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Editorial

Education for all

Innovative, tailored, varied and open is how we see learning evolve across our community. Responding to the educational needs of as many nephrologists as possible, at varying stages of their career, is what we strive for with our ISN Academy portal, bespoke courses and programs.

More importantly, by offering everybody the training they need, we are working towards building a future that offers equitable access to sustainable kidney health for all.

The ISN World Congress of Nephrology held in Mexico City was a great example of how education is helping nephrologists join us in our educational mission and making a long-term difference. This edition of ISN News puts the spotlight on the Interventional Nephrology course that took place during the congress. Our interview with former Chair of the Interventional Nephrology Committee Miguel Riella reveals the importance of offering stronger training opportunities in this area to help doctors develop their skills.

Speaking to Masaoomi Nangaku about the new ISN Frontiers meeting also reveals how the format of our meeting is being adapted to respond to the needs of our community, focusing on bringing together health professionals from two areas of care.

After an exciting launch, the ISN Academy is also evolving to fine tune more varied and multilingual content. We hope that you enjoy reading about all our educational endeavors in this issue and that it serves to make your learning experiences all the richer.

Tushar Vachharajani
Chief of Nephrology at W.G. Hefner VAMC in Salisbury, North Carolina, and inaugural Editor of ISN Academy (formerly ISN Education) and Deputy Chair of the Education Committee.

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NEWS in brief

NCD prevention made easy

The team behind the successful ISN-funded community-based EGiPT-CKD screening program has developed a tool to help raise awareness, encourage early detection, prevention and manage non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The latest version of this valuable resource is available to use. Visitors can also create a free trial account for the NCDs administration system.

Leading this longstanding ISN-funded program, Zaghoul Gouda says: ‘I hope this program and the resources we have developed can support the ISN and World Health Organization initiatives focusing on NCDs. And, I also hope it can be seen as an outcome of our Sister Renal Center Program activities.’

Visit: https://www.telekidney.com/

ANZSN strengthens ISN partnership, supporting more training in Asia Pacific

The Australian & New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate more with ISN and provide co-funding for the ISN Programs. Both Societies have expressed their mutual commitment to advancing nephrology in the Asia Pacific region.

This news will hopefully encourage other institutions in the developed world to express their philanthropic commitment through partnerships with ISN, and serve to provide tangible evidence and increase awareness of ISN’s goals and achievements, and to increase ISN membership.

ISN Membership news

Tailor your ISN membership

You can now sign up for one of our new tiered membership packages, more tailored to the needs of everybody within the global nephrology community. We hope to ensure that all potential ISN members in low-resource countries can access all that ISN has to offer at a reduced rate. Special fees made available for renal health professionals such as nurses, dieticians and technicians mean they can also grow their expertise and improve patient care as an ISN Member. Visit: www.theisn.org/memberlogin

Your ISN Membership and profile

To renew your membership and update your profile, go to www.theisn.org/memberlogin

Make sure to complete your membership profile as precisely as possible so that we can give you the targeted information you need.

Membership is free for trainees

Find out more by visiting: www.theisn.org/join
Lessons in INTERVENTIONAL NEPHROLOGY

Through bespoke courses, we are continuously building the capacity of healthcare professionals globally. We interviewed former Chair of the Interventional Nephrology Committee Miguel Riella to hear about the growing importance of strengthening interventional nephrology techniques across our community.

Why is interventional nephrology training important?

MR: Nephrologists are now consultants and no longer perform procedures like placing central venous lines and peritoneal catheters. Most of them lack training in these areas. To perform kidney biopsies better, there is a need for training in ultrasound image or fluoroscopy. Maintenance hemodialysis is dominated by dialysis chains and in many centers, even acute dialysis is performed by intensivists. These facts reflect on the low income of nephrologists. Most of our young nephrologists in Brazil work in Intensive Care Units as intensivists.

How does ISN training stand out in this field?

MR: Very early on, ISN perceived the important role interventional nephrology plays within nephrology training. The American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology was established in 2000, and in 2004 the ISN Executive Committee approved the Interventional Nephrology Committee which has since, at each World Congress of Nephrology (WCN), held a course with hands-on sessions. ISN is the only international scientific organization that has addressed this topic in a regular and continuous way.

What was the biggest achievement of the course at WCN 2017?

MR: The success of these ISN courses can be measured by the number of attendees, the diversity of countries they represent and the feedback we have had on site as well as later through email feedback from training centers.

