WCN 2017: Latin America and the rise of diabetic nephropathy

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EDITORIAL

WCN 2017: putting the spotlight on diabetic kidney disease

This edition of ISN News focuses on the upcoming World Congress of Nephrology (WCN), taking place in Mexico City from April 21 to 25, 2017. We want to share everything there is to know about this congress from leading speakers, plenary sessions, hands-on and interactive training courses to the themes that will be discussed.

This will be the first international nephrology congress focusing on diabetes and kidney disease. Diabetes is a worldwide problem, but one very important to Latin America and Mexico in particular.

Sustainability and diversity are the overarching objectives of every congress, this time no exception as we will be raising awareness and educating nephrologists from every corner of the globe.

Uniquely placed as a truly global meeting, WCN gives access to international medical expertise in renal treatment, research and care, from bench to bedside. We hope all participants will get a genuinely enriching and professional exchange of knowledge with world-renowned nephrologists and endocrinologists.

If you haven’t registered yet, take the opportunity to sign up on the WCN 2017 website. You will connect with the nephrology community in a compact setting, and interact with colleagues as well as explore and understand the critical importance of diabetic kidney disease.

We hope you enjoy this special edition of ISN News.

The WCN 2017 team

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First training for 0by25 Pilot Feasibility Project

ISN is extremely proud to have supported the first training session of the principal investigators and project managers from clusters in Bolivia, Malawi, Nepal and Tanzania taking part in the 0by25 Pilot Feasibility Project.

The training took place at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) from July 16 to 19, 2016. The project is directed towards establishing a sustainable infrastructure for preventing, educating, detecting and managing acute kidney injury (AKI), which can be implemented according to local needs and resources.

At the World Congress of Nephrology in Hong Kong in 2013, Prof. Giuseppe Remuzzi, set out the organization’s vision for a world in which no one dies of preventable and treatable AKI.

To achieve this ambitious goal, the ISN launched the 0by25 initiative, which aims to eliminate preventable deaths from AKI worldwide by 2025.

Find out more about the ISN 0by25 project, visit: www.theisn.org/0by25

From left to right: Dr. Ravi Mehta, 0by25 Director and leading Principal Investigator from UCSD, Dr. Karen Yeates and Dr. Erica Erwin, leading the Pilot Project in Tanzania, Dr. Etienne Macedo, Project Manager from UCSD, Dr. Victor Hugo Garcia-Carlo from Bolivia, Dr. Rakesh Malhotra from UCSD and Dr. Rolando Claure, leading the pilot project in Bolivia with Dr. Garcia-Carlo, Dr. Ulla Hemmila and Ms. Naomi Pleasant Sibale leading the project in Malawi, and Dr. Sanjib Sharma, Principal Investigator in Nepal.

www.theisn.org/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 member specific benefits including exclusive eligibility for ISN capacity building programs, online and print subscription to Kidney International, online training and education, and reduced registration fees to ISN events.

Membership is now free for trainees.
Not yet a member? Visit: www.theisn.org/join

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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/membership
WCN 2017: Latin America and the rise of diabetic nephropathy

Back in 1960 when ISN founder Jean Hamburger recognized the need for an international forum tailored to the nephrology community, little did he know that WCN 2017 would become one of the first nephrology congresses to focus on diabetic nephropathy.

After much success in Cape Town, South Africa in March 2015, we are heading to Mexico City for the next ISN World Congress of Nephrology (WCN), taking place from April 21 to 25, 2017.

The main theme of this congress will focus on the case of Latin America and Mexico in particular, where it seems that diabetes and in turn chronic kidney disease and kidney failure develop at a higher rate than in other regions of the world.

Most recent figures show there are 422 million people with diabetes globally. Among adults over 18 years of age, it has risen from 4.7% in 1980 to 8.5% in 2014. Rates are rising more rapidly in middle- and low-income countries.

Looking at the case of Latin America, researchers have not been able to explain these higher rates. Nor can they fully explain the interplay of several factors including family history, diet and other medical conditions, such as high blood pressure.

