

NEWS

ISN

ISN NEWS 46 August 2013

New ISN Presidency: reinforcing our Society's mission



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Advancing Nephrology Around the World



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EDITORIAL

Welcoming a new ISN President

We have now got back from a very successful World Congress of Nephrology that took place in the bustling city of Hong Kong. In this edition of ISN News, you can catch up on many of the things that happened during the congress.

One of the main highlights was the official appointment of the new ISN President. In the following pages, you can read about Giuseppe Remuzzi's objectives for the next two years. It is the beginning of an exciting time for ISN as a Society, as he takes over from John Feehally, whose presidency was dedicated to reinforcing ISN's mission of advancing nephrology worldwide, contributing to the amazing achievements of the ISN Global Outreach (GO) Programs in particular.

Education and training will remain a top priority for ISN during his tenure. Continuing Medical Education courses currently bring essential teaching and training to some 12,000 doctors and healthcare practitioners worldwide. Educational Ambassadors and Sister Renal Centers also enhance co-operation between nephrology centers worldwide.

One of the first efforts launched by the new ISN President Giuseppe Remuzzi will be the *0 by 25* initiative. This initiative has one clear and concise aim: that no one should die of untreated acute kidney failure in the poorest parts of Africa, Asia and South America by 2025. You will find out more about this project and much more in his interview.

We hope you enjoy this issue of ISN News.

The ISN Team



To follow the activities of ISN, visit the ISN Facebook page

ISN News

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ISN acknowledges our corporate members for their contributions.

News in brief

Adeera Levin voted in as ISN President Elect



Adeera Levin will be ISN President from 2015 to 2017. Adeera Levin is Professor of Medicine, Head of the Division of Nephrology at the University of British Columbia, and Consultant Nephrologist at Providence Health Care in Vancouver, Canada.

She is the Executive Director of the BC Renal Agency, overseeing the care, planning and budgets for kidney services in the province of British Columbia. In this capacity, she has leveraged her epidemiological training, clinical knowledge and health outcomes research to develop an evidence-based transparent system, which enhances the care of patients across the continuum of care.

She is active in local, national and international activities including research, education and mentoring. She was appointed Secretary General of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) in 2009, was an executive committee member of Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) and serves as co-chair of the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group, a collaborative effort of the ISN and The Transplantation Society.

See the latest list of ISN Councilors and Executive Committee members on the Gateway at: www.theisn.org/isn-information/council/itemid-469

Young Chinese nephrologists gain funding to go to WCN 2013



Excitement and enthusiasm on the faces of young nephrologists from over 30 different provinces in China.

There were 238 very happy young nephrologists attending the World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) in Hong Kong thanks to the generous support from the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology (HKSAN) and local philanthropists.

HKSAN President Samuel Fung explains: "The idea was initiated by HKSAN Senior Advisor Richard Yu in collaboration with the Chair of the WCN 2013 Local Organizing Committee Philip Li. It was endorsed by HKSAN senior and council members and funding was solicited from generous local donors and HKSAN."

The HKSAN worked closely with the Chinese Society of Nephrology (CSN) to select the suitable candidates. "This was one of the first times HKSAN and CSN have worked jointly for such travel grant awards, fostering a closer working relationship between Presidents and laying foundations for future collaboration between both Societies," he adds.

Fung believes it was an exciting initiative and definitely worth the hard work. He would like to thank John Feehally, Richard Yu, Philip Li and Zhi-Hong Liu for turning a dream into reality.

WCN 2011 Satellite Conference Proceedings Now Available

The Proceedings of the 8th Conference on Kidney Disease in Disadvantaged Populations: "Disparities in Renal Disease - Moving Towards Solutions" are now available online in *Kidney International Supplements*.

