vellore, India has entered the second year of its sister partnership with the University of California (UCLA) developing training courses for ISN Fellows. Two graduates have gone on to build pediatric nephrology services in their regions of India.

“It has made a huge difference to the quality and continuity of care as the number of complex patient referrals has increased,” say Indira Agarwal and Isidro Salusky who have taken part in several activities linked to the sister collaboration.

A third practical pediatric nephrology training course and dialysis workshop was held in February 2015 at the college. Following her visit to UCLA, Dr. Agarwal also developed a comprehensive transplant manual. The program has helped to train nurses in the pediatric unit so they can care for children needing hemodialysis. Some funds went towards renovating the dialysis unit and setting up a room to store hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis equipment and accessories.

Treating the poorest kidney patients in the world

ISN Fellow Sudakshina Ghosh from Tanzania trained at the Madras Medical Mission and got involved with India’s Tanker Foundation, which helps the country’s poorest kidney patients. Host mentor and Tanker Foundation Founder Georgi Abraham believes more fellows from Africa and South Asia should be encouraged to train in India as it “adds value to their training by seeing and experiencing nephrology care in a low-cost setting.”

Dr. Ghosh’s gained hands-on training in Chronic Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD), hemodialysis and renal biopsy, and learned about awareness and prevention programs. Finally, she presented clinical research at the World Congress of Nephrology 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa.
Brigham and Women’s Hospital - welcoming the world’s future nephrologists

In the past two years The Renal Division and the Nephropathology Service at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts has trained two ISN Fellows from Thailand in transplant nephrology and two from Nigeria and China in renal pathology. “Over the coming year, we will host one from Turkey in transplant nephrology and another from Rwanda in nephropathology,” says Anil Chandraker Medical Director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation.

“The fellows get rigorous training in caring for kidney transplant patient, incorporating the most up to date practices and technologies. They have a benchmark to measure their own practices,” explains ISN Educational Ambassador Vanessa Bijol.

These fellows are also assigned a clinical research project to apply their new skills once they return home. “This enables them to decide the best approach to care that is both cost effective and appropriate to the resources in their own countries while still striving for excellent patient care and outcomes,” adds Bijol.

Nephropathology educational programs for the worldwide nephrology community are limited. Welcoming ISN Fellows to the center is enabling pathologists from countries with no or minimal renal pathology expertise to learn the principles and practice at one of the busiest nephropathology centers and state of the art kidney pathology laboratory facilities.

“These fellows are also exposed to various academic activities, including teaching conferences and research projects,” adds Chandraker.
“Our training program is individualized to best fit the needs of fellows and the nephropathology service in their home country.”

—Anil Chandraker

Anil Chandraker, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston (USA)

“Anytime one of our fellows reproduces the ‘Vicenza Model’ in his/her own country and allows research and teaching to flourish for the benefit of new generations the feeling is that our seeds have been transported by the wind of friendship and science, and have found a perfect soil to grow and develop.”

—Claudio Ronco

Claudio Ronco, International Renal Research Institute of Vicenza (Italy)

20 renal centers supported nephrologists involved in the ISN Programs in 2015. These centers are located in the United States, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy and more.

St. Bortolo Hospital’s - A school of life for nephrology

Three words summarize the mission of St. Bortolo Hospital’s Nephrology Dialysis and Renal Transplantation department. Patient care, teaching and research in Vicenza, Italy. The renal ward, the modern dialysis and the peritoneal dialysis centers as well as the transplantation unit represent a complex structure in which kidney disease patients find a perfect environment for adequate medical care with cutting-edge technology.

Teaching and research takes place at the International Renal Research Institute of Vicenza (IRRIV). Young fellows and scientists from many parts of the world have visited the center.

Most recent achievements include the Cardio-Renal Pediatric Dialysis Emergency Machine to treat severe kidney dysfunction in newborns and small infants. This unique machine has contributed to saving many lives. Other projects include the wearable artificial kidney and many other new machines for improved dialysis quality and safety.

“Periodically, fellows who define themselves as ‘IRRIVIANS’ come back to Vicenza from the country of origin to visit the home structure where their career started and their research initiated,” says IRRIV Director Claudio Ronco.

