ISN Advocacy: giving our patients a voice

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In this edition of ISN News, our main feature highlights the importance of advocacy within our newly-established mission and vision. Getting our members, patients, policy makers and global partners engaged on issues surrounding kidney disease is a colossal task but critical to our mission of advancing the state of kidney health worldwide.

With the ISN Global Kidney Health Summit held last year in Vancouver, the launch of the ISN Global Kidney Health Atlas and the success of the first ISN Policy Forum in Mexico City, we have begun to get our message across.

Spreading the word about the importance of prevention, and early detection and treatment will help to reduce the burden of kidney disease. We are supporting collaborative efforts in Latin America and South Asia to tackle the epidemic of chronic kidney disease of unknown origin, which particularly affects young and poorer working communities. Ongoing efforts are required to develop affordable and sustainable solutions for the care of end-stage kidney disease globally.

There is much more to deliver. We are just developing initiatives to enhance the visibility of kidney disease on world health agendas. Education and research go hand in hand with advocacy as you will see across the next pages. The ISN, with all its members, has a strong role to play in building a future where everybody has equitable access to sustainable kidney health.

Valerie Luycx
Institute for Biomedical Ethics,
University of Zurich, Switzerland
NEWS in brief

A new ISN President Elect

A former ISN Fellow and one of the foremost global nephrology experts, Vivekanand Jha is now the ISN President Elect. Prof. Jha is the Executive Director of the George Institute for Global Health India, and former Professor of Nephrology at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India.

Stressing the importance of ISN within the nephrology community and referring to personal experience, he says: “The ISN has contributed much to capacity building, practice and research in nephrology in the developing world, […] having myself been a direct beneficiary as a past ISN Fellow and a participant in the Sister Renal Center Program.”

A fresh line up: ISN Executive Committee and Council

A new ISN Presidency and leadership spells the arrival of a new Executive Committee and ISN Council members. Many thanks to everybody who dedicated valuable time and efforts to ISN activities over the last two years and a warm welcome to those who have now begun their new term.

www.theisn.org/about-isn/leadership

ISN Membership news

Check out the latest resources on ISN Academy

The plenary and session presentations, posters and abstracts from the ISN World Congress of Nephrology 2017 are now available on the ISN Academy. Via the community portal you can read the latest editions of Kidney International, ISN's flagship journal. Gain complete free access to 8000 pieces of content across 20 topics, including an extensive mix of presentations, webinars, e-curriculums, guidelines, cases and articles.

Try out this ISN membership benefit, exceptionally open to all until September 15, 2017. Make sure to share the news with your contacts and renew your membership so you can continue to access the ISN Academy after the cut-off date.

Visit: http://academy.theisn.org

Download the mobile app available on Google Play and the Apple Store to stay up to date with all the latest ISN Academy content or follow updates on Twitter: @ISNEducation

Your membership and profile

To continue receiving all your benefits, and engage with the community, update your profile or renew at:

www.theisn.org/memberlogin

Membership is now free for trainees

Not yet a member?
Find out more by visiting:

www.theisn.org/join
The ISN World Congress of Nephrology 2017 revealed the opportunities that come with strengthening advocacy initiatives to place kidney health higher on the world health agenda.

In the case of low-and-middle-income countries, it is important to set up Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) early detection and management programs and establish renal registries to capture information on the burden of the disease. Moreover, there is a need to develop training programs and promote more investment and targeted research agendas to better understand kidney disease.

A Forum that sets a precedent

The first ISN Global Kidney Policy Forum, which was organised in collaboration with The Lancet and SLANH and under the patronage of the Secretary of Health of Mexico, emphasized the importance of kidney disease as a global health priority, especially in Latin America. It helped share some lessons learned from patients, kidney health advocates, epidemiologists and reflected on the challenges to gain equitable access to renal replacement therapy.

