

# NEWS

# ISN

ISN NEWS 44 February 2013

## World Kidney Day 2013: raising awareness about acute kidney injury

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Advancing Nephrology Around the World



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# EDITORIAL

## Make a World Kidney Day resolution - shout about AKI

Welcome to our first edition of ISN News for 2013. If it is not too late already, we would like to wish you a happy and prosperous new year. A new year means a fresh start, the chance to make resolutions, grasp exciting opportunities and face new challenges.

There is therefore no better time to highlight the importance of raising awareness about acute kidney injury (AKI). It is the theme of this year's World Kidney Day Campaign and one of the many issues close to ISN's heart. Most importantly, in this edition of ISN News, we highlight the important role of prevention and awareness in managing AKI and the great efforts of the ISN AKI Committee.

In developing countries, AKI is very common, and often fatal, when acute dialysis support is not available, or if the cost of even short-term dialysis is beyond many patients and their families. Prevention and early management of AKI is therefore key to changing how patients are treated and improving survival rates.

World Kidney Day is becoming increasingly popular all around the world. Every year, we see members of the general public, doctors, politicians and celebrities come together to spread the word with fantastic enthusiasm. This year will be no exception. So, make a resolution by lending your support to this year's campaign, improving the chances for AKI patients all around the world.

### The ISN Team

#### ISN News

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For more information on this year's World Kidney Day, log on to [www.worldkidneyday.org](http://www.worldkidneyday.org)

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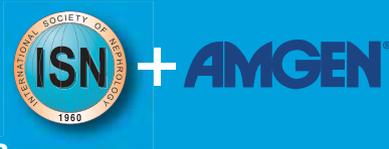
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### ISN Corporate Members



# News in brief

## ISN and AMGEN join forces to support more fellows



ISN and AMGEN have agreed to develop a partnership to express their mutual commitment to the global advancement of nephrology. This Fellowship scheme is designed to support young physicians from Egypt, Turkey, Russia or South Africa who wish to apply to train abroad in clinical care, research or educational methods.

Candidates wishing to apply should follow the standard procedure of the ISN Fellowship Program to be submitted during the first or second application round (June 15 and December 15 each year). They should meet all requirements of standard ISN Fellowships as laid out in the guidelines of the ISN application process. All forms are available on [www.theisn.org](http://www.theisn.org).

The fellow's stipends will be set in line with that of other ISN Fellowships hosted in the same region. The final grant is proportionally calculated according to the duration of the training. AMGEN commits to financially supporting the ISN-AMGEN Fellowships in 2013 and 2014 for four single-one-year fellowships. AMGEN will fund 50% of the full-year cost of a Fellowship. The other 50% will be matched by ISN. AMGEN funds can be used for single one-year fellowships only.

The ISN Fellowship Committee will evaluate applications for ISN-AMGEN Fellowships alongside all other applications for ISN Fellowships. For ISN-AMGEN Fellowships to be awarded, the application must reach a threshold committee score, which would result in the award of an open ISN Fellowship in that round. Fellows will be selected exclusively by ISN.

facebook

**It just takes one click - join ISN on Facebook and share stories on how you and others are helping kidney care around the world. The newly launched ISN Facebook page connects the world, sharing stories, initiatives and ideas on how together we can make an impact on fighting kidney disease.**

## Membership

### ISN membership - make a difference

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

### Update your membership and profile

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



# World Kidney Day 2013

## March 14

### AKI - listening out for the warning signs

This year's WKD campaign puts the spotlight on acute kidney injury and its role in preventing the onset of kidney disease.

The eighth edition of World Kidney Day (WKD) sets out to alert the public about the global increase of acute kidney injury (AKI). Much AKI is preventable through early intervention at individual, community, regional and hospital levels. Public and health professional education can provide guidance on preventive strategies as well as early recognition and management.

In the run up to WKD 2013, the ISN Acute Kidney Injury Committee is actively supporting the campaign. AKI Committee Chair Ravindra Mehta from the University of San Diego has contributed alongside his colleagues Philip Kam Tao Li (Hong Kong) and Emmanuel Burdmann (Brazil) to a scientific editorial on AKI published in *Kidney International* and soon to appear in many other journals. The Committee is also in the process of gathering more precise data on AKI for prevention and strategic purposes.