MR: In general, we had 20 participants, learning about the peritoneal dialysis, central venous lines, angioplasty of AVF and ultrasonography, with two stations for hands-on training per module. This time around, we allowed more participants to try the procedure and had new training tools that truly improved the training possibilities.
What is coming up next for this committee?

MR: ISN’s idea of establishing Interventional Nephrology Training Centers located in South Korea, Kenya and Brazil will allow easier access and more opportunities for young nephrologists around the world.

Expanding my horizons in pathology

ISN mini sabbaticals in nephropathology offer a complete and truly hands-on learning experience, giving students like Alejandra Taborda (Department of Pathology of University of Antioquia, San Vicente University Hospital and IPS Universitaria Transplant Center) a chance to review and update on major diagnostic entities in nephropathology, including native and allograft diseases.

About working alongside colleagues at Academisch Medisch Centrum, she explains: ‘Dr. S. Florquin and Dr. J.J. Roelofs showed me some of their more complex and rare cases.’ She was also grateful to fellow Astrid Klooster, who showed her how to process renal biopsies, and discussed light microscopy, immunofluorescence and the electron microscopy findings of many native and allograft cases.

Meeting Per Larsen, in charge of electron microscopy process, was valuable in understanding how to improve this process at his home institute, where he is currently working on implementing electron microscopy to support research and diagnostics.

Located in Medellín (Colombia), the Department of Pathology, University of Antioquia, is the only pathology laboratory with renal pathology services in the city. The laboratory processes approximately 500 renal biopsies per year.

“Dr. S. Florquin and Dr. J.J. Roelofs showed me some of their more complex and rare cases.”

Alejandra Taborda
In July, The Renal Council of the Sudanese Medical Specialization Board in Khartoum welcomed ISN Educational Ambassador Waleed Elhassan, based at the Wayne State University School of Medicine, and Consultant in Nephrology and Director of the Sudanese American Medical Association nephrology programs.

As the only professional training body, the Sudanese Medical Specialization Board manages and delivers medical and health specialty programs in the country. It currently enrolls 13 fellows, sending them to regional affiliated hospitals so they can develop their skills.

Dr Elhassan was among the group that established peritoneal dialysis in 2005 and organized clinic-pathological conferences with the Pathology Department at Soba University and gave talks to staff as a Certified Hypertension Specialist trained by the American Society of Hypertension.

For this mission, he set out to teach students further about the basic and pathophysiological mechanisms of renal physiology as well as manage specific cases of renal disorders.

He reviewed and interpreted up-to-date literature relevant to clinical practice and gave a talk on the principles of Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy and peritoneal dialysis, looking at how to apply them when prescribing therapies for specific patients.

28 participants enrolled in these courses including adult and pediatric nephrology fellows, candidates applying for renal fellowships, interested internists and pediatricians.
More to come for Sudan’s nephrologists

The Educational Ambassador Program (EAP) Committee approved another training in Wad Medani, Sudan. ISN Educational Ambassadors Prof. Ahmed Akl and Dr. Osama El Shahat, from Egypt, together with Dr. Yasir Idriss from Sudan initiated a training course for Sudanese nephrologists at the El-Gazira hospital.

The hospital treats many acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease and kidney transplant patients daily. Training the personnel will improve the outcome of care. Nephrologists are either residents or specialists. Internal medicine intensive teams and nurses benefitted greatly from this EAP training.

Sister Center pairs Stanford University (USA) and Kandy hospital, Peridenya University (Sri Lanka)

Kandy Hospital, Peridenya University is one of the few nephrology centers in Sri Lanka caring for patients with chronic kidney disease. Hemodialysis is expensive and difficult to access for patients living in remote areas where the disease is endemic.

Nephrologists working at Kandy are attempting to provide better peritoneal dialysis services, engaging with less specialized providers in two remote clinics. A team of researchers and clinicians at Stanford University plans to implement a quality improvement project that supports and expands peritoneal dialysis use.
in 2018, World Kidney Day and International Women’s Day will be marked on the same day, offering the opportunity to highlight the importance of women’s health and particularly their kidney’s well-being. On what will be its 13th anniversary, the campaign will promote affordable and equitable access to health education, care and prevention for all women and girls globally.

The risk of developing CKD is at least as high in women as in men, and may even be higher. However, the number of women on dialysis is lower than the number of men. While a slower CKD progression in women may play a role, major psycho-socioeconomic barriers, such as lower disease awareness and inequitable access to care, influence disparities in treatment between men and women.