"Joining forces with the Sociedad Latinoamericana de Nefrologia e Hipertension (SLANH), the aim is to educate and raise awareness about prevention so that sustainable forms of care can be maintained in the region but also worldwide," explains ISN President Adeera Levin.

Levin adds: "WCN 2017 is your chance to connect with the nephrology community in a compact setting, and interact with colleagues as well as explore and understand the critical importance of diabetic kidney disease."

"At this meeting, you will get a genuinely enriching and professional exchange of knowledge with world-renowned nephrologists, and endocrinologists," she says.

Featured plenary speakers

The plenary lectures put forward stimulating topics and offer learning opportunities from distinguished investigators and clinicians in nephrology and related fields.

Sam Dagogo-Jack is the A. C. Mullins Professor in Translational Research, Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

His current research focuses on the interaction of genetic and environmental factors in predicting and preventing prediabetes and diabetes. He is Principal Investigator of the Pathobiology of Prediabetes in a Biracial Cohort Study, the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial/Epidemiology of Diabetes Interventions and Complications and the Diabetes Prevention Program and Outcomes studies.

Susan M. Gasser directs the Friedrich Miescher Institute (FMI) for Biomedical Research. Over the last 10 years, she has examined the role of nuclear organization and heterochromatin in the development of the nematode C. elegans. The laboratory has contributed to understanding signals and anchors involved in chromatin positioning, both for active and inactive genes, and for various types of DNA double strand break repair.
Melissa Little heads the Kidney Development, Disease and Regeneration Laboratory at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne and is Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne, Australia. For more than 20 years, her research has focused on the molecular basis of kidney development, renal disease and repair.

Mark Pepys was educated at Trinity College Cambridge, University College Hospital Medical School and the Royal Postgraduate Medical School London. In 1999, he was invited to the Royal Free Campus of University College London, established the Centre for Amyloidosis and Acute Phase Proteins and set up the UK National Health Service National Amyloidosis Centre.

Philipp Scherer is Professor and Director of the Touchstone Diabetes Center at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Current efforts in his laboratory focus on identifying and characterizing novel proteins that serve as potential links between the adipocyte, liver, the pancreatic beta cell and the processes of whole body energy homeostasis, inflammation, cancer and cardiovascular disease.

John Stamatoyannopoulos directs the UW ENCODE Project Center, the Northwest Epigenome Center and the UW High-Throughput Genomics Center. His laboratory is using high-throughput molecular and computational technologies to decode the regulatory circuitry of the human and other complex genomes. Major ongoing efforts are to create comprehensive atlases of regulatory DNA encoded in the human and mouse genomes and define the regulatory networks that control cell fate and response.

“Joining forces with the Sociedad Latinoamericana de Nefrología e Hipertensión (SLANH), the aim is to educate and raise awareness about prevention so that sustainable forms of care can be maintained in the region but also worldwide.”

Adeera Levin

Hosted by SLANH
This time around, the WCN 2017 scientific program is complemented by novel Nephrology Biennial Review (NBR) courses given in English, Spanish and Portuguese, covering the most important research from the past two years across different fields within nephrology.

Hands-on and interactive courses on interventional nephrology, organized jointly with the Brazilian Society of Nephrology, are also open to congress participants. Lectures on renal pathology, renal systems biology, clinical epidemiology and clinical trials, will be given by some of the most highly-respected peers within the field, from multiple countries.

“There are 12 different courses available to participants that reveal the high-level science and innovative educational aspect of this congress,” comments Scientific Program Chair Kai-Uwe Eckardt.

“The program has been adapted to needs in the region, local speakers are getting involved and there are plans for two educational courses in Spanish and Portuguese,” he adds.

Because places are limited, pre-registration for these supplementary sessions is required and delegates must complete the appropriate section during the online registration process.

Additional fees may apply, visit: www.wcn2017.org/registration-home for more information.
WCN 2017 LUNCH AND POST-CONGRESS SYMPOSIA

Between attending plenary talks and hands-on courses, there is always time to network and share knowledge. Sign up for lunch and post-congress symposia when you register for WCN 2017.