Above all, it was the initial step to constructively engage with policy makers. Over 200 participants took part in this meeting, representing over eight Latin American governments, policy makers, nephrologists, researchers, patients as well as other relevant stakeholders who committed to the Conclusions of Mexico City, a 12-point set of measurable actions to curb the burden of kidney disease worldwide, specifically focusing on Latin America.

The case of Latin America

According to the Global Burden of Disease study, there were 1.2 million deaths stemming from CKD in 2015. In Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and El Salvador, CKD is the highest cause of early death. In Mexico, it is also the major cause of death in women of childbearing age.

Renal replacement therapy is also a challenge in Latin America, with variable access to dialysis across countries. There is a predominance of hemodialysis over peritoneal dialysis. The ratio of dialysis to transplant demonstrates inequities in expenditure across the region. Finally, there is a lack of deceased donor transplants and a need to address transplant tourism.

During the launch of the ISN Global Kidney Health Atlas, Prof. David Johnson stated that many patients don’t have access to care, especially renal replacement therapy, there is a need for renal registries to determine the true burden of kidney disease, determine patient outcomes and provide iterative feedback and identify epidemics early. He pinpointed the need to take a sustainable path towards Universal Health Coverage.

Editor of The Lancet Richard Horton said: “Health goes beyond the health system: we need to work at the interface between all sectors for sustainable development. We cannot blame patients for lifestyle choices alone but should require public policies to facilitate good choices.”

Echoing Mexico’s Secretary of Health who spoke at the Policy Forum, Richard Horton highlighted the need to communicate better to improve solidarity and achieve goals together for ourselves and future generations.
“Developing countries urgently need improved access to basic blood and urine tests for kidney function, and low-cost dialysis and transplantation systems must be developed to help those in need in these countries.”

David Johnson

Sharing results across the community

The ISN Global Kidney Health Atlas (GKHA) presented at the ISN World Congress of Nephrology 2017 and compiled by kidney health experts worldwide, highlights the huge gaps in kidney disease care and prevention in Latin America, developed and developing regions, with many countries not prioritising kidney health.

“Developing countries urgently need improved access to basic blood and urine tests for kidney function, and low-cost dialysis and transplantation systems must be developed to help those in need in these countries,” says David Johnson who led the study with Aminu Bello. A summary of the Atlas was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), a parallel initiative, which ensures a comprehensive roadmap to address gaps in care, research and policy was published in the Lancet.

Read more about the findings of the GKHA report. www.theisn.org/global-atlas

We believe in ‘a future where all people have equitable access to sustainable kidney health.’ This is what Past President Adeera Levin said announcing ISN’s new vision at the ISN World Congress of Nephrology 2017 in Mexico City. Read the full ISN mission and vision: https://www.theisn.org/about-isn/vision-mission-values
ISN PROGRAMS
the impact across regions

Programs are growing and partnerships are increasing, helping to strengthen renal care in many regions of the world, including Egypt where two ISN Educational Ambassadors visited Meniat El Nasr Nephrology unit.

A growing number of renal centers in low-and-middle-income countries, including graduated ISN Sister Centers, have built up solid capacity and expertise to host fellows, support emerging centers as part of Sister Centers trio partnerships, develop and deliver Continuing Medical Education courses, provide Educational Ambassadors and mentor clinical research projects.

Nine Regional Training Centers have been assigned to help build more nephrology capacity across regions. The center in Egypt is likely to benefit from this new initiative.

Dr. Osama Ibrahim Head of Nephrology Department, Mansoura New (International) General Hospital, Mansoura, Egypt and Prof. Ahmed Akl, Consultant of Nephrology and Transplantation, Urology and Nephrology Center, Mansoura University, Egypt became ISN Educational Ambassadors to help train the team at Meniat El Nasr.

The aim of the visit was to support them in making advances in hemodialysis care and provide move intensive scientific lectures especially in interventional nephrology.

