

# ISN news

An Official Publication of the International Society of Nephrology



## A Man with Many Hats ISN News Sits Down with President-Elect John Feehally

Unfortunately, we are speaking figuratively here. As much as ISN News tried to get John to pose for pictures with hats from around the world, we failed. But as far as figurative hats go, Professor John Feehally has a walk-in closet full of them.

Most will know him as the ISN Secretary-General since 2005, but his work as the ISN Fellowship Chair has helped maintain it as one of ISN COMGAN's leading programs. He is Professor of Renal Medicine at the University of Leicester UK, and immediate Past-President of the Renal Association, the professional body of nephrologists and renal scientists in the UK. He is also a member of the Renal Advisory Group at the UK Department of Health and chairs a committee directing the development of informatics in nephrology in the UK.

He began his medical career by training in primary care medicine, attracted by the opportunities it gives for holistic care. But a brief experience in nephrology was enough for him to realize that its intellectual challenge and technical complexity combined with the holistic life-long care of people with kidney failure provided an ideal career for him. His clinical focus is on glomerulonephritis and renal transplantation. His major laboratory research program is in immune renal disease, especially IgA nephropathy. He also has epidemiological and clinical research interests in ethnic variations in renal disease.

ISN News was fortunate enough to sit down with Professor Feehally to ask him about his upcoming term and his goals for ISN.

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Carol Pollock

Dear All,

Following the success of this year's WCN, ISN leadership has had a few months to sit down and take stock of all the inevitable changes in leadership positions. New President-Elect John Feehally and the ISN Executive Committee has welcomed Adeera Levin as the new ISN Secretary-General and David Harris as our new Fellowship Chair. Both are highly respected clinicians, leaders in their respective research fields internationally and with a collective wealth of administrative experience.

We expect they will steer the ISN through challenging and competitive international negotiations that will increase the profile of renal disease as a significant contributor to the burden of chronic disease and itself being a significant cardiovascular risk factor. We look forward to working closely with both of them over the next few years and thank them for taking the time to answer a few questions for *ISN News*. As always, John has also been kind enough to talk about his upcoming term in office.

As David Harris takes over the reins of our Fellowship Program, we take an in-depth look at the progress the program has made over the years.

The first ever ISN Nexus meeting to be held in Asia is developing nicely. The educational program promises to be top-notch, and Kyoto, Japan is sure to be a lovely meeting destination so be sure to sign up early!

The new World Kidney day site has been launched and promises to be an educational and interactive tool for all program developers. The website offers organizers a year-round place to circulate ideas, find materials and communicate with other supporters.

And of course, ASN Renal Week is almost upon us. ISN will be at booth 410 - 414. I would encourage particularly younger members of our profession to make contact with our ISN staff to ensure they are aware of the benefits in joining the ISN. ▶

Carol Pollock

### Don't forget... Important dates for your diary

**October 1 – January 1, 2010**  
ISN Renewal Season has arrived!

**October 27 - November 1, 2009**  
ASN Renal Week! Everyone focus on San Diego.

**October 31**  
Nexus, Kyoto abstract submission deadline.

**December 24**  
Nexus, Kyoto early registration deadline.

### ISN News Retraction

In the previous edition of *ISN News*, it was incorrectly stated under the election winners that Professor Meguid El Nahas, PhD, FRCP was a Past Chair of the British Renal Association. His correct title is Past Chair of the International Committee of the British Renal Association. We apologize for the mistake.

### In the Next Issue

**ISN is turning 50! Join ISN News as we celebrate the last 50 years and look ahead at the future of ISN.**

#### ISN news

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# ISN Fellowship Program – Linking Nephrologists Around the World for 25 Years

Since its inception in 1985, the ISN Fellowship Program has been dedicated to providing relevant and contemporary training to physicians from emerging countries, with the ultimate goal of improving the standards in their countries of origin. The guiding principle of the program is that Fellows are required to return to their home countries after their training in order to convey the knowledge and experience acquired during their fellowship — thereby teaching countless young physicians and providing critical enhancement to kidney disease care in their local communities. One of the criteria to become a Fellow is that Fellows are guaranteed a position in their home institution upon their return.

ISN Fellows receive hands-on training in advanced host institutions allowing them to acquire state-of-the-art knowledge in basic and clinical nephrology, dialysis, transplantation, epidemiology and educational methods. The training focuses on providing the exact skills and knowledge specifically required by the home institution. This enables them to provide advanced treatment, teach and become future leaders in their countries, where the need is most critical.

Throughout the developing world, former ISN Fellows continue to make ISN proud by becoming professors, heads of departments, and leaders of national nephrology societies; several Fellows have set up the first nephrology units in their countries or have implemented renal transplant programs on a national level.

A survey conducted in 2007 indicated that over 80% of the fellows had, in effect, returned home and were in positions in local academic centers with direct impact on clinical care and teaching. A new survey planned for 2010 will enable a fresh in-depth investigation on the impact of the program on local nephrology as well as how the program resists the “brain-drain” problem.

