

NEWS

ISN

ISN NEWS 53 May 2015

ISN Presidency: equal care and access to best practice worldwide



Advancing Nephrology Around the World

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EDITORIAL

Equality in care, training and access to best practice

We have now returned from a great World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) that took place under the blue skies and sunshine of Cape Town, South Africa. This edition of ISN News gives the main highlights, including an inspirational opening ceremony in the presence of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

For ISN as a Society, the congress symbolized the beginning of a new presidency. Adeera Levin has now taken on the role from Giuseppe Remuzzi, who we would like to thank for his valuable work and dedication over the last two years.

It is an exciting and ambitious program for Adeera Levin, who is only the second female ISN President. For the next two years, she will focus on making best practice, research and education accessible to all medical communities worldwide. In her interview, we set out to find out more about her objectives for this term, how she sees female nephrologists playing their part in the future of nephrology.

This wonderful start to the congress led to four days of discussion on many issues affecting kidney patients and doctors alike – looking at new ways of improving state-of-care worldwide.

The Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group's (DICG) session gave a great overview of how it is working towards eliminating illegal organ trafficking. The Saving Young Lives initiative offered training on acute peritoneal dialysis, an effective form of treatment that is helping to save lives in low-resource settings.

As always, the theme of sustainability and diversity was successful in highlighting how ISN is helping advance nephrology globally.

We hope you enjoy this issue of ISN News.

The ISN Team

ISN News

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News in brief

David Harris is ISN President-Elect

The new ISN President-Elect is David Harris. Harris has been ISN councilor since 2003 and worked in the Executive Committee since 2007. As Chair of the Education Committee, he is responsible for the development and consolidation of ISN Education.



“By focussing its strategic priorities and programs on ISN’s mission, and acting through its regional boards and affiliated societies, ISN can have the greatest impact on the major challenges facing global nephrology.”

Harris said before his election.

ISN Honorary membership awarded to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

Following the opening ceremony of the World Congress of Nephrology, ISN has decided to make Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu honorary member of the Society. During his welcome speech, he mentioned his affinity with medicine and support for the efforts of all nephrologists worldwide.



“We are proud to welcome Archbishop Tutu as an honorary member and we hope that this will help give nephrology even more visibility globally.”

Past ISN President Giuseppe Remuzzi

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 member specific benefits including exclusive eligibility for ISN capacity building programs, online and print subscription to *Kidney International* and online subscription to *Nature Reviews Nephrology*, online training and education, and reduced registration fees to ISN events. Membership is now free for trainees.

Not yet a member? Visit: 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



Best practice, research and education worldwide

We took time out with Adeera Levin to congratulate her on becoming the new ISN President and find out what is in store for ISN over the next two years.





WORLD
CONGRESS
OF NEPHROLOGY

**WCN
2015**

CAPE TOWN
MARCH 13-17, 2015



Adeera Levin is only the second female president in the history of ISN, and strongly hopes it won't be another 40 years before the next one. Her aims for global nephrology are ambitious: Make state of the art treatment and care of patients with kidney disease available around the world.

Where will be your focus as ISN President?

AL: I want to ensure that we, as global citizens, focus on collaboration, communication and access for all to best practice, best research, best education and best policies. The field of nephrology has grown substantially over the last 50 years, and I believe we are uniquely poised for some important discoveries that will profoundly impact the care and treatment of patients with kidney disease.

I would like to ensure these are available worldwide, tailored to individual country and region needs. We have come together to improve awareness of chronic kidney disease as a worldwide problem, have recognized that there are regional variations in different diseases, and different health care systems and access to treatments. We have also recognized the importance of acute kidney injury (AKI), in all of its forms, as being common, and a promoter of chronic kidney diseases. The ISN will build on its history of collaboration and innovation, connecting the developed and emerging world nephrology communities.

How do you estimate the role of women in the nephrology world?

AL: Over the last decades, there has been a growing presence of women in nephrology: in research, education, and administration. The role of women in nephrology is the same as their male colleagues: to maintain the integrity of the profession and strive for excellence in all realms.

