WCN 2013 – looking ahead to Hong Kong

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ISN-ANIO India Committee launches the apprenticeship program in India

The ISN-ANIO India Committee recently announced the start of its advanced apprenticeship program. “We want to give an opportunity to physicians or allied healthcare personnel to train and gain, through practical experience, specific skills in any field of nephrology, including, but not limited to, renal pathology, chronic kidney disease, transplantation or dialysis,” explains ANIO Chair Ajay Singh, who co-chairs the ISN-ANIO India Committee.

“For example, this funding could be allocated to a pathologist or a technician to train in pathology techniques or for an individual to train in a specific area of transplantation such as tissue typing or transplant coordination,” he adds.

This apprenticeship will offer one to three months of training in a center outside India. To be eligible for this program, you must be a qualified physician or allied healthcare health professional in India active in the fields of renal pathology transplantation. You must also be able to read and speak English.

For further information or to apply for this program, contact lsegantini@theisn.org or download the application from the Gateway: www.theisn.org/latest-isn-news/global-outreach/isn-anio-india-committee-advanced-apprenticeship

ISN, IPNA, ISPD and SKCF set up Saving Young Lives Project

In the developing world, children and young adults continue to die in large numbers from acute kidney injury (AKI). ISN has joined forces with the International Pediatric Nephrology Association (IPNA), the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis (ISPD) and the Sustainable Kidney Care Foundation (SKCF) to develop sustainable programs for preventing and treating acute kidney injury (AKI) in Africa and South East Asia.

The project builds on the success of the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center, in Moshi, Tanzania. Five years worth of funding has been donated by the REcanati-Kaplan Foundation, which will allow this collaborative project to support the development of a number of similar centers in these regions. As well as identifying specialized hospital centers to care for AKI patients including facilities for acute peritoneal dialysis, the project will also focus on training and educating the community to improve awareness and equip local health practitioners for prevention and care.

Other centers in sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia will be selected soon.

For more information, contact Ariane Brusselmans at: abrusselmans@theisn.org
WCN 2013: sharing the mission of advancing nephrology

It was ISN founder Jean Hamburger who said “studying renal function and structure in health and disease was a point of common and natural interaction between clinicians and scientists from several disciplines, creating a broad-based team approach to research and treatment.”

Hamburger foresaw the impact of kidney disease and a need for national policies to manage end-stage kidney disease. Above all, he recognized that an international forum should exist to consider the nature and interplay between the scientific, clinical and technical advances from the past, present and future.

This is when the ISN World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) was born in Switzerland in 1960. Since then, every two years, the ISN has held an international conference bringing together the nephrology community. After its 50th anniversary, ISN had a successful WCN in Vancouver, Canada, in 2011, and is now heading to Hong Kong in June 2013, where the underlying themes of sustainability and diversity will again be highlighted, and foster additional educational exchanges.

WCN 2013

Organized by ISN, hosted by the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology and in partnership with the Asia Pacific Society of Nephrology, the World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) 2013 provides a unique opportunity to exchange views on a wide variety of topics affecting nephrology and those suffering from kidney disease globally.

The scientific themes for the WCN are broad and include: Aetiology and Pathogenesis of Kidney Disease, Acute Kidney Injury, Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), Conditions Associated with CKD and Renal Replacement Therapy. Each theme will capture the breadth and depth of the area.

WCN 2013 Scientific Committee Chair Carol Pollock believes “the congress delivers both the most recent innovations and state-of-the-art knowledge relevant and adapted to renal care practice worldwide. Each theme has a co-chair specifically tasked with ensuring the content of the program addresses practical, social and economic challenges across diverse nations.”

Featured Plenary Presentations

The plenary lectures feature diverse and stimulating topics and offer the opportunity to learn from distinguished investigators and clinicians in nephrology and related fields.

When Science is Not Enough: Education, Technology and Socioeconomic Factors as Primary Determinants of Health Outcome

Ernest Madu (Jamaica) is Chairman and CEO of International Healthcare Services Ltd, coordinating strategic relationships with international partners and centers of excellence. He is also an internationally recognized authority in cardiovascular medicine and innovative healthcare solutions.
Donald Seldin Lecture: A New Era of Nephrogenetics: Advances Using Next Generation Sequencing
Nine Knoers (The Netherlands) focuses her research on identifying genes for inherited renal disorders and their pathophysiology. She aims to find clues to treating these disorders. Over the past years, her team has substantially contributed to elucidating genes involved in hereditary kidney diseases.