The intensive care unit is equipped with hemodialysis machines and a portable RO water unit but the nephrology team needed training on acute hemodialysis catheter insertion to start the service.

One of the recommendations is to start a nephrology outpatient clinic. The hospital director with the chief of internal medicine promised to allocate hospital beds for this purpose and a room for interventional nephrology services.

NEW ISN CLINICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Supporting more clinical research projects is vital to developing better care across regions. We hope that funding these two projects will make a difference to patient’s lives. Apply for the ISN Clinical Research Program before October 1, 2017: cr.theisn.org.

Chronic kidney disease: Assessment of progression, co-morbidities and quality of life in Indian children

"Funding has been of immense benefit in providing certain investigations at a low cost to most patients and this has been extremely helpful in ensuring good follow up," says Nivedita Kamath, Bangalore, India who is leading this project.

Effectiveness of community-based integrated care versus conventional care program on delaying CKD progression in rural communities in Thailand

"The ISN grant provides enormous benefits in terms of quality of the study particularly creatinine standardization and educational materials," says Teerayuth Jiamjariyapon, Bangkok, Thailand who received funding to develop this project.
INTRODUCING the new ISN Mentorship Program

Matching experienced mentors with mentees for a three-year expertise-building partnership.

Since the start of 2017, a new ISN Program has been in the works. The new Mentorship Program was called into being by the Clinical Research Committee who saw a need to fill the educational gap regarding research related skills set up high-level research projects and help develop scientific publications in low- and middle-income countries.

It was soon decided that having one overarching Mentorship Program for the benefit of the Society was the sensible way forward and so the former Young Nephrologists Committee (YNC) Mentorship Program was integrated into the framework, thereby rejuvenating its previous format.

ISN called upon the expertise and goodwill of existing YNC mentors, Educational Ambassadors and Sister Renal Center collaborators, among others, to create a pool of outstanding Mentor experts. The Society is grateful to all those who enthusiastically and generously agreed to commit their time and share their invaluable experience with colleagues requiring a guiding hand.

The program focuses primarily on assisting mentees requiring counsel in the domain of clinical research, as well as mentees who are under 40 years of age seeking counsel in an area not specifically related to research.

All applications will be carefully assessed by the responsible Program Committee Members who will match the most suitable available mentors with the mentees, based on the exact areas for which guidance is required. The Mentorship Program is run by Arpana Iyengar (Mentorship Program Chair) and Rolando Claure Del Granado (Young Nephrologists Committee Chair).

“We are certain that this Program will result in making a concrete difference to the scientific and clinical careers of many nephrologists around the world. We look forward to keeping ISN’s members updated on the successes of the Program pairs!” says Marcello Tonelli, Chair of the ISN Clinical Research Program.

Applications from eligible mentees are welcomed throughout the year via the especially developed online platform: http://mentorship.theisn.org.

Detailed information about the Program’s policies and procedures is also available via the same webpage.
ON THE MOVE FOR a good cause

World Kidney Day 2017 called out globally for a healthier lifestyle, linking obesity and kidney disease, a colorful campaign online and in communities everywhere.

In March, World Kidney Day (WKD) brought together members of the global medical community and general public to highlight the importance of kidney health. This time, the campaign set its sights on communicating about how obesity can affect our kidney health.

Over 990 events were organized in 93 countries, including Antigua and Barbuda, which took part in celebrations for the first time. Brazil, Slovenia, India, Mexico, Italy and the United States were among the most active countries this year. Many participants spread the word on the Eight Golden Rules for Healthy Kidneys and made great use of all the campaign material. The World Kidney Day editorial entitled “Obesity and kidney disease: hidden consequences of the epidemic” was published in 60 journals, with translations into Chinese, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese.

Raising awareness on social media

As in recent years, there was great social media activity with 46,000 fans on Facebook, 10k followers on Twitter, 1979 Instagram followers and 88,617 views on YouTube.