### AKI around the world

The WKD 2013 editorial states there are still no comprehensive studies on the incidence of AKI in the community of the developing world. An epidemiological study in Scotland showed that the incidence of AKI was 2,147 per million population (pmp) per year. In a community study in Northern California, the annual incidence of non-dialysis requiring and dialysis requiring AKI patients were respectively 3,841 and 244 pmp. This incidence increased over time and was consistently higher in men and in the elderly.

"Efforts need to be put into minimizing the causes, raising more awareness of measuring serum creatinine levels in high-risk patients and documenting urine volume in acutely ill people to achieve an early diagnosis," explains Mehta who is working with the ISN AKI Committee on building a snapshot of AKI across the world.

More accurate data on the true incidence and clinical impact of AKI will help raise the importance of the disease within the community.

He adds: ***"our objective is to get a better idea of the prevalence of AKI around the world and gain more data to provide information for strategic purposes and to raise awareness. Etiology and presentations are varied but the consequences are similar worldwide."***

The AKI Committee has designed a brief but comprehensive data collection form. Mehta says that they already have some information in the registry (17 centers) but are looking to expand it to a broader context. In the second quarter of 2013, the committee will be asking centers to provide their data on the incidence, prevalence and outcome of AKI in their hospitals and outpatient settings.

To add to this project, Mehta says: ***"The Committee is also set to develop tool kits to help the medical community and those working in related fields, such as dentists, to recognize people at risk and define best practice on recognizing and managing the disease. The National Health Service in the UK has just developed these tools. We are looking to leverage what is available or develop new tools."***



## What are you doing for World Kidney Day 2013?

Many ISN members outside of the ISN AKI Committee are getting involved in activities for World Kidney Day 2013. Last year, they showed their dedication organizing walks, screenings and other initiatives. In Brazil, Rio de Janeiro's Christ the Redeemer and one of the Seven Wonders of the World, was even lit up in the kidney colors to mark the occasion. Activities also took place at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. ISN is looking forward to hearing more about what ISN members will be doing on March 14, 2013.

The Young Nephrologists Committee member Manisha Sahay says that many of the cases she encounters result from a lack of knowledge from the general public and primary care health workers. *"On World Kidney Day, we are planning to organize a public awareness program highlighting the common causes of AKI. There will also be a walk to raise further public awareness about AKI prevention as well as a quiz for the health workers, junior doctors and family physicians to make them aware of AKI and its prevention."*



So, what are  
you doing this year?  
Head to the World Kidney  
Day website at:  
[www.worldkidneyday.org](http://www.worldkidneyday.org)

The photo gallery already  
illustrates some great ideas  
to inspire you.



# ISN WORLD CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY 2013

May 31-June 4, 2013  
Hong Kong

Since ISN's first congress in 1960, the biennial World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) has provided vital guidance and support to advancing nephrology around the world. WCN, the International Society of Nephrology's (ISN) flagship scientific and educational congress, is the leading educational event in international nephrology attracting attendance from the worldwide nephrology community, including physicians, academicians, and clinical researchers, as well as other healthcare professionals involved in multidisciplinary nephrology care.

[www.wcn2013.org](http://www.wcn2013.org)



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# Sharing what you know

ISN Educational Ambassadors continue to share their knowledge and this time it was the turn of the Hospital General San Juan de Dios in Guatemala to welcome an expert from Venezuela.

Octavio Salgado from the University of Zulia in Venezuela recently visited the Hospital General San Juan de Dios in Guatemala. He made the trip as an ISN Global Outreach Educational Ambassador and shared his expertise with fellow doctors in the Latin American region.

The objective of the training was to teach local doctors about the role of a vascular access coordinator and recognize normal and abnormal ultrasonographic images. He wanted to empower participants to confidently use an ultrasound machine, inform them on vascular access care, describe an ultrasound report and explore renal and peripheral vascular access.