Saving Lives Using Active Sodium Transport: Oral Rehydration Therapy for Cholera and Other Acute Dehydrating Diarrheas
David R. Nalin (USA) has been recognized for his pivotal work developing oral rehydration and maintenance therapy for diarrheal diseases. The British Medical Journal has estimated the total lives saved through oral rehydration therapy exceeds 50 million.

Claude Amiel Lecture: 2010 Chinese Guidelines for the Management of Hypertension
Li-Sheng Liu (China) spearheads many cardiovascular-related trials in China, including among others the Systolic Hypertension in the Elderly: Chinese trial and the Post-Stroke Antihypertensive Treatment Study. She currently serves as Vice Director of the National Center for Cardiovascular Disease.

Stewart Cameron Lecture: Mechanisms of Cardiovascular Injury Induced by Disordered Phosphate Homeostasis
Myles Wolf (USA) studies the hormonal regulation of phosphate homeostasis in CKD and the role of fibroblast growth factor 23. His work has fostered new understandings of complex processes involving bone, vascular and cardiac health.

The Kidney and Hypertension: The Pathogenesis of Salt-Sensitive Hypertension
Toshiro Fujita (Japan) studies the renal and metabolic aspects of hypertension. His group has reported on the involvement of aldosterone/mineralocorticoid receptor activation in salt-sensitive hypertension and metabolic syndrome. Recently, they identified an alternative pathway of MR activation: modification of MR function by Rac1 GTPase.

Brenner/Dirks Lecture: Make the Impossible Possible: Renal Transplantation in Developing Countries
Syed Adibul Hasan Rizvi (Pakistan) devoted his life to saving millions of lives through Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation. An institution providing free and comprehensive services in urology, nephrology, transplantation and liver related diseases.

Brenner/Dirks Lecture: HIV Positive to Positive Transplantation: Results and Outcomes in Cape Town Study, South Africa
Elmi Muller (South Africa) has been involved in many transplant-related outreach and educational programs for the public and medical profession through the Organ Donor Foundation of South Africa, of which she is the Medical Director. She has pioneered the concept of HIV positive kidney transplantation.

Fantastic social events to top off a great program

To keep you busy after the Saturday session, there are several not-to-miss ticketed social events taking place in the evening of June 1, 2013.

Congress Dinner and Evening Cruise of Victoria Harbor
Enjoy a delicious international buffet dinner with live entertainment while you sail around the waters on one of the world’s most beautiful harbors. This ferryboat experience offers the best view possible of Hong Kong’s multimedia light and sound show.

Congress Dinner and Ocean Park Aqua City Experience
Watch a multi-sensory show featuring the world’s first 360-degree water screen. Dine at Neptune’s Restaurant, Hong Kong’s first aquarium dining experience and enjoy an unobstructed view of the Grand Aquarium’s main tank featuring 5,000 fish and over 400 species.

Hotel Reservations
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 hotel, tours and local transportation, please visit www.wcn2013.org/hotels or email hotel@wcn2013.org.

What can I do after WCN 2013?
As part of their respective outreach programs, ISN, the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology and the Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology have encouraged local and regional societies to take advantage of the WCN 2013 to organize relevant and related scientific meetings in other locations in the same geographical region after the main Congress.

- 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

For more information about the Satellite Symposia, please visit www.wcn2013.org.

To register for WCN 2013, go to the official website www.wcn2013.org. Special early registration rates are available for ISN Members, ISN Members in Training, Allied Health Professionals and non-ISN Members. Early registration fees are available until January 31, 2013. It is recommended to register as early as possible to ensure availability. Travel grants of up to $2,500 are also available.
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
Going East: Recent global outreach activities in Asia

This September, South East Asia was the destination for several educational events in Malaysia, Laos and Vietnam, including the region’s first ISN Global Outreach (GO) Regional Workshop and several Continuous Medical Education (CME) courses.

For some, it was a successful return to a region to see the progress that has been made since the last GO CME in Vietnam in 2008. For others, it was a first personal experience with ISN Global Outreach efforts in these countries and a chance to witness great interactions between countries in the region fostered by their participation in the different GO Programs.

GO Regional Workshop Malaysia

The first ISN GO Regional Workshop for Oceania and South East Asia (OSEA) was held in conjunction with the International Society of Peritoneal Dialysis meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The workshop was the sixth in the initial round of workshops to be held in each region of the world every two years.