You have a close alliance with the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian group (DICG). How has the group evolved in the last seven years?

AL: Today, there is a truly engaged community of individuals who are working together to uphold all the principles: eradicate organ trafficking and transplant tourism, improve the living and deceased organ donation rates in all countries, and inform policy makers and governments about the issues as they arise.

Multiple publications in high impact journals have occurred, as have changes in country policies regarding transplant tourism (Israel, Philippines, Colombia), and many countries are addressing issues on a regular basis, striving to eradicate it.

There are policies and statements addressing physician conduct, and responsibilities for the care of people who return with purchased organs from abroad, and the World Health Organization (WHO) continues to be concerned about this issue, with input from DICG.

In a very short period of time, under the amazing leadership of Dr. Francis Delmonico, and Dr. Gabriel Danovitch, amongst others and all the local champions, there has been a palpable change in the culture and awareness of the problem. There is still much to do, but much has changed.



Safer transplants for all

The last seven years have seen The Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group (DICG) guide and help governments as well as medical and patient communities in response to illegal organ trafficking.

Organ transplantation is one of the life-saving medical breakthroughs of the 20th century. However, vulnerable people in poor regions have become victim of illegal transplant networks. Through regional cooperation, countries are implementing programs to prevent organ failure, supporting the organ donors and recipients alike.

The Declaration of Istanbul (DOI) on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism now governs organ donation and transplantation activities. It is not binding but ensures donor and recipient safety, enforces standards and prohibits unethical practices worldwide.

The DICG session at WCN 2015 reinforced the dedication of DICG members. Government and health ministry officials worldwide have been made aware of the problems their specific countries face, and have been offered assistance to

improve the problem. Official relations with the World Health Organization and other NGOs continue to strengthen the voice of DICG and its cause.

The group met with Pope Francis to derive more support for the principles of the Declaration, now endorsed by over 130 organizations and part of national legislation in several countries. The DICG also met Minister of Health representatives from Croatia, Serbia, as well as the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who have now set up a Federal Center for Transplantation.

“The next step is to implement a fully operational and staffed program with a central system to coordinate organ transplantation throughout the Federation,” says DICG Executive Director Francis Delmonico.

A donation transplant coordinator has been appointed in 13 hospitals to provide education in collaboration with Croatia for piloting kidney allocation. They will also coordinate and strengthen cooperation between transplant centers in Tuzla and Sarajevo to standardize and harmonize best practices.

ISN and The Transplantation Society have formal ‘DOI’ Declarations on abstract submissions. Many other societies have adopted similar declarations, as have a number of major journals. Major meetings in nephrology and transplantation have whole sessions devoted to organ trafficking or DOI related topics, and several publications have been forthcoming in describing relevant developments.

The tasks continue on a number of fronts: advocacy, awareness, endorsement, and education. It is through these activities that the DICG will continue to advance the case of ethical and effective transplant practice, leveraging a network of physicians, ethicists, administrators, social workers and government officials, in the promotion of its mission.



For more information, visit:

www.theisn.org/initiatives/declaration-of-istanbul30

Opening doors to younger generations

ISN is now offering FREE MEMBERSHIP to trainees. A decision set to give even more opportunities for the next generation of nephrologists to grow.

ISN knows the value the younger generation of nephrologists can play in advancing kidney care for future generations. Therefore, trainees in nephrology can now apply for free ISN In-Training Membership.

Since it was set up, the ISN Young Nephrologists Committee (YNC) has got more young nephrologists involved in the Society than ever before by offering them membership, training and leadership opportunities. It set out to empower younger generations particularly from developing countries with programs geared at education, mentoring, and support. Now it is working on empowering all young nephrologists and trainees around the world.

For many the ISN Fellowship Program has also opened doors for valuable career experience. Rolando Claude-Del Granado started as an ISN Fellow in Mexico City and evolved further by applying for a fellowship focusing on acute kidney injury.