Heriberto Elíoenaí Reyes De León from the Hospital General San Juan de Dios explains it was a unique opportunity to get special training: “our Ambassador shared information with us that is set to change our performance. He shared a lot, not only about ultrasound but also about nephrology.”

Salgado says that: “During the course, we assessed native kidneys and identified major pathologies. We also looked at the basic Doppler ultrasonographic evaluation of transplanted kidneys.”

He believes that the ISN GO Educational Ambassador Program is seen as a godsend in third world centers with limited financial resources that are trying to improve the qualifications of their young nephrologists.

“It was rewarding to see how the participants, day after day, were more and more able to confidently use an ultrasound transducer and explore the kidneys including neighboring structures, making an ultrasonographic diagnosis and write an ultrasound report with the most relevant findings. This was something they could not dream of a couple of days before my visit.”

Educational Ambassador visits offer the chance to teach and join daily rounds in the hospital ward.



Making the ultrasonic diagnosis.



Gathering doctors from Guatemala and Venezuela.



# WCN 2013 awards:

More information about the WCN 2013 program and award sessions is available at [www.wcn2013.org](http://www.wcn2013.org)



**While the upcoming World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) is a chance to network and exchange the latest knowledge, it is also the opportunity to showcase the superb achievements of some of the leaders in global nephrology. Here is a run through of the awards, which will be presented at this WCN.**

This year's prizes will be presented during the plenary sessions taking place from Saturday June 1 until Monday June 3, 2013. Don't miss the opportunity to attend some great plenary lectures while witnessing several honorary awards being handed out to those who have made exceptional contributions to nephrology.

## ISN-sponsored awards

There are now several awards supported specifically by ISN. **The Roscoe R. Robinson Award** acknowledges outstanding achievements in the field of education in nephrology and medicine. It will be presented on June 2 during plenary session two. On the same day, **the Jean Hamburger Award**, named after the Society's first president, recognizes outstanding research in nephrology with a clinical emphasis. The winners will be announced during plenary session three on June 1.

**The Alfred Newton Richards Award** acknowledges outstanding basic research in fields relevant to nephrology. The recipient of the 2012 award will be announced on June 1 during plenary session two.

Established by the ISN Acute Kidney Injury Committee and sponsored by Shire, **the Bywaters Award** recognizes outstanding contributions to the understanding of acute kidney injury. It will be handed out during plenary session seven on Monday June 3.

## Rewarding global outreach

To highlight the work of doctors in the developing countries, ISN has set up several awards to recognize ISN Global Outreach (GO) Program participants. During the ISN GO workshop which takes place on Sunday June 2, 2013 from 3:15 to 5:00pm. Several prizes will be given to ISN Fellows and Research and Prevention programs that have contributed to the advancement of nephrology.

The Pioneer Awards are new to this year's line-up of awards. These will recognize nephrologists specifically from developing countries who have made unique pioneering contributions to nephrology in their own country or region. Winners will be highlighted during a special poster exhibition during the congress.

Last but not least the Young Investigators awards organized by the ISN Young Nephrologists Committee will take place during plenary session six on June 3, 2013. They will acknowledge four young nephrologists, two from a developing and developed country working in basic and clinical research.

### Lillian Jean Kaplan International Prize for the Advancement in the Understanding of Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD)

was created in 2002 and recognizes a medical professional or researcher exhibiting excellence and leadership in PKD research. The winner will be announced during plenary session five on June 2, 2012.

# ISN GO: one program leads to another



## ISN Fellows help kick start Sister Renal Center partnership leading to a recent successful Educational Ambassador visit to Nepal.

Dhiraj Manandhar is based at the Nepal Medical College and Teaching Hospital. Mogammat Razeen Davids now works at Stellenbosch University and Tygenberg Hospital in South Africa. From opposing sides of the world, they met through the ISN Global Outreach (GO) Programs. Davids, who was an ISN Fellow at the University of Toronto, trained Manandhar.

At the start, little did they know how much being an ISN Fellow would go towards improving nephrology in Nepal. Their collaboration has now opened doors for a great sister center trio partnership and a recent ISN Educational Ambassador Program (EAP) visit, with much more to come.