Until December 2008, a total of 480 young nephrologists from 81 countries have been trained - or are still in training - as ISN Fellows in “host institutions” spread over 23 countries.

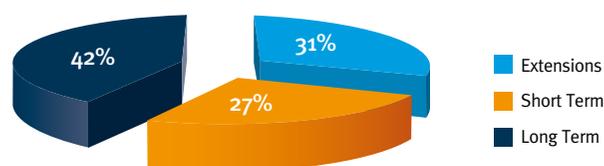
Initially these host institutions were located primarily in North America, Europe, and Australia; increasingly nephrology centers within the Fellow’s region of origin are able and willing to provide high-quality training that is regionally relevant.

The program hosts two competitive application rounds a year with annual deadlines on 31 January and 31 July.

Several Fellowships are sponsored and/or co-organized with specific institutes, national or regional renal societies.

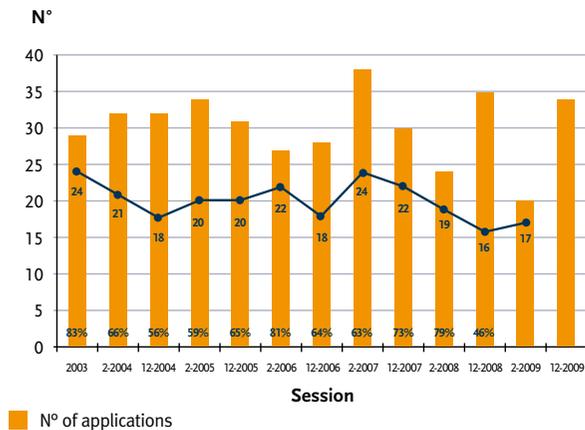
- ASN: supports selected successful Fellowship applicants from Central America.
- Genzyme: supports selected Latin American Fellows.
- Hong Kong Society: mainland Chinese Fellows train in selected centers in Hong Kong.
- KRUK: supports selected Fellows training in the U.K.
- SLANH: Latin American Fellows train in selected centers within the continent.
- Turkish Society: Turkish Fellows training in the USA receive additional ISN funding above what their local society provides.
- Recent partnerships with the Chinese American Society and the University of Michigan (for Caribbean Fellows) will commence in the near future.

Accepted ISN Fellowship applications per fellowship type 2008-2009





### N° of received applications vs. n° of awarded trainings



Several criteria are upheld and an international jury objectively assesses the applications according to a variety of set scoring factors. Applicants may apply for either a short term training (3-6 months) or a long term training (6-12 months); extensions can be applied for after a successful first year of training. ▶

More information can be found on: [www.isn-online.org/society/outreach/isn\\_20082.html](http://www.isn-online.org/society/outreach/isn_20082.html) or through a hardcopy program guide.

### Recent Program Graduate Maria Cecilia Freitas Says:

*“We have established a bridge between UCLA and The Federal University of Sao Paulo (UNIFESP). As an immediate result, last April a professor from The Dumont-UCLA Transplant Center gave a presentation on their research in transplantation immunobiology and interacted with young Brazilian scientists at the Federal University of Sao Paulo (UNIFESP).”*

### Roche Diagnostics Donates 1,200 Urine Sticks to ISN!

ISN would like to recognize Roche for their generous contribution of 1,200 urine sticks. ISN has distributed these to three centers in South America:

**Dialisis Cronica, Hospital Maciel**  
Montevideo, Uruguay

**Hospital Juan XXIII, Programa de Prevención de Enfermedades Renales**  
Munaypata, La Paz, Bolivia

**Provincial Nephrology Program**  
San Miguel de Tucuman, Argentina

## ● New Chair

# The Sister Renal Center Program has a New Chair!

Paul Harden, from the Oxford Kidney Unit in the U.K., has recently taken over as the new Chair of the Sister Renal Center Program. ISN looks for exciting things to come from the Sister Renal Centers as the program continues to evolve. Watch for an update in the next newsletter as we get Paul Harden’s views on the direction of the SRC Program. ▶



## A Man with Many Hats... (continued)



### What do you see as ISN's most important goals as you start your term as President-Elect and then into your Presidency?

I don't believe that the goals of ISN have changed. We have always worked for the development and expansion of nephrology all over the world, be it the developed or the developing world; but I am very glad that ISN's philanthropic goals in the developing world are now even more explicit in ISN's new Mission Statement. For 20 years COMGAN has been the major expression of that mission, and I am very proud to have been part of that effort during my four years as Chair of Fellowship Program. The potential for ISN COMGAN is enormous, and we just want to make sure as many people as possible are aware of these wonderful programs. All of us, wherever we live in the world, can contribute through being ISN members.

### How do you feel your previous roles in ISN as Secretary-General and the Fellowship Chair, have prepared you for upcoming responsibilities?

Well, I think any involvement in ISN would have broadened my horizons and helped me understand better the needs of the world. Particularly though, my role as Fellowship Chair has focused me on the real outworking of ISN's mission and vision; while my role as Secretary-General has shown me that an efficiently structured and managed organization [not always as easy as it sounds!] can achieve its goals so much more effectively.