Learn while you lunch

Industry Lunch Symposia are commercially-supported educational activities held during the ISN World Congress of Nephrology. So far, there will be symposia supported by the following companies.

AbbVie  
AstraZeneca  
Kaken  
Sanofi Renal  
Alexion

To find out about the latest Industry Lunch symposia, visit: [www.wcn2017.org/program/industry-lunch-symposia](http://www.wcn2017.org/program/industry-lunch-symposia)

Meet allied health professionals

After the success of the 2015 Allied Health Professionals Symposium, WCN 2017 features a Renal Nutrition Symposium taking place on Friday, April 21, 2017.

For further details about the program for this session, visit: [www.wcn2017.org/program/renal-nutrition-symposium](http://www.wcn2017.org/program/renal-nutrition-symposium)

Because places are limited, pre-registration for this symposium is required and delegates are requested to complete the appropriate section during the online registration process. Additional fees apply.

For more information, visit: [www.wcn2017.org/registration-home](http://www.wcn2017.org/registration-home)

For after the congress...

As part of their respective outreach programs, ISN and the Sociedad Latinoamericana de Nefrología e Hipertensión are encouraging local and regional societies to take advantage of the congress and organize relevant and related scientific meetings in other locations in the same geographical region after the main event.

The following post-congress satellite symposia are scheduled to take place from April 25 to 27, 2017:

- **11th Conference on Kidney Disease in Disadvantaged Population**, focusing on poverty and kidney disease, organized in Santiago de Querétaro, Querétaro, Mexico
- **5th Update on Fabry Nephropathy** at the NH Collection Hotel, Terminal 2, Mexico City Airport
- **Uric Acid and Chronic Renal Disease (CRD)** at the World Trade Center Auditorium, Mexico City. Registration and exhibition areas will be located in Insurgentes Avenue, 12 kilometers from Banamex Center and 8 kilometers from México “Zocalo” (Downtown)

For more details, visit: [www.wcn2017.org/program/satellite-symposia](http://www.wcn2017.org/program/satellite-symposia)

Set time aside to join the social activities. These are optional and can be booked in advance. All registered congress participants are invited to attend the opening ceremony, which is followed by a welcome reception in the exhibition area.

For more information, visit: [www.wcn2017.org/program/social-program](http://www.wcn2017.org/program/social-program)
GETTING to the heart of the matter

People with heart disease are at risk of developing kidney disease. By signing the Mexico Declaration on Circulatory Health, ISN is helping raise the profile of non-communicable diseases.

The Mexico Declaration on Circulatory Health was recently signed by leading global organizations at the World Congress of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Health 2016. It is seen as a firm commitment to tackle cardiovascular disease, recognizing that global action, national plans and a common vision are needed to achieve this.

“It is valuable to build alliances with societies and organizations that highlight the effect of non-communicable diseases and together raise awareness about prevention,” says ISN President Adeera Levin who led the ISN Global Kidney Summit, which took place in July in Vancouver.

She adds: “It is all the more important to emphasize the link between cardiovascular disease and the kidney. Its impact across the world should not be underestimated.”

Cardiovascular diseases are the number one cause of death around the world. 80% of them occur in low- to middle-income countries. Non-communicable diseases (NCD) in particular, account for about 77% of total adult deaths in Mexico, where 22.8% of people have hypertension, which can increase risk of heart attack, heart failure, kidney disease or stroke.

In addition to this, ISN efforts to better position kidney disease on the global health agenda paid off as kidney disease was mentioned in the resolution stemming from the United Nations (UN) High Level Meeting on NCDs.

The document recognizes that: “renal, oral and eye diseases pose a major health burden for many countries and that these diseases share common risk factors and can benefit from common responses to non-communicable diseases…” This is the first time the importance of kidney disease has been acknowledged at UN level and in the World Health Organization’s plans to address the growing burden of NCDs.

Non-communicable diseases (NCD) in particular, account for about 77% of total adult deaths in Mexico.