To access the proceedings, visit: www.nature.com/kisup/journal/v3/n2

Membership

ISN membership - make a difference

ISN connects science and humanitarian efforts. Through education, ISN is reaching out to global medical communities, giving them the knowledge and support to reduce the impact of kidney disease worldwide. Membership to ISN supports these activities and provides specific benefits including exclusive eligibility for ISN capacity building programs, online and print subscriptions to *Kidney International* and access to *Nature Reviews Nephrology* online and reduced registration fees to ISN events. Not yet a member? Visit: www.theisn.org/join

Update your membership and profile

To ensure you receive all your benefits, please keep your profile up to date and renew your membership in a timely manner. Access or update your profile at: www.theisn.org/memberlogin



Time out with the President

We meet newly elected ISN President Giuseppe Remuzzi as he settles into his new role and runs through his objectives for the next two years.

Bringing the South closer

“A new gap in capacity has emerged between scientifically proficient developing countries and scientifically lagging developing countries. ISN needs to promote actions to increase the number of post-graduate and post-doctoral fellows moving from one part of the Southern hemisphere to another where centers of excellence are in place to obtain further training.”



Clinical research needs promoting, at least in middle-income countries, where resources are potentially available. However, even developing countries that have successfully strengthened their scientific capacity have proven to be more adept at building their knowledge base than applying the knowledge that their physicians/scientists acquire to address societal concerns.

The most critical shortfall in these efforts has been an inability to forge strong links between universities and hospitals, largely funded by governments, and the private sector, which is admittedly weak in most developing countries. This is beginning to take place in several countries notably Brazil, China, India, and to a lesser extent, Malaysia and South Africa. But the reforms need to gather speed to close the gap between the North and the South.”

Education and training

“The accomplishments of the nephrology community in promoting strategies for preventing, diagnosing and treating kidney disease on a global level in the last decade have been impressive, thanks to the achievements of basic and clinical research. Nephrologists need to spread the outcome of research on a global basis, and transfer new opportunities for diagnosis, prevention and treatment of kidney diseases in the developing countries.”

ISN commitment to education and training has been particularly strong. Continuing Medical Education courses bring essential teaching and training to some 12,000 doctors and healthcare practitioners in the world each year. Educational Ambassadors allow centers in the emerging world to request an expert to join them onsite to provide very specific training. Finally, the Sister Renal Center program enhances co-operation between nephrology centers worldwide.”

Mother and Child Health Promotion

“The hypothesis of the fetal origin of adult chronic non-communicable disease such as systemic arterial hypertension, diabetes and chronic kidney disease (CKD) has gained experimental and epidemiological support during the last two decades. Low birth weight is responsible for structural kidney changes, such as for example a lower number of nephrons, which can increase susceptibility to kidney damage from diseases such as hypertension and diabetes.”

The association between low birth weight and CKD may be related to intrauterine malnutrition and/or any adverse intrauterine environments. Because these events are common in developing countries, these mechanisms may result in establishing a population in which many adults are particularly susceptible to develop CKD and cardiovascular diseases. These observations imply that CKD would affect not only a large number of people in the developing world, but preferentially the poor within these countries.”

“A new gap in capacity has emerged between scientifically proficient developing countries and scientifically lagging developing countries.”

Giuseppe Remuzzi



Acute Kidney Failure: 0 by 25

"The challenges posed by acute kidney failure in high-income countries are different from those in low-income countries. They include limited resources for diagnosis, late or no referral to nephrology services and the lack of access to renal replacement therapy. It is the duty of the international nephrology community to support the development of strategies in low-income countries that permit a timely diagnosis of acute kidney failure and provide access to renal replacement therapy for patients with potentially reversible diseases.

It is morally inexcusable that people - mostly young people - still die of untreated acute kidney failure. In this context I would like to launch a new initiative, a Presidential one that might be followed by others. My own will be "0 by 25". I believe that prevention and treatment of acute kidney failure should be considered a human right as it has been and still is for the treatment of AIDS.

ISN must advocate a human right case statement that 0 people should die of untreated acute kidney failure in the poorest parts of Africa, Asia and South America by 2025. This requires leadership by ministries of health, as well as robust governance systems to implement any decision. We can also build on the ground of the collaboration with the World Health Organization that we have developed during the last years."

