

## Masaomi Nangaku



### Short Bio/CV

Masaomi Nangaku was an executive councilor of the ISN (2015-2019) and is a deputy chair of the research workgroup of the ISN (2019-). He is currently the president of the Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology and Vice Dean of the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Medicine. He is Executive Supervisor of the Japanese Society of Nephrology, Vice President of the Japanese Society of Internal Medicine, and a member of Continuous Professional Development Committee of the ASN.

His scientific achievements covered both basic studies (oxygen biology) and clinical trials (anemia in CKD and diabetic kidney disease), publishing 345 original articles/ 88 reviews articles with the total citations of 13,700 and the H-index of 62. He also gave 112 invited talks at international meetings. He got numerous awards including the Oshima Award and the Bälz Award.

He also served as a member of the program committee of many scientific meetings including those of the World Congress of Nephrology (2007, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017), ISN NEXUS-fibrosis Geneva 2010, Kidney Week of the ASN (2009, 2016), and the Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology. He served as chair of Regional Steering Committee of ISN NEXUS-vascular damage Kyoto 2010, chair of the Scientific Program Committee of APCN 2016, chair of Steering Committee of ISN-Frontiers Tokyo 2018, and chair of Scientific Program Committee of WCN in 2019. In addition, he served as a co-organizer of the first Keystone Symposia focusing on nephrology “Unraveling the Secrets of Kidney Disease” in 2019. He has also contributed to education and advocacy. He is currently serving his second term as an associate editor of *Kidney International*. He played a major role in “Breakthrough Discoveries” and “Milestones in Nephrology” projects to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ISN.

As chair of the CME committee of the APSN, he established CME courses for young nephrologists in LMIC in Asian Pacific region. These CME courses turned out to be successful, and many societies were holding the CME courses in the Asia Pacific region until the pandemic of COVID-19. As COVID-19 had a huge effect on these activities, he is trying to find a way to provide good education and communication with LMIC that have only poor internet access.

He has been serving as Associate Editor of *Kidney International*, an official journal of the ISN, for the two consecutive terms. To keep the level of the journal high and give important information to readers, he has been making a great contribution to the journal.

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### Candidate’s Statement

I am most honored to be considered for the election of President of the ISN.

In 1990, when I decided to specialize in nephrology after my residency in internal medicine, the ISN held its congress in Tokyo, Japan, under the leadership of Kenzo Oshima. That was the first ISN meeting held in Asia and was the first international scientific meeting I attended. I was overwhelmed by the international vision and enthusiasm of the meeting. Since that time, my ever-lasting dream has been to work for the ISN, collaborate with colleagues from many other countries to advance science and patient care, and encourage young nephrologists to recognize what challenges the world of nephrology holds. The mission of the ISN is to advance kidney health worldwide through education of medical staff and patients, grants, basic and clinical research,

and advocacy. It is the dedication of its members, partners, and leadership that has made this magnificent mission feasible.

The pandemic of COVID-19 drastically changed the whole world. International exchanges have been severely impaired. Especially during this COVID-19 era, it is very important to keep international communications intact. The role of the ISN is more important than ever. To reach this important goal, we need to keep developing productive and effective strategies to improve outcomes specific to each community's needs. I am eager to help keep ISN at the forefront and achieve this goal in partnership with all the members of the ISN, making full use of my background, experiences, and expertise.

#### Background and leadership approach

As a nephrologist, I have been taking care of many patients who suffer from kidney disease. My ultimate goal is to improve the prognosis and quality of life of all kidney patients. Such a goal can be achieved best by collaborating with all ISN members.

I also have been dedicated to education to accomplish improved kidney care. I established continuous medical education (CME) courses of the Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology (APSN) as CME committee chair under the leadership of David Harris, who was President of APSN at that time and later became President of ISN. To establish CME courses, the most important thing was to closely understand the needs of attendees and collaborate with nephrologists from various societies.