“We are now looking at the possibility of more regional fellowship training and sister renal center relationships within this region and ways for ISN to better serve the small but emerging nephrology community in Myanmar,” explained ISN Global Outreach Chair William Couser who reported a very enthusiastic audience at this first GO workshop in the OSEA region.

ISN OSEA Regional Committee Chair Peter Kerr added that the objective of the workshop was “to provide participants with information on a broad range of topics and meet with local health authorities to stimulate greater awareness of kidney disease in the area. In particular, we wanted to increase applications to the Fellowship, the R&P and Educational Ambassador programs. The visit was also a chance to focus on the region and map out realistic future plans.”

Following the workshop ISN leaders headed to Laos and Vietnam to contribute to CME events in Vientiane, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.
Laos

This was the second visit to Laos following a similar CME event in Vientiane in 2008. "We were impressed by the substantial progress in Laos over the past four years including an increased capacity for both acute and chronic dialysis. Nephrology staff and services have grown in the country thanks to the knowledge Dr. Keomany picked up during her ISN fellowship with Dr. Tungsanga in Bangkok," adds Couser.

In Vientiane, some 80 medical staff working in nephrology attended a one-day CME at Mittaphab general hospital. It was presided by the Head of the Health Ministry Nao Butta and Director of Mittaphab Hospital Associate Professor Phouthone Moungpak. ISN Fellows, Chanmaly Keomany and Phanekham Souvannamethy, from the Division of Nephrology at Mittaphab Hospital, the major renal care center in Laos, organized the course.

Following the CME, the ISN delegation met with Laos’ Health Minister Eksavang Vongvichit. ISN President John Feehally explains: "We discussed the need for the government to support programs that allow early detection and prevention of renal disease and endorse World Kidney Day in Laos. We also talked about gaining his support for generating more attention to renal disease from the World Health Organization and ways in which ISN programs can be better used to advance nephrology in Laos."

Vietnam

Next step was Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam for a full day of CME activities planned and scheduled by Huong Tran and her staff. About 200 physicians and renal staff attended the event from all major hospitals in Ho Chi Minh City and throughout the region of southern Vietnam.

Tran is Chief of the Nephrology Division at Ho Chi Minh City hospital and Associate Professor of Medicine at HCMC-University of Medicine and Pharmacy (HCMC-UMP). She is a former ISN fellow trained at Brigham and Women's hospital in Boston. Six other nephrologists in southern Vietnam are also former ISN fellows at four current faculties in nephrology at HCMC-UMP. Since 2001, the institution has hosted six ISN CME programs and participates in an ISN Sister Renal Center Program with Westmead and Royal Alfred Prince hospitals in Australia.

Dr. Couser said "We were extremely impressed by the enhanced capabilities in nephrology in HCM City and their remarkably effective utilization of ISN programs and resources to reach their current stage of excellence in clinical care and education."

Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis are available at three major hospitals in Ho Chi Minh City and at two children's hospitals. About 50 patients undergo renal transplantation per year and over 400 are followed post-transplant. Renal pathology (excluding electron microscopy) is now also available and recently improved after considerable assistance from Moira Finlay from the Royal Melbourne Hospital in Australia who served as an ISN Educational Ambassador last year. She helped expand and upgrade the renal biopsy and pathology program, is training an ISN supported fellow from Vietnam and continues to advise on the program.

All in all, the visit testified the success of interactions between the different ISN GO Programs in the region. A formula that is showing increased success in developing regions. ●
This August, the Nanjing Forum achieved its usual high level of success. Today, the event is widely acknowledged as a top-level academic meeting for nephrologists in China. Some 500 nephrologists attended from across the country including many leaders of Chinese nephrology and groups from the major university teaching and training programs in Nanjing, Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

Other supporters came from the Chinese Academy of Engineering and the Research Institute of Nephrology at Jingling hospital and Nanjing University. During the first day, talks were held entirely in Chinese with Chinese speakers for non-English speaking registrants. The second day of activities was in English and sponsored by ISN, including presentations from foreign speakers from the United States and Belgium.

The meeting was organized by former ISN Fellow and ISN Councilor Zhi-Hong Liu now Director of the Research Institute of Nephrology in Nanjing and President of the Chinese Society of Nephrology. She said, “It provided an excellent clinical update on several topics in nephrology as well as current overviews of on-going translational research on the topics of podocyte biology and systems biology as they relate to understanding and treating kidney disease.”

ISN GO Chair William Couser provided an introductory overview of ISN and the GO programs including the first announcement of a new package offered by ISN to Chinese nephrologists attending the World Congress of Nephrology in Hong Kong in 2013.