Indeed, it is generally recognized that women tend to donate kidneys more often and are less likely to receive them.

Kidney disease and pregnancy

While women may be affected by all kidney diseases, diseases such as lupus nephritis are more common in women. In addition, pregnancy-related complications increase the risk of kidney disease.

Women who have CKD are at an increased risk of negative outcomes in pregnancy, for both the mother and the baby: the risks of pregnancy and perinatal complications increase along with CKD progression, hypertension and proteinuria (excessive protein in the urine).

On dialysis, conception is possible, even if infrequent, and results improve with intensive (daily or nearly daily) dialysis treatment. In successfully transplanted women, chances of successful pregnancy increase as compared with dialysis but complications can arise more often than in the general population.

In turn, pregnancy-related complications increase the risk of kidney disease. Pre-eclampsia, a syndrome characterized by hypertension and proteinuria, is one of the three leading causes of maternal mortality. Pre-eclampsia, septic abortion (infection of the placenta) and post-partum hemorrhage (major bleeding after giving birth) are the leading causes of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) in young women, and may cause CKD.

Prevention to decrease the burden

The burden of these maternal complications is particularly high for women in developing countries, due to insufficient access to timely prenatal care, the improper management of women with pre-eclampsia, and a lack of available dialysis treatment for severe AKI patients.

There is a clear need for higher awareness, timely diagnosis and proper follow up of CKD in pregnancy. In turn, pregnancy may be also a valuable occasion to make an early CKD diagnosis to plan therapeutic interventions.
Need something extra to move up the career ladder, give back to the global nephrology community so more patients get better care long into the future? ISN Membership is about reading the latest updates in our Kidney International journals, gaining exclusive access to a world of multilingual education material and benefitting from bespoke research grants.

It is about becoming a mentor to boost your learning experience and broaden your professional and personal horizons. It is about making worthwhile connections to engage with a fast-growing and dedicated international community and advocate for worldwide sustainable kidney health. Get on board at www.theisn.org/join.
In the 4by4 strategy, kidney health is understood predominately as a by-product to managing diabetes and hypertension. This is clearly reflected in the fact that: while three-quarters of countries have an overarching NCD policy or strategy, more than half (53%) have no management guidelines or strategy for improving the care of people with CKD (either specifically or within a broader NCDs strategy). In late 2018 the UNGA is set to comprehensively review its strategy.

In 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognized NCDs as a major challenge for sustainable development – a political commitment previously absent from the sustainable development agenda.

Finally, a 40-plus member UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs supports countries to tackle the epidemic. The Task Force meets twice a year and reports annually through the United Nations Secretary-General to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

What are the next steps?

The 2018 High-level meeting on NCDs, taking place in September and culminating in a new strategic document will be preceded by several meetings and reports, which will point the way forward. From October 18 to 20, 2017, world leaders met in Montevideo, Uruguay, to discuss the importance of the major NCDs for sustainable development.

The conference also produced a roadmap of new global initiatives to help countries accelerate progress in reducing premature mortality from NCDs. By the end of 2017, the WHO Director-General will publish a report evaluating the progress made in fighting NCDs and formulating recommendations for the future. In early 2018, UN member states will negotiate a modalities regulation setting out the objective of the UN high level NCD meeting, the level of participation, and its duration.

ISN will closely follow the negotiations, reports and meetings preparing the ground for the 2018 high level meeting. ISN together with its partners will push for a comprehensive review of the UN NCD strategy at the highest political level and with maximum inclusion of civil society and sufficient financing at international and domestic level.
The Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology (CKDu) Consortium sets out to educate us about the international effort to fight CKDu, helping to understand the causes and slow down the impact of this mysterious form of CKD.

Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology (CKDu) constitutes a fatal and progressive loss of kidney function. It has killed more than 20,000 people in a single decade in Central America alone, with Sri Lanka showing similar figures and many more deaths unaccounted for in other regions.1

CKDu, like CKD, also leads to the progressive loss of kidney function. However, it is a unique condition that appears to have different causal drivers than most forms of CKD addressed in health systems worldwide.

Several studies, conducted in different countries, aim to discover what factors cause CKDu and how to prevent it. However, they are small and uncoordinated due to a shortage of resources, small sample sizes, variable sampling methods and non-standardized data sets.

Working together to unravel the causes

In November 2016, ISN brought together key opinion leaders and experts to examine published data, review the ongoing work and frameworks proposed in specific research areas and subsequently highlight the scientific ‘unknowns’ of CKDu and the next steps to tackle them appropriately.