Looking back at the EAP visit, Manandhar says: *“The strength of these training opportunities is that they are interactive and hands-on. We wanted to generate interest in chronic ambulatory peritoneal dialysis as a viable model for renal replacement therapy and initiate work on a renal registry in Nepal.”*

He and Davids organized a three-day workshop on water electrolytes and acid-base disorders. Two Continuing Medical Education (CME) courses also focused on establishing a national registry for dialysis and transplantation and promoting peritoneal dialysis. These were held in association with specialists and members from the Nepal Society of Nephrology.

Davids explains: *“electrolyte and acid-base disorders are difficult areas of nephrology. Combining lectures and practical problem solving allows participants to gain the knowledge and develop confidence to manage these problems effectively.”*

*“In these very interactive sessions, the participants work in small groups and learn to interpret clinical data and blood-urine chemistry to make more accurate diagnoses and plan appropriate therapy,”* he adds.

A connection made through one program can lead to another. The Nepal College of Medical Sciences and Technical Hospital built a trio partnership with the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research in Italy and the BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences also located in Nepal.

The center in Dharan regularly organizes seminars and CMEs to build awareness about kidney disease, prevention and management. Sessions also focus on approaching proteinuria, acute kidney injury and chronic kidney disease.

To educate the public, the center worked with a local radio station on a health talk program aired every week in July 2011. Following its popularity, doctors were invited to talk more about kidney disease prevention. Some great initiatives that reveal what ISN membership means, and particularly what ISN GO Programs are all about.



Time for a CME group photo.



CME opening ceremony.



The water treatment system at the Nepal College of Medical Sciences and Technical Hospital.

# Investigating the worldwide burden of kidney disease

**By contributing kidney data to the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2010 survey, ISN is helping make room for renal disease on worldwide health agendas in the hope of bridging gaps in global healthcare.**

In its mission to improve renal health worldwide, ISN has increasingly taken a lead role in activities that strengthen awareness about kidney disease across the globe and turn more attention to early detection and prevention efforts.

These activities include co-sponsoring (with IFKF) World Kidney Day now celebrated every year in over 100 countries. In 2012, ISN was recognized as the only renal organization in an official working relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO). It has pursued several joint projects with WHO to collect and analyze data on kidney disease in developing countries, regularly incorporating these activities into ISN Global Outreach (GO) Continuing Medical Education meetings between ISN leaders and government health officials in developing countries.

The December 2012 issue of the Lancet highlights another one of ISN's latest and most significant contributions to improve renal health worldwide. ISN was selected by the Global Burden of Disease consortium to lead the first effort to incorporate kidney disease data into the 2010 Global Burden of Disease survey.

This initiative involves a consortium of seven academic centers in four countries funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It provides data on the incidence, prevalence, and mortality of all human diseases and is widely used by global health policy makers.

ISN GO Research and Prevention Program Chair Giuseppe Remuzzi was convinced that ISN could provide an important contribution to the GBD program. ***"We explained our mission of advancing nephrology worldwide, especially the objectives of the GO programs, and expressed our willingness to contribute to GBD as far as renal diseases,"*** he explains.



## Bergamo: where it all began

In 2007, the ISN GO Research and Prevention Committee was selected by the GBD consortium to lead the Genitourinary Disease Expert Group. The Mario Negri Institute in Bergamo, Italy was charged with coordinating this activity and an international team of renal disease experts and scientists were recruited to join the group. ISN Fellows also contributed to the project while training at the Institute.

The major task of the Genitourinary Disease Expert Group was to review all published literature on specific causes of genitourinary diseases identified by the GBD Core Team. Over 5 years, the GBD Core Team and the Genitourinary Disease Expert Group collected data and constructed mathematical models to explore the epidemiology of renal and genitourinary disorders.

Remuzzi mentions some of the challenges they encountered. ***“We found a web-based solution so scientists from different parts of the world could work independently via the Internet and make more detailed estimations from potentially useful abstracts. It was also possible to add literature sources not present in the Medline or EMBASE data sets,”*** he adds.