He also provided updates on “Mechanisms of Immune glomerular disease” and “Pathogenesis and treatment of membranous nephropathy”. Chair of the ISN GO CME program Norbert Lameire spoke on “Acute kidney injury – what the new KDIGO Guidelines suggest” and “AKI in pregnancy”. Matthias Kretzler spoke on “Integrated molecular analysis of lupus nephritis” and “Translational research in nephrotic syndrome across disciplines and continents.”

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Zhi-Hong Liu
ISN GLOBAL OUTREACH (GO) PROGRAMS

BUILDING KIDNEY HEALTH EQUALITY THROUGH EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH

“All ISN GO Program volunteers donate their time and expertise to contribute to a very humanitarian mission. Seen as the foundations of ISN, they are dedicated to assessing the needs and providing educational opportunities to renal care providers in the developing world. In return, medical communities from emerging countries receive the current training they deserve, share the latest knowledge and skills with their visiting international colleagues and ultimately improve the level of local patient care.”

William Couser, Chair of the ISN GO Programs

More information about ISN Global Outreach (GO) Programs:
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YNC Corner

Two great workshops and many more great lessons learned

Sharing knowledge is what the members of the ISN Young Nephrologists Committee (YNC) do best, and it is what has kept them busy since the last edition of ISN News. As an enthusiastic and very dedicated group of young medical professionals, they put lots of energy into organizing two great meetings - offering a tailored learning experience to each and every new investigator in India and Brazil.

Connecting with young Indian doctors

CONNECT-2012, a Conference on Nephrology and Emerging Concepts in Transplantation, took place on August 18 and 19, 2012. “It was conducted under the banner of the Indian Society of Nephrology at its regional meeting and endorsed by the ISN YNC as its third educational workshop,” explains ISN YNC Member Manisha Sahay who helped organize this conference targeted at postgraduates and practicing nephrologists.

The scientific program focused on recent advances in various fields including Acute Kidney Injury and Chronic Kidney Disease. “We would like to thank the International Society of Nephrology and especially the young nephrologists, the committees and the Indian Society of Nephrology for encouraging younger generations of nephrologists to join this great meeting,” she adds.

The event covered many informative sessions on transplantation. In true ISN style, everyone brought his or her best knowledge to the stand. Vivekanand Jha opened the meeting with a keynote speech set to inspire young physicians to take up nephrology and talked about recent advances in membranous nephropathy. Past YNC Chair Fiona Brown spoke in detail about SLE nephritis and ISN YNC Chair Roberto Pecoits-Filho highlighted diabetes and kidney disease.

Sahay believes: “it served as a refresher course for practicing nephrologists and post graduates. Moreover, it provided a forum for young nephrologists to connect not only with each other but also with their seniors, catching up with the latest advances in the field. With more than 250 delegates, the conference was awarded 12 credit hours by the AP Medical council.”
First YNC Young Investigator Workshop in Brazil

During the XXVI Brazilian Congress of Nephrology, in São Paulo, Brazil, more than 200 nephrologists and medical students took part in the “Vascular Calcification: new insights into underlying mechanisms and therapeutic strategies: First Young Investigator Workshop of the ISN-YNC”.

The ISN YNC drove the symposium with help from the Université de Picardie Jules Verne, INSERM U-1088 (France) and the Brazilian Society of Nephrology. The team was led by Ziad Massy, Rodrigo B. Oliveira and Roberto Pecoits-Filho and sponsored by Amgen-Brazil.

The program focused on vascular calcification and uremic toxicity topics, and included the participation of Brazilian young nephrologists, researchers and professors from France, the United States and Brazil.

“We believe that this meeting is an example of successful action. It was a wonderful experience that can be reproduced as a template in the future, in several parts of the world, by connecting young nephrologists researchers and prominent professors around the globe,” explains Rodrigo B. Oliveira. 

See more photos by visiting the International Society of Nephrology Facebook page.
One year on
What is next for the case of kidney disease on a global scale?

Just over a year since the United Nations High Level Meeting acknowledged kidney disease as an important non-communicable disease (NCD), where does the topic stand within global health policy? How is ISN developing ‘official relations’ with the World Health Organization (WHO)? ISN President John Feehally tells us the latest.

It was a small but important breakthrough to see kidney disease mentioned in the Political Statement that emerged from the United Nations High Level Meeting. In January 2012, ISN entered ‘official relations’ with the WHO, and through this and other channels we continue to do all we can to ensure a rightful place for kidney disease in global health policy for NCDs.