### One of the main goals for ISN seems to be collaboration with various international and national societies. How has ISN worked to create a productive, goal-oriented process?

Because ISN's goals are very ambitious, partnerships have become critical to help us move forward. We are currently working to strengthen our existing partnerships with affiliated national and regional nephrology societies. ISN has about 8,500 members, but through our affiliated societies we estimate we are in contact with more than 25,000 nephrologists worldwide - imagine how much more we could be achieving in the developing world with three times the support.

Beyond that, I also believe that it is very important to have partnerships with medical organizations in fields related to nephrology, such as societies focusing on hypertension and diabetes. Identifying chronic kidney disease early is so important to these groups because it is a powerful predictor of cardiovascular risk. By working with our friends and colleagues in other specialties we can make sure that this message is heard and understood tenfold.

Right now, we are focusing on making our message heard and strengthening our existing affiliates. As we continue to provide tangible support and outreach in the developing world, I think that creating future partnerships will be made much easier.





### Many kidney diseases often go undetected. What can ISN do to better inform people?

I think that this links closely to your last question. ISN needs to get involved with related societies, professions, governments and other agencies involved in public health. If we can work to curtail the rise of diabetes and high blood pressure around the world, we can stop the problem at the source. And at the heart of that is a simple public health message about healthy lifestyle – not new but as important as ever! But another important message for those diagnosed with kidney disease is that year on year, there is more that can be done to prevent or delay kidney failure. That is why it is so important to reach out to these groups.

### Can you tell us a little bit about some of your favorite ISN COMGAN programs?

So much is happening it is difficult to pick out particular things, but I must tell you that my heart still lies with the Fellowship Program. It is a remarkable privilege meeting current ISN Fellows and hearing their excitement at the opportunity they have been given; and meeting past ISN Fellows from all over the world, many of whom are now nephrology leaders in their own countries, who say that the ISN Fellowship provided a unique and pivotal part of their education and training.

### As we are all aware, the availability of organs for transplant is not even close to the number needed. How can ISN work to balance these numbers?

I think that many of the issues here lie in public awareness. As a society, we must work hard to get the message across that there is a shortage of organs for transplantation. It is

also important to realize that living donors are the main source of organs. In many parts of the world there are not enough kidney transplants from relatives, family or friends of people who need one; we must increase the number of donations from living as well as deceased donors. We need to improve education and awareness so that living donation increases in every country in the world where transplant is possible.

But we must do that in the context of the Istanbul Declaration to ensure that unscrupulous and unethical practice in organ transplantation is discredited and outlawed. ISN especially values its partnership in the Istanbul Declaration with The Transplantation Society.

### World Kidney Day 2010 is right around the corner. Do you hope to use this as one of your main platforms to increase awareness?

Of course, a day dedicated to our mission and vision, must be a great platform. Although we work on this throughout the entire year, World Kidney Day is the day when we focus all our efforts.

World Kidney Day has grown remarkably in the four years since its inception. I must be honest and say it has grown faster and achieved more than I ever dared to expect.

In 2009, there were remarkable World Kidney Day events in more than 100 countries. In 2010, we will especially focus our efforts on messages about the importance of preventing kidney disease in people with diabetes. ▀

## ASN Presents the John P. Peters Award to Professor William E. Mitch, M.D.

The John P. Peters Award recognizes individuals who have made substantial research contributions to the discipline of nephrology and have sustained achievements in one or more domains of academic medicine including clinical care, education and leadership. Established in 1983, this annual award is named for one of the fathers of the discipline of nephrology.

Professor Mitch's work has specifically sought to identify the correlation between progressive kidney failure and the loss of muscle mass. His studies have identified several mechanisms causing this problem and tested them successfully in animal models and in patients with progressive kidney failure. These mechanisms include: the accumulation of acid, a high level of angiotensin II, inflammation, and the presence of diabetes in patients with kidney disease. These problems all result in abnormal regulation of the responses to insulin and insulin like growth factor-1 and

this in turn results in activation of pathways that degrade protein in muscle.

"I have worked for the International Society of Nephrology and the American Society of Nephrology to advance research in the treatment of patients with kidney disease. I have always felt that the ISN plays a special role because they work to improve the care of patients with kidney disease around the world. For these reasons, I am honored to receive the John P. Peters Award and am very grateful to the American Society of Nephrology for this recognition. Receiving this award is especially meaningful because I will join colleagues who have contributed greatly to ASN, ISN and the study of nephrology as a whole." - Professor William E. Mitch, M.D.



# Kidney and the Vascular System

Emerging Culprits in Pathogenesis and Advances in Therapy  
 April 15-18, 2010 - Kyoto, Japan

The Nexus Symposia are designed to bridge the gap between basic research and clinical practice. The topic of Nexus Kyoto in 2010 is “Kidney and Vascular System: Emerging Culprits in Pathogenesis and Advances in Therapy.” This symposium is a unique opportunity for renal scientists and clinicians from around the world to learn and exchange views on the most recent advances in basic and clinical nephrology of this clinically important topic.