Read the Mexico Declaration on Circulatory Health, visit: www.world-heart-federation.org/wcc-2016/the-mexico-declaration
HELP FUND YOUNG PHYSICIANS from the emerging world

The World Kidney Fund (WKF), ISN’s direct online fundraising platform, was set up in November 2014. It is now relaunching to focus on collecting more donations for specific ISN Programs.

The level and quality of nephrology training varies from country to country, especially in low-to-middle income regions. This affects the kind of treatment patients receive and the impact acute kidney injury and chronic kidney disease have on health systems worldwide.

All profits generated by the ISN are used to support our projects across the developing world. “But every year, we receive training applications from more high quality candidates than we can afford to fund. This is why the World Kidney Fund was set up,” says ISN Programs Chair John Feehally.

This initiative gives individual donors the opportunity to help a fellow doctor in the developing world undertake specialist training, enabling them to deliver lifesaving specialist care to their patients.

With a combined population of over 600 million people, patients in developing countries cannot afford renal replacement - resulting in the death of over 1 million people annually from untreated kidney failure.

WKF has launched the profiles of ISN Fellows looking for sponsorship to specialize in a specific area of nephrology. It is hoped that by highlighting the challenges they face on a daily basis, WKF will help gather enough funding to respond to their needs.

ISN Executive Director Luca Segantini says: “ISN is leading the way in understanding the little-researched needs of kidney disease patients in the developing world.”

ISN Programs Chair John Feehally adds: “We are uniquely placed to devise and deliver specialist kidney disease training programs for doctors working in the most challenging conditions imaginable.”

Visit: www.theisn.org/initiatives/world-kidney-fund
The Jimma University Specialized Hospital is a large institution and a referral hospital for over 10 million people in South West Ethiopia. However, the hospital has no specialized nephrologists or organized renal services. Thousands of patients either remain unattended or are forced to travel to Addis Ababa where there are only five nephrologists covering the entire population.

Dr. Maekel started developing a keen interest in nephrology since his undergraduate years. During his residency in internal medicine, he cared for patients with kidney disease and realized how little attention they got in the Ethiopian health care system.

With this motivation, he set up a clinic to follow up kidney patients and took the responsibility to teach nephrology to undergraduate students.

During his fellowship, Dr. Maekel trained in clinical nephrology and received hands-on training on various dialysis and continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) techniques. This was made possible thanks to valuable WKF funding.

He has been offered a place to train at the Cairo Kidney Center, Egypt under the supervision of Prof. Rashad Barsoum. Dr. Maekel is very committed and has very clear goals that he wants to achieve upon his return, with the knowledge acquired through his training.

He plans to establish a renal unit within the hospital that offers kidney care for patients with acute kidney injury but also chronic kidney disease. He will also work to improve nephrology training for undergraduate medical students and to develop this training for internal medicine residents and pediatricians.

Dr. Maekel’s dream for the future is to make Jimma University a hub for training and research in nephrology in South West Ethiopia.
ISN PROGRAMS: welcome to our new recruits

Every year, there are two sessions to apply for the ISN Programs, with deadlines in May and October. These are just some of the main results from this year’s first call for applications.

**Round one: ISN Educational Ambassadors Program**

Following the first call of the year for new Educational Ambassador visits, 18 applications were approved, including from candidates in Israel, Fiji, Zimbabwe and Niger.

Many thanks to the Asia Pacific Society of Nephrology (APSN) and the India Society of Nephrology (IndSN) for their generous contribution to support applications from their region. The following centers will welcome an ISN Educational Ambassador to their institution in 2017.