As a young nephrologist he continues to be part of the ISN Programs and has been involved in setting up a level C Sister Renal Center partnership between his institution in Bolivia and the University of California San Diego, USA. Most recently he has been involved with ISN's Oby25 initiative and continues to support the Society's global outreach activities.

How to apply?



Visit: www.theisn.org/membership/become-a-member/apply-for-membership#memberintraining

Current In-Training Members will benefit from the free membership offer at the time of their membership renewal.

What do you get?

- Online access to Kidney International and Nature Reviews Nephrology, ISN News and nephrology updates
- Reduced rates for world-renowned events (World Congress of Nephrology, ISN Nexus and Forefronts symposia)
- Access to ISN Education and collaborative resources
- Eligibility for ISN capacity-building programs and society committees



Training at WCN 2015



WORLD CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY

WCN 2015

CAPE TOWN
MARCH 13-17, 2015

The latest Saving Young Lives training course on acute peritoneal dialysis re-emphasized the way forward for treating acute kidney injury in low-resource settings.



It is also imperative to gain commitment from hospital and regional administrators to ensure supplies are ordered, delivered and stored in suitable environments within the hospital or community. In poor resource areas, we teach the value of improvisation while using alternatives to conventional equipment and fluid.

Finally, the Saving Young Lives (SYL) team insists on teaching the value of prescribing and monitoring PD fluid regimens and managing technical complications such as peritonitis, and blocked or dislodged catheters. Training is also given with alternatives to conventional fluids and catheters where life-saving improvisation is required in the absence of conventional equipment and supplies.

Since 2011, ISN has worked with the International Pediatric Nephrology Association (IPNA), the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis (ISPD) and Sustainable Kidney Care Foundation (SKCF) to initiate Saving Young Lives (SYL), a program to develop and sustain hospital centers, which can provide acute PD, focused initially on sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia.

SYL is now supporting a dozen centers in Africa including Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda; as well as one in Cambodia. A recent training workshop successfully took place in Sudan.

Acute kidney injury (AKI) remains an under-appreciated problem worldwide. But in emerging countries, the avoidable loss of life is all the more striking because children and young adults are frequently affected.

Mignon McCulloch, who headed a training session aimed at teams of doctors and nurses at the World Congress of Nephrology in Cape Town, South Africa, explains that in many regions where AKI is not prevented, identified or treated early, acute peritoneal dialysis (PD) is a life-saving therapy.

Needing no power other than gravity, its simplicity means it is affordable and can be applied almost anywhere. Most importantly, staff does not need sophisticated training to become competent in inserting PD catheters or manually run PD circuits.

“For the WCN session, the approach was to train the staff who deliver the dialysis, and share our experience in sub-Saharan Africa,” explains McCulloch. While identifying a physician with the passion and commitment to lead the program, it is important to train a team who will deliver long-term sustainability.

McCulloch states that competence counts more than professional status. Training in PD catheter insertion in adults, infants, and children, should be offered to surgeons, physicians, clinical officers and nurses according to local circumstances.

“For the WCN session, the approach was to train the staff who deliver the dialysis, and share our experience in sub-Saharan Africa”

Mignon McCulloch



For more about Saving Young Lives:
www.theisn.org/initiatives/saving-young-lives-project

ISN nexus

LINKING RESEARCH TO PRACTICE

ISN NEXUS SYMPOSIUM 2016 **TRANSLATIONAL IMMUNOLOGY** **IN KIDNEY DISEASE**

APRIL 14-17 2016
BERLIN GERMANY

**Mark your
calendar!**

www.isnnexus.org/berlin

Advancing Nephrology Around the World



WCN 2015: A worldwide celebration of nephrology

The 2015 World Congress of Nephrology definitively started with a bang as Drum Café opened the congress, building up excitement before the scientific contemplation began.

It was with a warm and joyfull sense of humor that Archbishop Desmond Tutu welcomed participants to South Africa. “Is there a doctor in the house?,” he asked as he praised ISN for its efforts in bringing all medical communities together to fight kidney disease. Breaking down all barriers to achieve better care for patients everywhere.