ISN is excited to be hosting this event in Kyoto, Japan, one of the most beautiful and historic cities in the country. This is the first ISN Nexus symposium to be held in Asia and offers an opportunity to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ISN. This Nexus Symposium addresses recent advances of translational research and clinical medicine on the intriguing links between the kidney, bone, and extra-renal vascular system. Newer culprits in vascular alterations will be highlighted to help better understand pathologies of renal-bone-cardiovascular connection, as well as identify promising targets for innovative, future therapies.

Key translational session topics include:

- Mineral Metabolism
- Oxygen Disorders
- Adiposcience
- Promising Targets for Future Therapy

#### Clinical Sessions

- Cardio-renal Syndrome
- Bone-Vascular connection
- Renovascular benefits of cardiovascular drugs

Plenary lectures will be made by top clinical scientists in the field of nephrology, cardiology, and diabetology, including:

- Professor Eberhard Ritz (Cardio-Renal Network)
- Tilman Drueke (Kidney-Bone-Vascular Connection)
- Alan Go (CKD-CVD)
- Issei Komuro (Regeneration Therapy for Heart Failure)
- Takashi Kadowaki (Adipobiology and Vascular System) ▶

Make sure to watch the website for full program information:  
[www.isn-nexus2010.com](http://www.isn-nexus2010.com)



## ISN 2010 Nexus in Kyoto Is Introducing “Meet the Professor Breakfasts”

Get outside advice, network or simply enjoy interesting conversations with experts in your field!

Don't miss this new session! “Meet the Professor Breakfasts” are designed to provide young nephrologists with the chance to learn from the best. In a small interactive group (15-20 persons), clinical experts and senior academic scientists will provide insights in respective fields and career guidance. For two days participants will discuss specific issues over a nice breakfast. Topics could include all fields of study, including basic, translational, and clinical.



▶ Dr. Adeera Levin

# ISN Appoints Adeera Levin as the New Secretary-General

After John Feehally was chosen to be President-Elect in Milan, ISN President Bernardo Rodriguez Iturbe consulted several leaders as to who would be best suited to take over the position of Secretary-General. The unanimous decision was to ask Adeera Levin (Vancouver, Canada) to step in. Dr. Levin was gracious enough to accept the position, and is looking to assume the full responsibilities of Secretary-General in early 2010.

For those of you who know Dr. Levin, her appointment to Secretary-General does not come as a surprise. Dr. Levin is currently a Professor of Medicine at the University of British Columbia (UBC), and Co-director of the Clinical Investigator Program at UBC. She is also the Executive Director of the BC Provincial Renal Agency, an organization that manages and coordinates the care of patients with kidney disease in the province of British Columbia and has developed and maintained the provincial registry for renal patients.

She is the Chair of Curriculum Committee for the National KRESCENT (Kidney Research and Education Scientist Education Training program). In addition she is immediate past Chair of the NKF KDOQI guideline process, and is on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the newly formed KDIGO, an international group providing collaborative structure for outcomes research and guideline development in CKD.

Her research and clinical activities focus on chronic kidney disease, co morbidities associated with CKD, mechanisms of disease and health outcomes research. She is active in mentoring young investigators in kidney related research, and holds numerous grants for clinical studies. She has received funding from peer reviewed organizations such as CIHR (Canadian Institute for Health Research), Kidney Foundation of Canada, Michael Smith Foundation and the Ministry of Health Services BC. In addition, she is the principal investigator on a number of studies funded by industry but designed and developed by investigators. She has been awarded the Providence Health Care Senior Scientist Award for Research 2008, and the John Dossator Award from the National Kidney Foundation of Canada for contributions to the national Kidney Research mission 2009.

She has over 175 peer reviewed publications, numerous book chapters, and has been guest editor for sections in Current Opinion in Nephrology and Hypertension, Seminars in Dialysis, and others as well as serving on the editorial board for NDT, JASN and AJKD. She is subject editor for CKD in NDT. She reviews papers for Circulation, Annals of Internal Medicine, Lancet, New England Journal of Medicine, Critical

Care Medicine, Canadian Family Practice, Transplantation and international granting agencies as well.

*ISN News* sat down with Adeera to find out a little bit more about the newly appointed Secretary-General.

**Were you surprised when the ISN ask you to become the new Secretary-General or did someone tip you off beforehand?**

I was hugely surprised. I have only been on Council for two years, and had never even contemplated being asked to take such a role so early in my ISN involvement. It was a huge honor to be asked to take over for John Feehally, who has really done an outstanding job in the role.

**How do you think your previous positions have helped you prepare for your new role?**

Having been involved in numerous local, provincial, national and international efforts to coordinate aspects of kidney care research, guidelines or educational activities, I think that I have gained a good understanding of commonalities and differences around the world, the importance of communication, clarity, honesty and the strength that comes to any group from a common commitment to improving patient outcomes.

**We seem to know a lot about you professionally, but can you tell us a little bit about yourself (hobbies, interests)?**

I am an avid swimmer (about 15-20 km / week). I love cooking and entertaining. I also enjoy dabbling in knowing (and drinking) wines from around the world. I love to read but do not often get enough time. A long time ago, before I had thought of being a physician, I once wanted to be an English literature major or author.