"It is morally inexcusable that people - mostly young people - still die of untreated acute kidney failure."

Giuseppe Remuzzi



Read more about the 0 by 25 initiative in the next edition of ISN News published this November.

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GLOBAL OUTREACH POSTINGS

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New to *ISN Education*, Global Outreach Postings help nephrologists from emerging countries publish manuscripts that are in line with ISN's mission and of interest to readers worldwide, including in developing countries. A team of reviewers from all over the world work together to help and support, and bring your manuscript to publication standards.

Publish yours now! www.theisn.org/gopostings

Advancing Nephrology Around the World



Different challenges, same mission

ISN Educational Ambassador brings Colombia and India together to raise awareness about CKD prevention.

The ISN Global Outreach (GO) Educational Ambassadors Program now counts 123 “ambassadors” who willingly share their expertise with medical communities across the developing world. María Elvira Martínez from Colombia recently traveled half way around the globe to teach clinical nephrology to doctors and nurses in India.

In many countries dialysis is simply unaffordable, so María is committed to raising awareness about prevention. In January 2013, she became an ISN Educational Ambassador. She paired up with Leni Kumar from the Christian Fellowship Hospital in Oddanchatram, India. They had worked together via e-mail for almost three years. In March, it was time to finally meet her colleague and together train local doctors and nurses at his hospital.

She soon found out that daily challenges differed from those she encounters back home in her native Colombia at the Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud. “The hospital in Oddanchatram is located in a very poor rural area. Many patients suffer from renal tubular acidosis and electrolyte disorders. The causes are unknown, but we suspect they may have some relation with the use of some pesticides and/or poisonous weeds.”

María found the Indian doctors and nurses to be very dedicated: “They were eager to learn, attend lectures in nephrology, make rounds and participate in practical sessions on acid-base and electrolyte disorders.”

Her visit generated a great eagerness to find the causes of renal disease in patients with renal tubular acidosis, electrolyte disorders, proteinuria and chronic kidney disease (CKD). In addition, house officers realized the importance of calculating body mass index and eGFR to prescribe treatment for CKD in its different stages.

“There is not always a nephrologist available for consultation and dialysis is not available in many developing countries. Nevertheless, general physicians, family practice and internal medicine doctors can manage many of these patients if they have adequate training,” she adds.

In a region of Colombia near the Pacific coast, María is helping set up a CKD prevention program for patients with high blood pressure and diabetes. In this area, 90% of the population is black, with a high incidence of obesity and high blood pressure. The same issues are apparent in the native Colombian population on the country’s frontier with Brazil.

“It is heartbreaking to see so many patients with end-stage renal disease who have no possibility of renal replacement therapy due to a lack of funds. But, this reinforces my determination to work even harder on prevention,” she concludes.

ISN can
now count on
123
volunteer
educational ambassadors



Looking back

ISN's Global Outreach Program Chair shares how he has seen the programs grow from strength to strength.

William Couser has now completed 12 years on the ISN Executive Committee including 6 years as Chair of the ISN Global Outreach (GO) Programs. As he passes on his duties to ISN Past President John Feehally, it is an experience he is truly proud and grateful for.

“Travelling multiple times to the eight regions of the developing world that ISN and GO serve was an unparalleled learning and teaching experience that few are fortunate enough to have. There are many vivid and enduring impressions I will take away from those events. The biggest is one of enormous respect and appreciation for ISN itself,” William Couser says.

“The GO Core Committee chairs devote remarkable amounts of time to making their individual programs work and evolve. I can point with pride and satisfaction to young physicians who have returned after ISN fellowship training to become the first nephrologists in their native countries,” he continues.

It doesn't stop there. William Couser has seen many Sister Renal Center links develop transplant programs in countries where none existed six years ago. Many practicing physicians in developing countries have attended their first ever educational event featuring international speakers because they had easy access to an ISN CME. Institutions in emerging countries have done credible and sustained epidemiologic research because of the startup support originally provided by an ISN Research and Prevention grant. Finally, more renal biopsies are now being done and read because of the instruction provided by an ISN GO Educational Ambassador.