This achievement came at the end of an intense period of ISN activity. Many ISN members found opportunities to influence their health ministers to ask for an increased emphasis on the importance of kidney disease as a major NCD. In Kidney International we published a comprehensive review of the evidence supporting the major role of chronic kidney disease (CKD), which was co-authored by ISN leaders William Couser, Giuseppe Remuzzi, and Marcello Tonelli with WHO representative Shanthi Mendis.

This review demonstrates the very substantial epidemiological evidence that CKD is a major independent cardiovascular risk factor, which multiplies the risk of cardiovascular events and deaths attributable not solely to coexisting diabetes or hypertension. More recent evidence further substantiates the importance of CKD as an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease. In a large population-based cohort, the rates of hospitalization for myocardial infarction among people with CKD alone were similar to or higher than those among people with diabetes.

However, it must not be assumed that CKD is entirely contained within the cardiovascular risk envelope. Health strategies for the prevention, detection, and early treatment of diabetes and cardiovascular disease will not avoid the need to address separately the burden of kidney disease. In the developing world, up to 40% of those identified with CKD in screening programs do not have diabetes or any cardiovascular disease. Such patients are often young, and the health and social cost of the progression of their kidney disease is high and prolonged.

ISN definitively welcomes the focus of the political declaration on lifestyle changes to reduce NCD risk, including tobacco and alcohol control, improving diet, increasing physical activity and reducing poverty, since these will also have beneficial effects on CKD.

But early detection and treatment programs are also necessary. If CKD progresses to end-stage kidney disease, dialysis or transplantation is required. This remains unaffordable or unobtainable in many parts of the world.

The efficiency of low-cost interventions to detect and treat CKD early in its course is well established. Such programs, some funded by ISN, have already been successfully implemented in some low and middle-income countries. ISN urges the World Health Assembly to recognize CKD as a major NCD requiring the development of specific health policy for its early detection and treatment. This will create major health gain, and minimize the present health inequity, which arises especially from the prohibitive cost of renal replacement therapy if end-stage kidney disease is not prevented.

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The efficiency of low-cost interventions to detect and treat CKD early in its course is well established. Such programs, some funded by ISN, have already been successfully implemented in some low and middle-income countries. ISN urges the World Health Assembly to recognize CKD as a major NCD requiring the development of specific health policy for its early detection and treatment. This will create major health gain, and minimize the present health inequity, which arises especially from the prohibitive cost of renal replacement therapy if end-stage kidney disease is not prevented.
Six years after the first ISN Nexus symposium in Copenhagen, Denmark, we headed to the city again together with 700 nephrologists from all around the world. This time, we were in the bright setting of the Tivoli Garden Congress Center to hear about the bone and the kidney.

A theme familiar to ISN Nexus organizers as it was the topic of the very first meeting in 2006. Since then, the subject has generated more interest and discussion. Participants were not disappointed and neither were members of the ISN Nexus Scientific and Organizing Committees.

“Chronic Kidney Disease patients experience bone fractures more frequently,” Nexus Chair Tilman Drueke rightly remarks. “There is an inverse relation between bone mineralization and vascular calcification, which predict cardiovascular disease and mortality. This time around, the focus was on a new understanding of factors such as FGF23, the Klotho gene and the involvement of calcium and phosphate in mortality.”

Chairing the organizing Committee Klaus Olgaard says: “the bone and the kidney are part of a world that is characterized by many regulatory mechanisms of universal importance for all aspects of the body homeostasis.”

“We really wanted to expand participant’s knowledge in areas that go far beyond the kidney and the bone and involve all the aspects of human metabolism. We touched upon new aspects compared to six years ago: learning about vitamin D and the mechanisms behind cell and vascular calcifications,” Olgaard continues.

“With Nexus there are no obstacles to meeting young motivated people. Senior nephrologists can access the younger generations who get the chance to meet leading people in basic science. I have made contacts that have truly lasted through the years.” Nexus Chair Heini Murer said. Most importantly, the enthusiasm could be heard from participants during the breaks.

Manish Rathi (India) believed it offered “great insights into the latest developments and research, showing how to put these into clinical practice” and it gave him a large incentive to work further in this field. What more could organizers and a scientific committee wish for!

ISN World Congress of Nephrology 2013
May 31-June 4, 2013, Hong Kong, China
www.wcn2013.org

ISN Forefronts Symposium - Stem Cells and Regeneration in the Kidney
September 12-15, 2013, Florence, Italy
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
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