Two years in the making, the ISN World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) welcomed 3,578 participants, representing 124 countries. It was the first time the meeting took place in Africa. A fitting choice, the theme “sustainability and diversity” was present in all discussions.

Almost 200 expert speakers participated in a ground-breaking program for what has become the leading biennial educational event in international nephrology. Just over 1,500 abstracts were accepted for poster presentations and moderators were on hand to discuss 65 poster presentations.

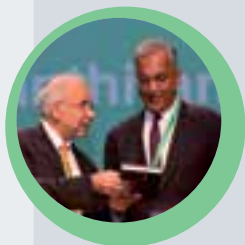
This meeting was a chance to exchange knowledge with nephrology communities worldwide. ISN awards were handed to those who are changing nephrology. ISN Programs awards rewarded participants for their dedication to improve kidney research and care in developing regions, by working with doctors and centers in the developed world. A poster session, supported by the Japanese Society of Nephrology, showcased this success.



Mark your calendar for WCN 2017

The ISN World Congress of Nephrology 2017 will take place in Mexico City, Mexico from April 21-25, 2017

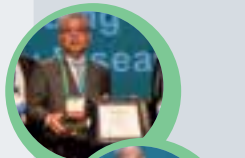
ISN Awards



Dr. Manikkam (Suthan) Suthanthiran received the **ISN Jean Hamburger Award** for outstanding research in nephrology with a clinical emphasis.



Dr. Georgi Abraham received the **ISN Roscoe Robinson Award** for excellence in education of nephrology and medicine.



Dr. Peter Igarashi and **Dr. Gregory J. Pazour** received the **Lillian Jean Kaplan International Prize for Advancement in the Understanding of Polycystic Kidney Disease**, in recognition of their excellence and leadership contributing to the goal of developing treatments and a cure for PKD.



Dr. Barry M. Brenner received the **ISN Alfred Newton Richards Award**, which recognizes outstanding basic research in fields relevant to nephrology.



Dr. Kirpal S. Chugh received the **ISN Bywaters Award**, which was established by the ISN Acute Kidney Injury Committee in order to recognize outstanding contributions to the understanding of acute renal failure.

ISN Young Investigator Awards

Top Basic Science



From a developing country
Aruna Rakha Arora



From a developed country
Björn Tampe

Top Clinical Science



From a developing country
Raja Ramachandran



From a developed country
Albertien M. van Eerde

World

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Help ISN Do More!



YNC in Latin America: teaching about acute kidney injury

The number of nephrologists is growing in Bolivia and an upcoming YNC workshop hopes to increase knowledge of AKI in the country and across bordering regions.

Speaking to Rolando Claire-Del Granado based at the Universidad Mayor de San Simon School of Medicine in Cochabamba, it becomes clear that nephrology is growing in Bolivia thanks to several collaborations.

There is always more work to be done, he says: “We need to do more about early detection and ways of preventing acute kidney injury in this region, as it has an impact on the rise of chronic kidney disease.”

He is a member of ISN Young Nephrologist Committee, the ISN Latin America Regional Board and the Acute Kidney Injury Committee of the Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension.

In this role, he decided to organize the first young nephrologist workshop in Bolivia on November 12, 2015 during the national meeting of the Bolivian Society of Nephrology in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

He says: “Much of the population doesn’t know about the issues surrounding acute kidney injury (AKI). Once they get AKI, they stand more chance of developing chronic kidney disease, which leads to dialysis treatment or the possibility of transplantation.”

To solve this issue, young nephrologists and related professions need to be made aware of the importance of early detection and prevention when it comes to AKI. The one-day workshop will be devoted to AKI and the ISN 0by25 initiative, which states that nobody should die of preventable and treatable AKI by 2025.

The morning session will focus on “meeting the experts” with an interactive discussion of four cases of acute dialysis, looking at fluid management, patient follow-up after diagnosis, detection and prevention. The afternoon lectures will cover the different aspects of AKI.