He believes the Vicenza center is more than a simple school of nephrology. Physicians, engineers, biologists, pharmacologists, statisticians and economists meet every day to tackle a given problem from all possible points of view.
THE FOLLOWING HAVE CONTRIBUTED FINANCIALLY TO ADVANCING KIDNEY CARE WORLDWIDE BY SUPPORTING THE ISN PROGRAMS:

CORPORATE SPONSORS/PARTNER SOCIETIES
- Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology
- CREED (Cross Regional Education and Exchange in Dialysis)
- Hong Kong Society of Nephrology
- International Pediatric Nephrology Association
- Japanese Society of Nephrology
- Kidney Research UK
- Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension
- The Renal Association
- Roche
- The Transplantation Society
- Turkish Society of Nephrology

SCIENCE WRITING COURSE
With support from Fondazione della Comunità Bergamasca, Fluorseals SPA, and ISN, the Mario Negri Institute has run the Scientific Writing Academy (SWA) since 2012. The workshop helps physicians and researchers from a range of backgrounds and specializations fine-tune their writing skills. People from the ISN Clinical Research Program and ISN Sister Renal Centers Program attended the course with support from the ISN.

THREE SISTER RENAL CENTER PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
Latin America: Jonathon Charat Inguines (Mexico)
Eastern and Central Europe: Masnic Fabrundin (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
South Asia: Sreejeth Parareswaren (India)

TWO CLINICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:
Africa: Sidy Seck (Senegal)
Oceania & South East Asia: Jiamjariyaporn Teerayuth (Thailand)
BENEFITS OF BECOMING AN ISN MEMBER

Join ISN today and be part of the leading global society advancing kidney care around the world. You will not only receive many valuable member benefits but you will also be supporting ISN’s mission of building kidney health equality worldwide.

ACCESS TO LEADING SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS IN NEPHROLOGY
- Kidney International
- Kidney International Supplements
- Kidney International Reports
- Reduced Subscription to Seminars in Nephrology
- Reduced Subscription to Nature Reviews Nephrology

REDUCED RATES AT WORLD RENOWNED EVENTS
- ISN World Congress of Nephrology
- ISN Nexus Symposia
- ISN Forefronts Symposia

ACCESS TO ISN EDUCATIONAL & COLLABORATIVE RESOURCES
- ISN Education
- ISN Member Directory

ELIGIBILITY FOR ISN CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMS AND SOCIETY COMMITTEES
- ISN Programs
- ISN Committees
Sister Renal Centers graduates 2015
Damanhour Medical National Institute (Egypt) and Sheffield Kidney Institute (UK) Nephrological Clinic of University of Medicine Sahloul, Sousse (Tunisia) and University Hospital, Ghent (Belgium)

Schrier Award
Five graduated Sister Renal Center pairs competed for the Schrier Award from countries including China, Ghana, India, Egypt, Tunisia, Belgium, Canada, UK, USA

The Schrier Award 2015 was given to the Sister Renal Center link between The Children’s Kidney Care Centre at St John’s Medical College Hospital, Bangalore, India and Montreal Children’s Hospital, Montreal, Canada Poster Presenter: Arpana Iyengar

Clinical Research Awards 2015
1st prize: Sidy Seck (Senegal)
2nd prize: Kwazil Ndlou (South Africa)
3rd prize: Glendah Kalunga (Zambia) and Vivek Kumar (India)

Fellowship Awards 2015
1st prize: Ahmed Kamal (Egypt)
2nd prize: Bolanle A. Omotoso (Nigeria)
3rd prize: Viviane Silvia (Brazil)

ISN Pioneer Awards
ISN Pioneer Awards reward doctors who have carried out extraordinary efforts to advance nephrology in a specific country or region. Without their dedication, nephrology would have been far behind its current state in their country and region

- Africa: Rashad Barsoum (Egypt)
- Middle East: Berhooz Broumand (Iran)
- North & East Asia: Shan-Yan Lin (China)
- South Asia: Adibul Hasan Rizvi (Pakistan)
- Oceania and South East Asia: Zaki Morad (Malaysia)
- Latin America: Jose-Carlos Peña (Mexico)
- NIS & Russia: Maya Ignatova (Russia)
- Eastern & Central Europe: Vytautos Kuzminskis (Lithuania)
ONE GLOBAL MISSION
Building Kidney Health Equality Worldwide

Programs and application deadlines

Fellowship
Apply by October 1 or May 1

Sister Renal Centers
Apply or request update by October 1

Continuing Medical Education
Apply 3 to 6 months before the start of the course

Clinical Research
Apply by October 1 or May 1

Educational Ambassadors
Apply by October 1 or May 1

THEISN.ORG/PROGRAMS

Advancing Nephrology Around the World