A second meeting was held on May 10, 2017. ‘All participants agreed on the importance to continue working together as a worthwhile way to ensure knowledge sharing and a common approach towards tackling the disease,’ says Adeera Levin.

Four main Working Groups will focus on developing a common approach, data sets and methodologies to further knowledge on detection, interventions, molecular and translational studies as well as advocacy efforts.

Levin adds: ‘While the groups recognize the need for scientific independent competition, they also see the value of agreeing on common minimum data sets, key interventions and trial designs that will lead to important knowledge in real time, and a unified voice for the disproportionately disadvantaged group that CKDu affects.’

Reference:
https://laislanetwork.org/about-ckdu/

The four groups are currently working on a series of papers describing the approach, to ensure transparency for current and future investigators. Discover more about the CKDu Consortium, contact: lstrani@theisn.org.
By the end of 2018, the ISN Academy team will have developed one e-learning curriculum for each topic. Every month, they will promote a new nephrology topic channel.

The Editorial Content Coordinator Tejas Desai, ISN Staff and designated Topic Experts from the Education Committee, review, select and structure the educational content into a coherent learning curriculum. The curriculum is broken down into e-learning programs organized by sub-topics, which consist of 1-10 e-learning modules, or program steps.

The primary focus is to measure and credit a user’s mastery of any given learning objective, and consider a nephrologist’s time constraints when wanting to partake in online education activities.

There will also be interactive quizzes throughout the curriculum to assess learning, and each step is designed to last no longer than 60 minutes. The Academy has the capability to track and save user progress, so nephrologists can complete e-curriculums in shorter increments.

The Academy continues to organize regular webinars on educational topics in multiple languages.
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

Advancing Worldwide Kidney Health

Japanese Society of Nephrology
Japanese Society for Dialysis Therapy
As part of the local organizing committee, Masaomi Nangaku says: ‘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.’

The first Frontiers meeting will be held in Tokyo from February 22 to 25, 2018, and look into the global issues surrounding Kidney Disease and Cardiovascular Disease.

He adds: ‘Cardiovascular complications are critical for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), End Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD), and Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) patients. It is clinically and scientifically important to study the update of cardiovascular disease in kidney disease patients to optimize clinical practice and develop novel therapeutic modalities to improve prognosis and quality of life of kidney disease patients all over the world.’

This meeting is also very important for Japanese participants because it is now the third ISN meeting to be held in the country.

The first ISN meeting was organized about 30 years ago, and the ISN Nexus symposium took place some 10 years ago. ‘We feel really honored and excited to hold the ISN official meeting in our country,’ explains Nangaku.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) kills eight out of every 10 patients with early acute and chronic kidney disease well before end-stage kidney failure. On the other hand, AKI is one dire consequence of CVD, and in turn predisposes to future CKD and CVD. The global nephrology and cardiology communities must collaborate to better understand the interaction between kidney disease and CVD to manage patients with kidney and cardiac-related complications.

Another Frontiers meeting will be held in Gothenburg, Sweden on 3-6 October 2019 on the topic of the interdependence of Cardio-Pulmonary-Renal disease interactions.

Register early
Make sure you register for this event before November 27, 2017
More information: www.isnfrontiers.org/tokyo
ISN

upcoming events

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

ISN Academy webinars supported by our partners

SEN webinar recordings in Spanish

Thanks to our partnership with the Spanish Society of Nephrology (SEN), ISN Academy is excited to announce a webinar series in Spanish. The first in this collection was held on September 8, 2017 entitled ‘ERC como un síndrome de envejecimiento acelerado.’

It was led by Alberto Ortiz Arduan and moderated by Roberto Alcázar Arroyo. The complete program for this series will be released soon. SEN is also set to provide more learning materials and social media coverage in Spanish in the future. Go to academy.theisn.org to start watching.

ANZSN gives us a great series of webinars

The ISN Academy has partnered with the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN) for a series of webinars directed towards nephrology trainees. Five webinars were held from May to October 2017. The webinars were case-based discussions over the hour and cover basics that allows the trainee to manage classic cases in the area. All recordings are available on academy.theisn.org in the recorded webinars section.

Check out ISN Academy webinars

As well as the above mentioned, you can catch the latest ISN Academy webinars by visiting: academy.theisn.org

ISN Frontiers meetings

Kidney Disease & Cardiovascular Disease
February 22-25, 2018, Tokyo, Japan
www.isnfrontiers.org/tokyo

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
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