In recent years, the ISN GO Regional Committees have taken on ever greater responsibilities. Four of them are now lead by women. The achievements of Haiyan Wang (China) and Helena Zakharova (Russia), as well as men like Omar Abboud (Africa) and others, in encouraging geographic regions to work together in using ISN GO resources to address common needs have been extremely rewarding to witness.



“There are many vivid and enduring impressions I will take away from those events. The biggest is one of enormous respect and appreciation for ISN itself.”

William Couser



“Going regularly to each of these regions I was also constantly reminded that in every developing country someone before us did the first dialysis, organized the first transplant, performed the first biopsy, taught the first classes on renal physiology and began the first program to train physicians in our relatively new discipline. In each region, some pioneer overcame very significant obstacles to begin or advance nephrology and save the lives of kidney patients,” he adds. These amazing achievements are now recognized thanks to the ISN Pioneer Awards developed by Dr. Couser

“There are many other individual impressions – working with Riyad Said and Norbert Lameire to put on the first ever nephrology meeting and ISN GO CME in Palestine, meeting the current Prime Minister of India to discuss the importance of preventive care to reduce ESRD in the largest democracy in the world, mobilizing GO connections in 2011 to persuade the World Health Organization to, belatedly, mention renal disease on its list of major non-communicable diseases, launching the first World Kidney Day in 2006 and watching it grow exponentially worldwide every year since – all of these have been highlights of my ISN and GO experiences.”

However, seeing the many generously donated but unused dialysis machines in some African countries because of insufficient trained people to use or repair them was a stark reminder of how far we still have to go. And witnessing patients with very limited resources started on dialysis for only a few weeks or months until all of their money is transferred to the pockets of providers before the patients are left to die is a brutal reminder of the fact that unregulated availability of renal replacement therapy in poor countries can sometimes create more problems for individual patients and their families than it solves.

“I complete my term as GO chair with a clear recognition that “advancing nephrology worldwide” is a slow process of pyramid building in which we each add our small bricks to a slowly growing structure so that others in the future may build on top of us toward a long-term goal of preventing kidney disease entirely. I have a profound sense of gratitude for the opportunity to add my own brick to the pyramid and for those many people who helped me to lift and carry it over the past 6 years,” he concludes.

“I have a profound sense of gratitude for the opportunity to add my own brick to the pyramid and for those many people who helped me to lift and carry it over the past 6 years.”

William Couser



WCN 2013: A world-class meeting in nephrology

Some bright and colorful highlights from this year's ISN World Congress of Nephrology held in the vibrant city of Hong Kong.

Two years in the making, the ISN World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) welcomed 5,900 participants, representing 124 countries. 1,755 abstracts were accepted for poster presentations and more than 95 discussion moderators were on hand to discuss posters.

Sustainability and diversity was the chosen theme, with almost 200 expert speakers participating in a groundbreaking program for what has become the leading biennial educational event in international nephrology. This would not have been possible without valuable support from the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology and the Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology who were hosts and partners at this congress.

With an amazing opening ceremony full of emotion and information, WCN 2013 started off with a fanfare. A special welcome video message from World Health Organization Director General Margaret Chan symbolized a great start to the congress where she highlighted and praised ISN's important mission and role in advancing kidney care worldwide. Mr. Chun-Ying Leung, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, who welcomed congress delegates, emphasized the importance of hosting the congress in Hong Kong.



Opening ceremony video message from World Health Organization Director Margaret Chan.



ISN Past President John Feehally and Mr. Chun-Ying Leung, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region taking part in the colorful lion dance.



WCN Organizing Committee Chair Philip Li welcomed everybody to Hong Kong.



Moderators taking part in very busy poster sessions.



For the first time a Global Outreach Gallery took center stage at the exhibition.



WCN is also the chance to award prizes to those who are helping advance nephrology.