In all, #worldkidneyday reached more than 150 million people and was tweeted over 31,300 times. On the day, many participants also shared fun and colorful selfies. The Move4Kidneys hashtag reached 7 million people and was posted more than 2000 times. It prompted people to maintain a minimum level of physical activity in any way they could, encouraging their family and friends to do the same. It also engaged everybody to actively participate in the campaign and easily spread the message to online communities.

Most of all, this year’s campaign helped to expand and improve the network of WKD Champions. There are now 90 WKD Champions from 61 countries who dedicate their time to communicate about WKD online and offline, help grow the WKD community through their networks, advocate WKD with Health Authorities in their countries as well as translate, distribute and monitor press releases.
The World Obesity Federation developed a joint position statement with World Kidney Day that summarizes some key data on kidney disease, obesity and their relation. It includes a few population-based policies and strategies that governments and policy makers should implement to increase prevention of obesity and kidney disease. Importantly, it features some less well known facts about the link between obesity and chronic kidney disease.

www.worldkidneyday.org/2017-campaign/kidney-disease-obesity-joint-position/
ISN FRONTIERS MEETINGS

KIDNEY DISEASE & CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE
FEBRUARY 22-25, 2018
TOKYO, JAPAN
VENUE: KEIO PLAZA HOTEL
WWW.ISNFRONTIERS.ORG/TOKYO

Abstract submission deadline
October 20, 2017
Early registration deadline
November 27, 2017
A TURNING POINT in global education

ISN’s new meeting strategy sets out to deliver innovative learning, fully connected to the Society’s overall educational offerings.

Following the ISN World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) 2019, ISN will organize a yearly congress with a specific regional focus and new features that build on the current WCN strengths and offer an improved learning experience for participants, including networking and sessions tailored to a global audience.

ISN Nexus and Forefronts meetings will be replaced by the ISN Frontiers meeting and focus on specific topics as well as complement the scientific and geographic coverage of WCN. Up to two Frontiers meetings will be held each year, with at least one of the meetings attracting an audience of over 500 attendees from all over the world.

Leading the initiative, Chair of the Meetings Committee Carol Pollock said: “The 57-year old model has served the ISN well, but we are clearly of the view that the new meetings strategy will better serve our members and enhance nephrology care to our patients in the future.”

The main reason behind the change is to further improve education opportunities for ISN’s members and ensure sustainability within nephrology as well as reinforce and maintain a strong ISN membership. This is in line with other medical meetings and trends in this sector, which reflects a preference for shorter, more compact and focused meetings, with a regional relevance and a more effective delivery of scientific content to participants.

The hope is to increase global networking and build more partnerships between the global nephrology community, industry, pharmaceutical companies and organizations with aligned missions to fight non-communicable diseases.

WCN will continue to have a thematic focus, but still provide a broad range of educational and scientific sessions. The themes of the 2019 congress, taking place in Melbourne (Australia), will include glomerular disease, and end-stage kidney disease.

The first Frontiers meeting will be held in Tokyo in February 2018, with a focus on Global Issues in Kidney and Cardiovascular Disease. A further Frontiers meeting will be held in Sweden in the second half of 2019 on the topic of Cardio-Pulmonary-Renal interactions and their interdependence in disease.

Read more: www.theisn.org/events

“The 57-year old model has served the ISN well, but we are clearly of the view that the new meetings strategy will better serve our members and enhance nephrology care to our patients in the future.”
WCN 2017: our patients and community take center stage

Within the vibrancy of Mexico City, heart-warming patient testimonies and scientific excellence formed the perfect match to open an engaging ISN World Congress of Nephrology focusing on diabetic nephropathy.

SN President Adeera Levin looked back on the advances that ISN has made during the past two years of her presidency. Then, choosing to give three patients center stage, three touching and heartfelt presentations gave an unprecedented emotional start to this congress.