The team screened over 33,000 references to identify 2,340 potentially useful articles and fully analyzed 425 studies, mainly in English, but also in Spanish, Portuguese, French and German. Unpublished epidemiologic data on the incidence and prevalence of end-stage renal disease patients on renal replacement treatments (dialysis and transplantation) were retrieved from national/regional registries. Finally, there were 20,968 data rows extracted by the Expert Group describing the incidence, prevalence, mortality or survival for kidney and urinary tract diseases.

## The future plight of kidney disease patients

The GBD 2010 results provide an evidence-based rationale for designing new health care research. Healthcare demands in many low-income countries are changing as chronic non-communicable diseases replace infectious diseases as the most common causes of morbidity and mortality. In the global ranking of premature causes of death, results show that CKD moved up from position 32 in 1990 to position 24 in 2010. The burden of non-communicable diseases, including kidney disease, is increasing.

Remuzzi remarks that this represents the fourth largest change among the first 25 disorders in the 2010 global mortality rank table. Moreover, these findings refer only to the more advanced stages of CKD. The proportion of patients with milder renal dysfunction is definitely larger and contributes significantly to cardiovascular mortality.

ISN Global Outreach Chair William Couser believes that:

***“Data derived from the GBD 2010 study will now be used by policy makers to inform them of the trends in disease, injury, and risk, and adapt their health system organizations to more country-specific needs, especially in developing nations.***

***They should also encourage health organizations and national health authorities to recognize CKD as a major non-communicable disease. The GBD 2010 effort represents a major step forward in advocating for measures that improve kidney health and minimise the health inequities that stem from the high costs of renal replacement therapy.”***

The ISN will continue to assume a leadership role ensuring that the new data from the 2010 GBD survey related to kidney disease is brought to the attention of policy makers, government health ministers and the public through its on-going activities with WHO, World Kidney Day celebrations and direct involvement with local health officials through its GO Programs. This increased involvement with global health policies extends the traditional ISN programs related to nephrology education and research and advances the overall ISN mission of improving nephrology worldwide.



# Meet the YNC mentors

Over the next editions, ISN News will gradually introduce you to the YNC mentors.

The YNC Mentoring Program helps young nephrologists rise to the challenge and help advance nephrology at home and abroad.

The ISN-Young Nephrologists Committee (YNC) Mentoring Program fosters international relationships between nephrologists and nephrologists-in-training or more junior nephrologists/nephrology researchers. Their objective is to discuss clinical cases and/or research projects of mutual interest.



**Tom Nijenhuis** is an internist-nephrologist and attends to renal transplant recipients. His specific clinical interests include renal tubular disorders and proteinuric glomerular disease. He coordinates several research projects focusing on the role of TRPC6 in podocyte injury, with a recent specific focus on diabetic nephropathy.



**Vassilios Liakopoulos** is Assistant Professor of Nephrology at the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension, at the AHEPA Hospital, Medical School, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. He serves as an editorial member of several reputed journals. His research interests include glomerular diseases, preeclampsia, exercise, infections and immune response in peritoneal dialysis and hemodialysis patients.



**Fiona Brown** is a renal physician at Monash Medical Centre, and director of the peritoneal dialysis program at Southern Health. She completed her PhD in 2000 investigating the role of Macrophage migration inhibitory factor in renal transplantation and glomerulonephritis. She has a keen interest in clinical research and is a principal investigator on the BALANZ trial.



A clinical nephrologist, **Manisha Sahay** is also involved in research, interested in the etiology of glomerular diseases and the efficiency of traditional versus newer treatment protocols. She is currently studying the role of oxidant stress, lifestyle and obesity in causing chronic kidney disease. Her passion is to develop low cost strategies for prevention and management of CKD in resource challenged areas.

For more information  
about the ISN YNC  
Mentoring Program got to  
[www.theisn.org/mentoring](http://www.theisn.org/mentoring)

# CME update

## Nephrology training in India

facebook

See more photos by visiting the International Society of Nephrology Facebook page.

Raising awareness about prevention and acute kidney injury (AKI) is important when training the Indian Medical Community. Compared to the developed world, dialysis is not affordable to the average patient. Tropical disease and dehydration heavily contribute to the development of AKI, and if not treated, chronic kidney disease (CKD). For doctors in the developed and developing world it is valuable to exchange information.