WORLD CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY

WCN 2015

CAPE TOWN
MARCH 13-17, 2015

Mark your calendar for WCN 2015

www.wcn2015.org

The ISN World Congress of Nephrology 2015 will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from March 13 to 17, 2015.

ISN Awards and Prize winners 2013



Jean Hamburger Award **David Salant**

Jean Hamburger Award recognizes outstanding research in nephrology with a clinical emphasis.



Alfred Newton Richards Award **Susan Quaggin**

Alfred Newton Richards Award recognizes outstanding basic research in fields relevant to nephrology.



Roscoe R. Robinson Award **Norbert Lameire** and **Haiyan Wang**

Roscoe R. Robinson Award was established to acknowledge outstanding achievements in the field of education in nephrology and medicine.



The Lillian Jean Kaplan International Prize **Vincent Gattone** and **Dorian Peters**

Lillian Jean Kaplan International Prize recognizes a medical professional or researcher exhibiting excellence and leadership in Polycystic Kidney Disease research.



ISN Bywaters Award **Bruce A. Molitoris**

Bywaters Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the understanding of acute renal failure.

Post event

Go online to access all the abstracts and posters accepted for the congress, the two editions of World Congress News, selected sessions for viewing, a photo gallery, and the welcome message from Margaret Chan, Director General at WHO.

www.wcn2013.org/post-event



View selected sessions

ISN Education has selected sessions from WCN 2013 available for viewing. Additional sessions are being posted over the next months and ISN members will have special access to all available sessions.

www.theisn.org/education



ISN Global Outreach (GO) Workshop

Highlighting the best in nephrology

During the ISN World Congress 2013, the ISN Global Outreach (GO) Workshop was a chance for ISN GO participants to meet and share the continuing success of the programs. The winners of the GO poster sessions also received their prizes during this special session.

Peter Kerr, Chair of the Oceania and South-East Asia Committee enjoys seeing developing countries emerge as local leaders. This year, several Continuing Medical Education courses took place in the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos and Vietnam. These visits also included hospital visits and meeting government authorities.

ISN Fellows in these countries are training in Australia and have helped generate four Sister Renal Center partnerships, an Educational Ambassador visit to Vietnam and a Research and Prevention Program in Thailand. The Research and Prevention Program is an effective link with the World Health Organization and the Global Burden of Disease survey. It has also helped maintain the kidney disease data center in Bergamo (more than the grants themselves).

ISN GO Chair William Couser says: "Supporting centers and developed centers also put their own resources to good use thanks to GO." The Schrier Award recognizes the work of the ISN GO Sister Renal Center (SRC) Program. Marcelo Orias was "really honored" to pick up the award on behalf of the ISN GO SRC partnership between Argentina and USA.

He said: "Together, we trained the young people, with the help of physicians, psychologists and pathologists from the sister center. We started a blossoming peritoneal dialysis program."

On the Programs in Asia, ISN GO East Asia Committee Chair Haiyan Wang believes: "GO plants the seeds to develop nephrology further across the region." China has counted 72 ISN Fellows since 1985 with 82% located in the big cities. ISN Fellow Li Wang helped advance diagnostic techniques and treatments in peritoneal dialysis. She also joined relief efforts following the Wenchuan earthquake in 2008 and worked with the Renal Disaster Relief Task Force to help patients suffering from crush syndrome and acute kidney injury.

ISN Fellows are definitively key players in GO's continuing success. The workshop rewarded the valuable contributions from program participants. Sidy Mohammed Seck (Senegal) and Boris Bikbov (Russia) each received the ISN Fellowship award. The ISN GO Research and Prevention prize was given to Arpana Iyengar and Teerayuth Jiamjariyaporn.

Award winners

Arpana Iyengar accepting her award.



Teerayuth Jiamjariyaporn pictured with ISN GO Research and Prevention Chair Marcelo Tonelli.



“GO plants the seeds to develop nephrology further across the region.”

Haiyan Wang

ISN GO East Asia Committee Chair Haiyan Wang.