Viviana Cordero shared how she overcame adversity losing her sight and being diagnosed with kidney disease. Transplant patients, Marisol Robles and Fiona Loud spoke on clinical care and international collaboration. As Policy Director of the British Kidney Patient Association, Loud pointed out the importance of combined efforts in research.

Plenary Lecture Scientific Program Chair Kai-Uwe Eckardt gave an overview of the Congress and the core theme of diabetes and kidney disease, leading on to the first Plenary Lecture about ‘The diabetes pandemic: prevention is primary’ by Sam Dagogo-Jack, USA, whose current research focuses on the interaction of genetic and environmental factors in predicting and preventing prediabetes and diabetes.

Two years in the making, the ISN World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) welcomed 4052 participants, representing 113 countries. It was the first time the congress focused on the link between kidney disease and diabetes.

250 expert speakers from 40 countries participated in a ground-breaking program. 1306 abstracts were accepted for poster presentations and moderators were on hand to discuss 55 moderated poster presentations.

While it was a chance to exchange knowledge, ISN awards were handed to those who are changing nephrology.

ISN Programs awards rewarded participants for their dedication to improve kidney research and care in developing regions, by working with doctors and centers in the developed world. A poster session, supported by the Japanese Society of Nephrology, showcased this success.

Mark your calendar for WCN 2019

The ISN World Congress of Nephrology 2019 will take place in Melbourne, Australia from April 12-15, 2019.
ISN Fellowship Awards 2017

- **1st prize:** APOL1 genetic variants contribute to atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk in black South Africans, Muzamil Olamide Hassan (Nigeria)
- **2nd prize:** Risk factors associated with the trajectory of kidney function in a cohort of CKD patients from Sao Paulo, Brazil, Paula Orlandi (Brazil)
- **3rd prize:** Association between abnormal markers of Chronic Kidney Disease mineral bone disease and mortality in maintenance hemodialysis patients, Waziri Bala (Nigeria)

ISN Clinical Research Poster Awards 2017

- **1st prize:** Salivary urea nitrogen dipstick as a screening tool to detect acute kidney disease due to malaria in low-resource setting, Viviane Calice-Silva (Brazil)
- **2nd prize:** APOL1 variants in HIV and idiopathic FSGS in children, Rajendra Bhimma (South Africa)
- **3rd prize:** Increased prevalence of kidney disease at high altitude, Abdias Hurtado (Peru)

ISN Awards

- **Friedhelm Hildebrandt** received the 2017 Alfred Newton Richards Award for his outstanding basic research in fields relevant to nephrology
- **Raúl Lombardi** is the recipient of the ISN Bywater’s Award for outstanding contributions to the understanding of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI)
- **Stanley Jordan** was honored with the Jean Hamburger Award for outstanding research in nephrology with a clinical emphasis
- The Lilian Jean Kaplan International Prize for the advancement and understanding of Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) was given to David Beier, University of Washington (USA), and Ronald Perrone, Prof. of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston (USA)
- **Prof. Mignon McCulloch** received the Roscoe R. Robinson Award for outstanding contributions in the field of education in nephrology

Young Nephrologists prizes

Daniela Anne Braun and Maria Castaneda-Bueno were honored with the Young Nephrologists Best Basic Science Abstract. Two colleagues were honored with the Young Nephrologists Best Clinical Abstract: Hannah Brand and Viviane Calice da Silva.
SUPPORT for South Asia’s research community

Following the success of previous editions, the Scientific Writing Course is now taking on a more regional flavor. First stop Bangalore where young scientists from the South Asia region brushed up on their writing skills.

This meeting was the first of its kind and was organized from May 25 to 27, 2017. Now and into the future the aim of each workshop will be to help physicians and researchers from a range of backgrounds and specializations fine-tune their writing skills.

The course consisted of a series of short lectures, some dedicated time for writing exercises and discussions, including pre-course assignments on scientific writing. Leading the Bangalore course, Arpana Iyengar says: “The sessions are designed to incorporate mentoring on abstracts, background, methods, results to discussion.”