**Have you had time to think about goals for your tenure?**

At the current time, as I am learning about the role and working with the current leadership team, I have not formulated specific goals for my tenure, but rather wish to ensure that I can fully support the ISN in its mission and direction over the next years.

### Did you always know that you wanted to focus on nephrology/CKD or was there a specific event that led you in this direction?

As a medical student and resident at McMaster with mentors like David Sackett, Gord Guyatt and others, I was always struck by the need to understand and study the full spectrum of disease and to learn about conditions by close observation of entire trajectories in diverse populations. Thus, my interest in CKD, as the precursor to end stage kidney disease, has been longstanding. As well, the physiology and disordered pathophysiology of kidney disease and its complex interaction with vascular biology was intellectually appealing to me. The focus on nephrology after general medical training was actually also due to my interest in holistic perspectives to patient care and disease, and my belief that nephrology is truly a specialty that permits physicians and health care systems to consider the whole patient and family, and has a variety of diverse aspects (immunology, physiology, technology, acute and chronic care paradigms) to ensure multiple skill sets are exercised and developed.

### The WCN 2011 is heading out to Vancouver, BC. Can you tell us a little bit about what makes Vancouver such a great place for the Congress?

Vancouver is a beautiful city, positioned between mountains and ocean, small enough to get around easily but with a cosmopolitan feel and diversity. It is truly an international city and represents many values of the ISN and the WCN: a variety of languages, in addition to the official national languages of Canada (French and English), are spoken, the restaurant selection is fantastic, and there are many cultural and outdoor activities for all tastes. The new Congress Center is a testament to 'green' building. It overlooks the ocean and a large park. It is situated downtown and surrounded by more than 3,000 hotel rooms within 10 minutes walking distance. The 2011 WCN meeting we are creating in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Nephrology promises to be a collaborative, highly interactive, and stimulating meeting. ▶



## 2011 Election - Call for Nominations

The 2011 Nominations Committee is now accepting nominations for President-Elect. Please include a copy of the nominees Curriculum Vitae and compelling reasons for election with all nominations. The Nominating Committee will collect suggestions and identify three candidates for the elections in 2011.

## ISN Welcomes Dr. Kai-Uwe Eckardt as the Incoming ISN Forefronts Chair



▶ Dr. Kai-Uwe Eckardt

Dr. Eckardt is currently the Professor of Medicine and Chief of Nephrology and Hypertension at the University of Erlangen - Nuremberg. His research is based on a long-standing interest in the regulation of erythropoietin and focuses on molecular mechanisms

and (patho) physiological relevance of oxygen sensing. His role on the Scientific Programming Committee for the 2009 WCN in Milan makes us sure that he is the right person to advance this great program.

The ISN Forefronts in Nephrology program was initiated by key ISN leaders such as Ike Robinson, Donald Seldin, Gerhard Giebisch and others in 1984. It focuses on various aspects of basic research in nephrology by organizing symposia of the highest scientific standards.

The ISN Forefronts in Nephrology works to familiarize nephrologists with emerging fields in research which are likely to have a major impact on their future work. By making nephrologists aware of the latest research and findings outside of nephrology, ISN ensures that its members are at the 'forefront' of renal research. It also aims to enhance the quality of nephrology research by establishing contacts and collaboration between top researchers from different fields. Young scientists are integral to the future development of the field, and that is why these symposia expose developing leaders to cutting edge research. To facilitate this, ISN offers significant support through travel grants and scholarships.

# David Harris Looks to Move the Fellowship Program Forward

The ISN-COMGAN Nephrology Fellowship Program, previously directed by the new ISN President-Elect John Feehally of Leicester UK, has been a major source of trained nephrologists in developing countries for almost a quarter century. Recently, Professor John Feehally handed over the reins to Professor David Harris, who is the current Associate Dean, Sydney Medical School-Western, University of Sydney and a nephrologist at Westmead Hospital.

For the past decade, Professor Harris has helped facilitate ANZ's, and more recently ISN's, support of nephrology in the Asia-Pacific region. He is extremely passionate about the mission of ISN and specifically that of the Fellowship Program to advance nephrology worldwide.

“By developing future leaders of nephrology in emerging countries, the Fellowship Program is central to ISN's activities. Due to the past success of the program, each region now has several nations with advanced nephrology training capabilities, and these regional ties have greatly strengthened the Fellowship Program. I would like to see every major regional society joining ISN to support such intraregional fellowships.” - Professor David Harris, MD, BS, FRACP.

The earliest established of the ISN COMGAN programs, these fellowships enable young nephrologists from low and middle income countries to train for periods of 3-24 months in an established center. Training can be provided in a wide

range of clinical, epidemiologic, or laboratory research; or in educational methods.

Originally the host centers were exclusively in North America, Europe, and Australia; increasingly they are within the region of origin of the fellow, where nephrology programs continue to emerge that are able to provide high quality training. David hopes to see this number continue to rise in the next few years. There are two rounds of applications each year (closing dates: January 31 and July 31).