Last but not least, it was the last meeting for outgoing members of the program, ISN GO Program William Couser and ISN GO CME Chair Norbert Lameire. They were both touched by their awards for their hard work and continued dedication to GO.

ISN GO Center for South-East Asia Committee Chair Peter Kerr talks about GO activities in this region.



Marcelo Orias accepting his award for the ISN GO Sister Renal Center Program.



Sidy Mohammed Seck talking to the audience after having received his prize.



YNC Corner Rewarding young investigators

Research in nephrology is a task for experienced and young investigators alike.

At the World Congress of Nephrology 2013, the ISN Young Nephrologists Committee set out to honor the efforts of young nephrologists who have gained new insights into scientific questions in nephrology. These prizes have revealed some amazing contributions to the development of the field. Congratulations to all!

Developing world

Best abstract in basic science

Chen Yang, a Ph.D candidate of Medical Sciences at the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Best clinical abstract

N. Pavan Kumar Rao from the Andhra Medical College, Vishakhapatnam, India.

Developed world

Best abstract in basic science

Jessica Ryan from Monash Medical Centre and Monash University, Victoria, Australia.

Best clinical abstract

Emma McMahon from Princess Hospital and University of Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.

To read more about the award winners, visit: www.theisn.org/news/latest-isn-news/young-nephrologists/awards-for-young-investigators/itemid-455

Young Investigators award winners pictured with ISN YNC Past Chair Roberto Pecoits-Filho (far left) and ISN President-Elect Adeera Levin (far right).



Welcoming a new YNC Chair

Jeffrey Perl is now the new Chair of the ISN Young Nephrologists Committee. On his new role, he says: "Already as a member of the ISN YNC, it has been my pleasure to work with my peers who have allowed such projects as the mentorship program to flourish and honor young nephrologists with distinguished research awards."

He adds: "I am very fortunate for the mentorship I continue to receive from both former ISN YNC Committee Chairs and look very much forward to this exciting opportunity to make a difference."

Perl has taken over from Roberto Pecoits-Filho who chaired the committee for the last two years. We want to congratulate Roberto on his dedication and hard work and wish him all the best for the future.



facebook

The ISN YNC Facebook community is growing and we are 500 members strong. Get involved and join us today!

ISN Upcoming events

ISN Events connect global medical communities, giving them the knowledge and support to reduce the impact of kidney disease worldwide.

Nexus heads to Italy in April 2014

Bergamo is the location for the upcoming Nexus Symposium taking place from April 3 to 6, 2014. Owing to the theme chosen this time around, this symposium will be a little different. In previous Nexus meetings, most, if not all, participants were nephrologists. ISN Nexus Committee Co-chair Toshio Miyata explains: "Pharmaceutical representatives and regulatory authorities will also actively join our discussions on common global issues to delineate new frameworks towards efficient drug discovery and clinical trials in kidney disease."

He explains the reason behind this choice of theme: "In kidney disease, very few drugs have been developed despite an increasing number of patients. Treating most chronic kidney diseases mainly relies on drugs developed for other conditions, such as anti-hypertensive, glucose or lipid lowering, or immunosuppressive agents."

Mark your calendar today. You can register online for this event as of September 2013 and abstract submission closes on January 6, 2014. For more information, visit:

www.isnnexus.org/bergamo



ISN Forefronts 2014

Intrinsic Regulation of Kidney Function

March 6-9, 2014, Charleston, USA
Website available soon.



ISN Nexus 2014

New Era of Drug Discovery and Clinical Trials in Kidney Disease

April 3-6, 2014, Bergamo, Italy
www.isnnexus.org/bergamo



ISN Forefronts 2014

Genetic Basis of Renal Disease

September 11-14, 2014, Boston (MA), USA
Website available soon.



ISN Nexus 2014

Hypertension and the Kidney

September 25-28, 2014, Brisbane, Australia
Website available soon.



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Dr. Sharma, secretary for kidney disease in Nepal



Advancing Nephrology around the World