- Charak Memorial Hospital, Nepal
- Galilee Medical Center, Israel
- Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Fiji (APSN funded)
- General Hospital, Nephrology Department, Instituto Guatemalteco de Seguridad Social, Guatemala
- Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Peru
- Chitungwiza Central Hospital, Zimbabwe
- Viet Duc hospital, Vietnam (APSN co-funded)
- Delta State University Teaching Hospital, Nigeria
- Xiangya Hospital, Central South University, China
- Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research (JIPMER), India (IndSN co-funded)
- Children’s Hospital Number 2, Vietnam
- Yangon Children’s Hospital, Burma
- National Hospital of Zinder, Niger
- Yangon Children’s Hospital, Burma
- Felege Hiwot Referral Hospital, Ethiopia
- Ege University, Turkey
- Moscow State University of Medicine and Dentistry, Russia
- Fundación Valle del Lili, Colombia

ISN Educational Ambassadors respond to the need to fill gaps in knowledge and technology in different parts of the developing world and optimize patient care by imparting focused training and supervision.

**These Educational Ambassadors will join the program:**
Stanley Fan, Nathan Levin, Kenneth Lee, Maria del Carmen Avila Casado, José Maria Morales, Elmi Muller, Nobuaki Yamanaka, Nilum Rajora, Minghui Zhao, Jai Radhakrishnani, Hui-Kim Yap, Lionel Rostaing, Hui-Ng Kar, Rajora Nilum, Vesna Garovic and Tyyab S. Diwan.
The results of the second round of applications for the 2016 Clinical Research Program were released in August.

After evaluating a total of 29 applications, ISN is happy to fund the following five projects:

- Dr. Alao Michael Abel (Nigeria): Renal dysfunction in children in Nigeria
- Dr. Eranga Sanjeewa Wijewickrama (Sri Lanka): Prevalence of CKD in Sri Lanka
- Prof. Ayodeji Arije (Nigeria): Farming Practices as Risk Factors for CKD in Nigeria
- Dr. Jaime M Restrepo (Colombia): Incidence and Mortality of AKI in Colombia
- Sidy Mohamed Seck (Senegal): AKI Epi in Senegal

Many thanks to the Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology (APSN) that co-funded Dr. Eranga Sanjeewa Wijewickrama’s project that will be carried out in the Asia Pacific region.

The ISN Fellowship Program Committee announced the results of the second round of applications for the 2016 Fellowship Program aimed at physicians from emerging countries wishing to pursue their nephrology training.

27 participants applied to the program. 16 will be funded by ISN including seven fellows from Africa, one from South Asia, two from Latin America, three from NIS and Russia, two from Oceania and South East Asia and one from North America and the Caribbean.

Many thanks to our partners who kindly accepted to co-fund the following training:

- ISN-ANIO India Committee will co-sponsor Dr. Baishya Pakesh’s training
- Kidney Research UK will co-sponsor Yoowannakul Suree’s training in the United Kingdom
- The Renal Association will co-sponsor Solomon Nicole’s training in the United Kingdom.

We are still counting the results of the second call for application that closed on October 1, 2016. More information will become available in the coming months.

For everything there is to know about the ISN Programs, visit: www.theisn.org/programs
ISN events connect global medical communities, giving them the knowledge and support to reduce the impact of kidney disease worldwide.

Remember these important dates
If your mind is made up and you wish to join us at the next World Congress of Nephrology in Mexico City.

Make note of the following dates and links so your participation can be as enjoyable as possible.

You can submit your abstract for this congress until November 28, 2016.

Abstracts should concern all aspects of nephrology, the treatment of renal disease or the scientific background to the study of the kidney.

The Presenting Author of each abstract accepted for publication and presentation will be notified by January 4, 2017. Those submitting abstracts are entitled to register at the discount registration rate provided they register by the early bird deadline of January 23, 2017.

A hard copy of the abstract is not required for submission. All submissions must be made through the ISN WCN 2017 website.

For all the details, visit: www.wcn2017.org/abstracts/abstract-submissions

If you have registered already and sent in your abstract, make sure to book your accommodation early as rooms sell out fast in the prime locations.

Visit: www.wcn2017.org/accommodation

Check out ISN Education webinars
As well as ISN events, you can also catch the latest ISN Education webinars, visit: www.theisn.org/education

ISN World Congress of Nephrology 2017
Sustainability and Diversity
April 21-25, 2017, Mexico City, Mexico
www.wcn2017.org