I believe that many different styles are needed to achieve goals depending on different situations. Luckily enough, I have had chances to work with great mentors and leaders. When I studied in Seattle, U.S.A., my mentor was William G. Couser, who was President of the American Society of Nephrology at that time and later became President of ISN. In the Executive Council of the ISN, I worked under the Presidency of Adeera Levin and then David Harris. Currently, I am serving as co-chair of the ISN Research Working Group under the Presidency of Vivek Jha. All of them had different leadership styles but showed me how to effectively achieve goals under different settings. During the past decade, ISN has undergone a big but essential transition, and I learned a lot about the administration and management of this big society on the Executive Council during that period. I bring a high level of energy, capacity to work hard and effectively, and commitment to see projects through to completion. A team approach is the best way to determine priorities, clearly enunciate goals, engage all talents and ideas to break goals into tangible work that can be achieved. It is a team effort with ensured participation and ongoing feedback that enables us to achieve our goals. I am the head of a busy clinical nephrology division and have served on numerous committees for many societies, including ISN and APSN. My experiences as President of APSN, along with all these other experiences, have entailed working with diverse groups of people and respecting and enabling all to contribute. From my personal point of view, the main role of a leader is to analyze situations, propose the best way to go forward based on intimate discussion with members, and achieve goals by enabling good people to do good things.

#### Goals for ISN

Since I first entered the nephrology field, I have been a member of the ISN.

I have proudly served as Associate Editor of *Kidney International*, an official journal of ISN, for two consecutive terms, under great editors-in-chief, the late Detlef Schlöndorff, and currently Pierre Ronco for many years, and now most recently as Associate Editor.

I served as a member of the program committees of many World Congresses of Nephrology and served as Program Chair of World Congress of Nephrology 2019. It was the last face to face WCN we had, and I really miss that traditional type of congress after the breakout of COVID-19. I am currently serving as Theme Chair of World Congress of Nephrology 2019, which is co-hosted by the Malaysian Society of Nephrology and APSN.

When I was serving as an executive councilor of the ISN, we established the new vision, mission, and value statement of the ISN under the Presidency of Adeera Levin and then David Harris. This new statement emphasizes the roles of the ISN as a philanthropic organization dedicated to advancing worldwide kidney health by bridging existing gaps of available care, building capacity in healthcare professionals, and connecting to our community of those involved with the care of kidney patients. If I were elected President, I would continue the path outlined by this statement. ISN has been an inclusive and collaborative society, and it will be so in the future. There are many strong societies in various regions of the world, such as ASN, ERA/EDTA, AFRAN, APSN, and SLANH, and it is important to collaborate with these societies more intensively. It is also important to work with WHO more, as the ISN is the only nephrology society in official relations with WHO. I would also like to involve more young nephrologists in the activities of the ISN. While the ISN has the Young Nephrologist Committee, which is working well, we need more involvement and contributions by young members of the ISN under the leadership of senior members. The ISN has encouraged clinical studies in various regions of the world effectively and intensively. The ISN should also encourage and facilitate basic studies from those who are interested and willing. It will be my mission to listen and work with all the ISN members and all the regional societies and guide further advances to meet our goals as your partner.

Although our vision, mission, and value statement stand, we need to change our style. The pandemic of COVID-19 changed everything in the world. While personal face to face interactions are the most important for us, we have to adapt to the “with-corona” and “post-corona” era. We need to adjust our style to achieve our goals based on the important lessons we learnt during this challenging year. We learned that we could do many things through virtual meetings and educational programs, but we also realized what components we are missing at virtual meetings. We also learned that we need to improve our telemedicine. We cannot let COVID-19 divide our societies. We have to unite and keep working together with full respect for diversity.

To achieve our goal, maintenance of the financial viability of the ISN is essential. COVID-19 is causing serious economic issues everywhere, and our ability to maintain financial viability for our activities will be extremely important. We can do this only by working with excellent transparency and teamwork with the executive director, the administrative team at headquarters, and the treasurer. Although there are limitations as described above, virtual components of meetings will enable us to reduce the costs and allow more nephrologists to join. This can be a good opportunity for more involvement of young members of our society, who are often IT-savvy but do not have time to leave their hospitals to join international meetings.

In summary, I have the energy, capacity, passion, and background to lead ISN and help fulfill ISN's goals. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that the role of ISN is more important than ever. I look forward to an increasing role of the ISN in advancing worldwide kidney health, building on its new dynamic vision and mission statement. I would be thrilled to be part of a team moving us forward to meet those goals with you.