Since September, the ISN GO CME Program has been actively present in several cities helping share knowledge with local doctors. To top off these visits, an ISN GO Regional Workshop, in Ahmadabad on December 8, 2012, gathered local society representatives to work towards developing the future of nephrology practice.

According to ISN GO Chair William Couser: *“each meeting has provided energetic exchanges and offered suggestions for improvement. These include providing more educational content specific to unique regional problems, adding more case-based discussions, and supporting small countries where only a single nephrologist may be in practice.”*

When ISN GO CMEs take place during local nephrology society meetings, local doctors also get the chance to mingle with experts in related subfields. N. Prahlad organizer of the ISN GO CME on pediatric nephrology in Chennai during the ISPNCON 2012 last September says: *“the local faculty with their vast experience from their Pediatric Nephrology practice over years were able to impart knowledge to the delegates on the finer aspects of managing various pediatric renal diseases existing in our country.”*



In October, the AIIMS-Brigham Nephrology CME 2012 in New Delhi was the first meeting of its kind organized using another format. Nephrologists from Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Mayo Clinic, Rochester and the University of Cincinnati lent their expertise. Local organizer S.K Agarwal says that: *“This time around, the emphasis was to be more interactive and case-based. This was appreciated by all in spite of delegates being a mix of PGs, practicing nephrologists and undergraduate students of medicine, internal medicine, nephrology, pediatrics and pathology.”* Because of the outcome and demand of the delegates, the organizer has decided to hold a next meeting in October 2013.

HELP STOP KIDNEY DISEASE AROUND THE WORLD.

Dr. Sanjib Kumar Sharma,  
Nepal

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Advancing Nephrology around the World

# ISN Events

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

## ISN World Congress of Nephrology 2013

May 31-June 4, 2013, Hong Kong, China  
[www.wcn2013.org](http://www.wcn2013.org)



ISN and the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology, in partnership with the Asia Pacific Society of Nephrology, will host this year's long-awaited ISN World Congress of Nephrology, again with the theme of sustainability and diversity. It is a unique opportunity to exchange views on a wide variety of topics affecting nephrology and those suffering from kidney disease globally.

To stay busy after the Saturday session, do not miss the ticketed social events taking place in the evening of June 1, 2013. Also, the WCN 2013 official housing bureau, International Conference Consultants Limited, offers savings and convenience at Hong Kong hotels. To ensure you will have a smooth and enjoyable stay in Hong Kong, you are strongly recommended to plan ahead.

For more information about these services, to book your hotels, tours and local transportation, please visit [www.wcn2013.org/hotels](http://www.wcn2013.org/hotels) or email [hotel@wcn2013.org](mailto:hotel@wcn2013.org).

For this congress, the organizers have encouraged local and regional societies to organize relevant and related scientific meetings in other locations in the same geographical region after the main Congress. Here is a round up of the satellite symposia.

- 9th Conference on Kidney Disease in Disadvantaged Populations, June 4 to 5, 2013, Hong Kong
- 13th International Symposium on IgA Nephropathy, June 4 to 6, 2013, Nanjing, China
- Satellite Symposium on Renal Fibrosis, New insights into the pathogenesis and therapeutics, June 4 to 6, 2013, Guangzhou, China
- Satellite Symposium: Advances in Prevention and Management of Acute Kidney Injury, June 5, 2013, Shanghai, China
- Satellite Symposium: The Kidney and Lipids, June 5 to 7, 2013, Fukuoka, Japan

## ISN Forefronts 2013 Symposium - Stem Cells and Regeneration in the Kidney

September 12-15, 2013, Florence, Italy  
[www.isnforefronts.org/2013/florence/](http://www.isnforefronts.org/2013/florence/)



## ISN Nexus 2014 - New Era of Drug Discovery and Clinical Trials in Kidney Disease

April 3-6, 2014, Bergamo, Italy  
[www.isnnexus.org/2014](http://www.isnnexus.org/2014)



For the full list  
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