Dr. Harris has stressed that his tenure as Fellowship Chair will focus on the lasting impact that the program offers. He points out that all over the developing world former ISN Fellows are now leading nephrology professors, department heads, and key members of national nephrology societies.

Creating this kind of value around the world is what makes the Fellowship Program so special, and Professor Harris intends to keep this trend going. ▶

## Kidney International's 2008 Impact Factor is an Amazing - 6,418!\*



*Kidney International's* impact factor has moved from 4,922 to 6,418 in the last two years. *KI* is now ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> among 57 urology and nephrology journals and is technically the most cited nephrology journal. The Impact Factor is calculated as the number of citations in 2008 to the total number of *KI* papers published in 2006 and 2007 (6,046 cites). *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* (JASN) received 5,681 citations in the same period.

Citations are only one factor in estimating the dissemination of scientific knowledge. When you send your best research to *KI*, it will be SEEN, READ and DOWNLOADED by a large number of working scientists and clinicians.

### On our Website:

- Page visits average over 188,000 per month
- Average abstract downloads of 63,000 per month
- Average HTML article downloads of 134,000 per month

Send your best research papers to the most cited journal in nephrology: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ki>

*Kidney International*: [www.nature.com/ki/index.html](http://www.nature.com/ki/index.html)

\*2008 Journal Citation Reports (Thomson Reuters, 2009)

# Young Nephrologists Meet at the WCN

One of ISN's newest initiatives, the Young Nephrologists Committee (YNC), is coming off a big year at the WCN in Milan with the establishment of the Young Nephrologists Awards Program. The committee was established less than two years ago and is trying to clearly outline its role within the ISN organization.

As such, it is looking to integrate YNC members into all areas of ISN outreach and education. One of the newest initiatives is to have the YNC members establish a presence on all ISN committees to make sure that their voice is heard. The Young Nephrologists are also looking at other initiatives to help increase their visibility, such as establishing educational workshops and mentoring programs.

The YNC is urging all nephrologists under 40 to get involved with ISN programs. ▶

## The YNC Would Like to Thank Its Retiring Members for Their Support!

- Vipul Chitalia, USA
- Linda Ezekiel, Africa
- Vanita Jasaal, Canada
- Valerie Luyckx, Canada
- Peter Mertens, Germany
- Suresh Sankarasubbaiyan, India

## Join Young Nephrologists on Facebook!

facebook

The YNC is excited to have launched its own Facebook page. Visit the site to link up with other young nephrologists and develop professional relationships in a laid-back environment. [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=266460840304](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=266460840304)



in cooperation with the  
Canadian Society of Nephrology

WORLD CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY

# WCN2011

VANCOUVER, CANADA / APRIL 8-12 / 2011

**Mark your calendar** for the leading international nephrology event for renal community worldwide!

# Expanding Awareness Around the World – the WKD 2010 Website Is Here!

The new World Kidney Day website serves as an interactive platform where patients, medical professionals and the general public can engage with other World Kidney Day supporters. By providing the tools and platform to connect and exchange ideas, it has never been easier to create a spectacular WKD program for your local area.

[www.worldkidneyday.org/](http://www.worldkidneyday.org/)

This website is a testament to all of the hard work that individuals, national societies and foundations have put in over the years. It enables you, the local organizers, to reach out to a worldwide network of medical professionals, patients and individuals to exchange ideas, best practices and program development information. Local organizers are able to upload content directly to the site.

This website was built to help supporters year round with regular updates including materials, figures and ongoing discussions about worldwide kidney issues.

**So get involved, get inspired, and most importantly, be inspiring!**

**Populate these key areas to make sure WKD is a huge success in 2010 and beyond!**

- A map to enable visitors to find their nearest screening centres, updated all year long!
- Nutritional tips to keep healthy kidneys
- Q/As and brochures on CKD and related diseases
- Guidelines booklets to help WKD supporters reach out to celebrities, the media and their governments
- A press kit
- New campaign material
- A creative section with ideas for action
- Forums, where you can exchange on a topic of your choice!

- Blogs: we need to populate this section with blogs on your life as a nephrologist, on the healthcare reality in your country, etc.
- Picture and video galleries

Other features are also being prepared!

We need bloggers, tweeters and conversation starters! Don't be afraid to put your voice out there. If you are interested in helping to promote WKD activities, go to the website now! If you want to get more involved and are not sure how? **Visit the website at [www.worldkidneyday.org](http://www.worldkidneyday.org)**

**Let's make sure that this World Kidney Day encourages all diagnosed diabetes patients to be screened! ▶**



▶ Professor John Feehally

## Update from the Secretary-General - ISN at the ASN Renal Week!

ISN is looking forward to ASN Renal Week. We are excited to increase our collaboration with ASN and to grow ISN's presence in North America. ASN Renal Week is a great platform to develop the relationships needed to increase ISN's outreach into all areas of the world. Renal Week also takes place during our annual ISN renewal period. Renewing Members and new members will receive an ISN Travel Mug for signing up on site. So make sure to sign up early because supplies are limited.

