

STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY AND THE LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY AND HYPERTENSION ABOUT THE NEPHROLOGY CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

The International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension (SLANH) are very concerned about the dire crisis facing Venezuelan patients with kidney diseases. The ISN has more than 10,000 members and through its partners reaches another 30,000 kidney health care workers worldwide, while SLANH has about 2,000 members from Latin America. Thus, this letter comes on behalf of the global kidney community.

The main goal of both organizations is to tackle kidney disease and advance kidney health; therefore, the limitation of resources in Venezuela, precluding the minimally adequate management of patients with acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease, dialysis and kidney transplant, is highly disturbing. The lack of resources has led to the closure of dialysis and transplant programs, and together with the severe limitation in availability of supplies, equipment, medications and surgery for about 15,000 Venezuelan patients on dialysis and 5,000 with a kidney transplant, sadly sentences them to the worst outcome.

Our societies are in solidarity with Venezuelan people, patients with kidney disease, and the Venezuelan Society of Nephrology. We urge the Venezuelan government to recognize this huge problem and to ensure that all programs taking care of kidney health, and the provision of dialysis and transplantation are restored and adequately resourced, to improve quality of life and health of kidney patients. We also ask for the creation of humanitarian channels to facilitate temporary international help for patients while awaiting a definitive solution.

ISN and SLANH offer our expertise and knowledge to contribute to overcoming the severe situation of Venezuelan kidney patients.

Panama City, Panama, and Brussels, Belgium
March 26, 2018



Dr. Alfonso M. Cueto Manzano
President SLANH



Dr. David Harris
President ISN

About ISN

The International Society of Nephrology (ISN, www.theisn.org) is a philanthropic organization dedicated to advancing worldwide kidney health. With over 10,000 professional members from over 150 countries, the ISN represents a wide international network of healthcare professionals involved in preventing and treating kidney disease. By collaborating with more than 100 national and regional societies, we reach out to an additional 30,000 health professionals globally.

About SLANH

SLANH is a non-governmental organization for the advancement of Nephrology in Latin America. SLANH has about 2,000 members from over 20 countries, and due to its continued work since 1970s, it has become a referent of Nephrology for national societies and governmental authorities in the region.