She adds: “Hands on sessions with a reference and data base manager, interactive sessions on the process of paper submission, choosing a journal and the art of responding to reviewers were the highlights of the course.”

Dr. Iyengar explains that the disparity in specific health needs and clinical challenges ‘between the developed and resource limited nations is not new.’ One of the critical strategies to address this issue is to encourage the “indigenization of clinical research in the low- and middle- income countries under the umbrella of the resources and expertise existing in the developed world.’

This course was made possible thanks to support from the ISN-ANIO India Committee. It was hosted by St John’s National Academy of Health Sciences, one of the recently-assigned ISN Regional Training Centers. The selection committee also gave priority to twenty delegates from South Asia to attend the course.

The next course will continue giving opportunities to young nephrologists from all regions to improve their skills in designing, implementing and publishing clinical research in nephrology.

“It has undoubtedly given me new insight and energy to pursue scientific research. The doubts and gaps have been smoothly filled, which will help in progressing as a young clinician.”

Vethanathan Bavanthan, Sri Lanka

“During my three days of intense learning I came to know that scientific writing is the most important means for communicating scientific work.”

Shakti Basnet, Nepal

A committee dedicated to India’s nephrologists

The ISN-ANIO India Committee builds on the expertise of ISN to bridge gaps in healthcare provision for kidney disease across India. The Committee is dedicated to reducing kidney disease and increasing treatment opportunities for patients in India. It is also committed to understanding the concrete needs of Indian nephrology, focusing on activities that will have optimal impact on kidney care across the country.

ISN-ANIO Programs deadline is this October 1st, 2017. Apply online: www.theisn.org/initiatives/isn-anio-india
ISN upcoming events

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

Watch out for these upcoming events:

Abstracts and registration open for ISN Frontiers

The first Frontiers meeting will be held in Tokyo from February 22 to 25, 2018, with a focus on Global Issues in Kidney Disease and Cardiovascular Disease.

ISN Frontiers meetings build on the success and achievements of the ISN Nexus and Forefronts series, bringing together basic scientists, clinicians and practitioners in a unique setting. This new event format will make more cutting-edge science available to a global audience, breaking down cross-regional barriers in accessing the latest knowledge and expertise.

Make sure to head to the website to register for this event and submit your abstract before October 20, 2017. More information: www.isnfrontiers.org/tokyo

WCN 2017 social media coverage

Live from the Genius Bar at the ISN exhibition booth, the Social Media Task Force helped us livestream some 80 congress sessions on social media, including interviews and commentary. Showing great enthusiasm and a true passion for nephrology, they made highlights from the congress available to those unable to join us in Mexico City. Follow @ISNEducation on Twitter. The Social Media task Force is also looking to recruit more nephrologists to tweet about ISN so get in touch on Twitter.

Check out ISN Academy webinars as well as ISN events

You can catch the latest ISN Academy webinars by visiting: www.academy.theisn.org

ISN Frontiers meetings
Kidney Disease & Cardiovascular Disease
February 22-25, 2018, Tokyo, Japan
www.isnfrontiers.org/tokyo
For questions, contact: mvanderstraten@theisn.org

ISN World Congress of Nephrology 2019
April 12-15, 2019, Melbourne, Australia
www.isnwcn2019.org
For questions, contact: mvanderstraten@theisn.org

For the full list of ISN events, visit: www.theisn.org/events
A first-hand educational experience, ISN Academy delivers the latest knowledge in nephrology, where and when you need it. With up-to-date and interactive resources, it opens doors to a unique mix of presentations, cases, articles, webinars, guidelines and more. Expand your understanding of nephrology and step into our exclusive global community.

Get learning now on: www.academy.theisn.org or download the app from the App Store or Google Play.

As of September 15th, 2017, the ISN Academy will become a member benefit.