ISN is also supplying copies of *Kidney International* to centers in the developing world for every new member that signs up.



► Ferial Saouli

# Get to Know the ISN Staff – Ferial Saouli, Society Manager

As the new ISN Society Manager, it is Ferial’s task to make sure that all programs and initiatives run smoothly for ISN. Ferial was nice enough to spare a little bit of time in her busy schedule to let the membership know a little bit more about her.



## What interests you most about the Society?

I am very impressed with ISN’s philanthropic mission. It is really motivating and inspiring to think that my work with ISN helps to contribute, albeit modestly, to the accomplishment of its mission.

## Can you elaborate a bit more on your past endeavors?

I have been an Association Executive for nine years, working in fields as different as window films, recycling, allergy and asthma. Prior to that, I worked for the PACTE Cooperation Program, a European initiative for economic support and transfer of know-how between the various European Member States. I started my career working as a translator/interpreter as I have been trained in French, English and Italian. I also speak Arabic as I am Algerian.

## ISN has recently refocused its mission to be devoted to community outreach and philanthropic values. How have you and your staff been implementing this shift in mentality?

The new philanthropic mission statement of ISN was already in place when we started our work for ISN. So for us, there has been no shift in mentality. We have only had one mission to focus on from the beginning. And we are doing our best to make sure that it is consistently communicated to all audiences.

## What are you most looking forward to seeing ISN accomplish in the next few years?

To simply continue on its successful path. ►

## Getting to Know Ferial Saouli Abbreviated Version - ISN 20 Questions!

**Books or movies? Why choose?**

**Coffee or tea?** Tea – absolutely. And I am quite picky!

**Beach front resort or camping in the woods?** Beach front resort.

**Dogs or cats?** Dogs. And ... cats with no attitude!

**PC or Mac?** PC.

**Talk more or listen more?** I am a woman, what do you expect?!\*

**Plane, train or automobile?** Depends on the journey. I am very practical.

**Last movie you saw in the theatre?** It was so bad I actually left after 40 minutes ...I am obviously not disclosing the title (too embarrassing)!\*\*

**Last song played on your iPod?** Alaoui, by Orchestre National de Barbès, an Algerian band. One of the most uplifting songs I know.

**Last book that you read?** “A la recherche du Liban perdu”, a book on Lebanon by Lebanese Journalist Nahida Nakad.

**Favorite vacation destination?** I like to discover new horizons, so I don’t have “favorite” destinations. Anywhere with sun is nice though.

**Favorite dessert?** Why choose?

**Most feared animal?** Anything that crawls.

**Favorite sport?** Ummm...Pass.

**Blackberry or iPhone?** Blackberry.

**Favorite Actor/Actress?** Denzel Washington.

**Wild night out or quiet night in?** Both, it depends on my mood. Although I am quite happy at home, as I do a fair bit of travel for work.

**Summers or Winters?** Summers.

**Blue or Black ink?** Blue.

**Favorite TV show?** 24 and Damages!

\* This question had to be asked again after the interview was completed. The interview was conducted by a man...he wasn't listening.

\*\* After extensive journalistic diligence, ISN News was able to determine the “awful movie” in question, but we have to agree with Ferial. It should not be public knowledge.

## World Kidney Day 2010! A Call to Action...

Mark your calendars! The next World Kidney Day will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2010. The specific focus for this year's campaign is on diabetes, the most common cause of kidney failure. It is therefore absolutely crucial to reach out to diabetes sufferers and all healthcare providers to raise awareness of the link between diabetes and kidney failure and the need for regular screening to detect any early signs of kidney disease.

**Happy Planning from the WKD Team!**

We need  
your help!

## Check a Few Boxes and Earn a Chance to Save Hundreds of Dollars/Euros

ISN is currently reviewing our website and we need your help! In order to create a more vibrant online community, ISN is looking for your feedback on current web services.

Check the website, [www.isn-online.org](http://www.isn-online.org), or go to the ISN Gateway Survey, [www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=XOYr2jG1hrKyvZITQmqkgA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=XOYr2jG1hrKyvZITQmqkgA_3d_3d), and answer a few quick questions about the site.

### What's in it for you?

Well, besides the overall benefit of creating a thriving network of colleagues and peers that will help make your professional life a little easier, ISN will be **giving away**:

- 10 One-Year Free Membership Renewals for ISN Members
- One Free Conference Registration to the 2011 WCN in Vancouver

**So take a few minutes to let us know your thoughts, and you could be one of the happy winners!**

## ISN Collaborates with the International Society of Hypertension (ISH)

Over the last few months there have been fruitful discussions between ISN leadership and the International Society of Hypertension (ISH). This has led to agreement on a formal working partnership between ISN and ISH. The final draft of that agreement was approved by the ISH Council at the end of June 2009.

The excellent collaborative spirit of these discussions gives optimism for a productive and even handed partnership between the two societies. John Feehally, President-Elect of ISN, commented:

*"There is the potential that the agreement made between ISN and ISH can be a template for partnership agreements between ISN and other organizations with shared interests both within the renal community and in related medical fields, although these have not yet been explored."*



## Joint ISN-ISRNM Symposium: Exercise in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease May 28, 2010 Lausanne, Switzerland

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Renal Nutrition and Metabolism (ICRNM) 2010 organizes an exceptional Joint Symposium as part of the celebration of the ISN 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This event will be dedicated to Exercise in Chronic Kidney Disease.

**More information on the ISRNM:**  
[www.isrnm-lausanne2010.org](http://www.isrnm-lausanne2010.org)

**Or ISN Gateway:**  
[www.isn-online.org/conference](http://www.isn-online.org/conference)

## ISN COMGAN Research & Prevention Session

Out of 14 applications received, the ISN awarded 4 outstanding projects.

1

**“Molecular Epidemiology of the Udhanam Endemic Nephropathy”**

Dr. M.S. Ravi Shankar -  
Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India

2

**“High Prevalence of Chronic Kidney Disease in Rural Andhrapradesh: Ground Water Contamination is the Culprit?”**

Dr. Gangadhar Taduri, Hyderabad, India

3

**“Screening, Early Diagnosis and Management of HIV-Associated Chronic Kidney Disease in Antiretroviral Naïve HIV-Infected Patients Attending Rural and Urban Clinics in South Africa: a Multicentre Prospective Study”**

Dr. June Fabian, Johannesburg,  
South Africa

4

**“Population-Based Prevalence Survey of Renal Disease, Hypertension and Diabetes in Urban Karachi”**

Dr. Farhana Amanullah, Karachi,  
Pakistan

The Research and Prevention Call for Proposals Program has been developed to support selected projects in developing countries on a competitive basis.

Application Deadlines:

Session 1: April 1

Session 2: October 1

More information on the COMGAN Research & Prevention Program:

[www.isn-online.org/society/outreach/isn\\_20089.html](http://www.isn-online.org/society/outreach/isn_20089.html)  
or contact An and Sophie ([adevriese@isn-online.org](mailto:adevriese@isn-online.org);  
[sdupuis@isn-online.org](mailto:sdupuis@isn-online.org)) for more information.

Advancing Nephrology around the World



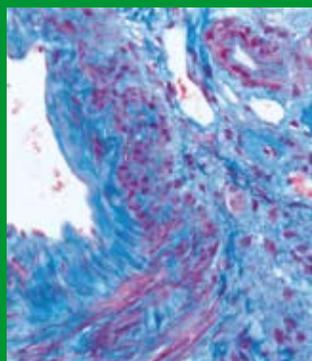
## Apply for an ISN Educational Ambassador to Visit Your Center!

Tired of reading journals, reviews and textbooks that cannot answer your questions or give advice? Invite the expert to come to you!

ISN COMGAN and the Education Committee are now offering renal centers in emerging countries the opportunity to invite an established expert (ISN Educational Ambassador) to your institution for one to four weeks. The ISN Educational Ambassador provides hands-on teaching and helps to establish new programs that benefit patient care.

Experts may be selected directly by the center, or ISN will match the needs of the center with qualified experts who have volunteered to become educational ambassadors. Costs of travel are covered by ISN, and we ask the centers to provide local accommodations.

More information and application forms are available at [www.isn-online.org/society/outreach/isn\\_20090.html](http://www.isn-online.org/society/outreach/isn_20090.html)



## Mark your calendar for the ISN Nexus Symposium 2010

The Kidney and the Vascular System:  
Emerging Culprits in Pathogenesis and  
Advances in Therapy

**April 15-18, 2010 / Kyoto, Japan**

This Nexus symposium addresses recent advances of translational research and clinical medicine on the intriguing links between the kidney and extra-renal vascular system. Newer culprits involved in vascular alterations, such as mineral metabolism, oxygen disorders, adipobiology, pointed by recent cutting-edge discoveries, will be highlighted to better understand pathologies of cardio-renal syndrome and bone-vascular connection, as well as identify promising targets for innovative, future therapies.

### Translational Sessions

- Mineral Metabolism
- Oxygen Disorders
- Adiposcience
- Promising Targets for Future Therapy

### Clinical Sessions

- Cardio-renal Syndrome
- Bone-Vascular connection
- Renovascular benefits of cardiovascular drugs
- Recent Therapeutic Advances

### Important Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline  
**October 31, 2009**

Early Registration Deadline  
**December 24, 2009**

### Chair

Hirofumi Makino (Japan)  
President of the  
Japanese Society  
of Nephrology (JSN)

### Co-Chairs

Eberhard Ritz (Germany)  
Past-President of the  
International Society  
of Nephrology (ISN)

Tadao Akizawa (Japan)  
President of the Japanese  
Society of Dialysis  
Therapy (JSDT)

### Scientific Program Committee

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Tilman Druke (France)  
Kai-Uwe Eckardt (Germany)  
Carmine Zoccali (Italy)  
Agnes Fogo (USA)  
Olivier Devuyst (Belgium)  
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