This will be the first time the YNC organizes a workshop in Bolivia, the last workshop in Latin America was organized in Brazil. The aim is to reach out to young nephrologists from surrounding countries, including Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil. Ten travel grants are being offered to young nephrologists from Paraguay to attend the workshop.

Currently the number of nephrologists in Bolivia has increased to 56. They are aged between 35 and 44 years old and are located in the city hospitals so it is still a challenge to get treatment in rural areas. Peritoneal dialysis continues to be the best treatment in areas with no access to purified water or electricity.



“Much of the population doesn’t know about the issues surrounding acute kidney injury (AKI)...”

Rolando Claire-Del Granado

ISN Forefronts symposium 2015

Discovering more about cardio-renal pathophysiology and its links with immunopathology and inflammation will be the focus of discussions at the next ISN Forefronts Symposium, taking place in Shenzhen, China from October 22 to 25, 2015.

Hypertension and vascular disease are important consequences of chronic kidney disease (CKD), and they are major contributors to high morbidity and mortality. The link between inflammation in CKD and cardiovascular disease (CVD) is widely recognized, but its pathophysiological basis is still unclear, as is the relationship of inflammation in CKD to innate and adaptive immunity.

This meeting will bring together nephrologists, cardiovascular and renal physiologists, and immunologists to review, update, and exchange current knowledge and ideas on the pathophysiology of hypertension, vascular injury, and immune regulation.

ISN Forefronts Co-Chair Robert Unwin says: "Recent important discoveries have been made that are changing our understanding of physiology and immunology, leading to new directions in research in each field and potentially new opportunities in therapeutics as well as the application of some exciting new methodologies."

Altered cellular physiology of immune cells can change their phenotype and function, while inflammation and immune cell activation appear to underlie hitherto unrecognized physiological processes.

Examples include the role of ATP as an extracellular messenger, purinergic receptors, immune cell regulation and the NALP3 inflammasome, angiotensin-II and macrophage recruitment in the kidney and skin; cytokines, the sympathetic nervous system and neurogenic hypertension; systemic hypertension and inflammation, sodium balance and tissue distribution, hypertension and autoimmunity; atheroma and inflammation.

Unwin hopes the meeting will attempt a synthesis of these various and varied biological processes, and their relevance to the cardio-renal link and disease.

He reiterates the aim of ISN Forefronts and how the format works towards developing knowledge and partnerships: "We will cover many 'hot topics' intended to bring scientists together from diverse disciplines to inform and promote exploration of new and innovative areas in kidney-related research, as well as to encourage new and wider cross-disciplinary collaborations."



For further information, visit:
www.isnforefronts.org/shenzhen/



"Recent important discoveries have been made that are changing our understanding of physiology and immunology, leading to new directions in research in each field and potentially new opportunities in therapeutics."

Co-Chair Robert Unwin

Symposium Co-Chairs:

Youfei Guan
Zhihong Liu
Kai-Uwe Eckardt
Robert Unwin

forefronts
IN NEPHROLOGY

ISN

upcoming events

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

ISN Nexus Symposium taking place in Berlin

Save the date for the next ISN Nexus Symposium 2016 taking place in Berlin, Germany from April 14 to 17, 2016. The focus will be on translational immunology in kidney disease and new therapies for renal immunopathology.

Between 400 and 600 delegates will come together for this meeting. Some are the most relevant protagonists of the drug development pipeline in immune-mediated kidney diseases (transplantation, autoimmunity, vasculitis, aHUS, cell therapy and immune suppressive agents).

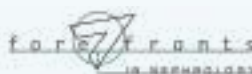
Participants will discuss the translational problems of trial design and market development in the field of nephrology. They will also look at where the field is moving in terms of future (biological) treatments, which is important for industry to envision the market potential.

This Nexus Symposium is designed to enforce the interdisciplinary discussion among basic researchers, clinical trialists and industry representatives. It is unique in its topic, design, and global focus and touches upon the latest understanding of pathogenesis, potential drug target and biomarker identification.

Find out more here:

www.isnnexus.org/berlin/

ISN Forefronts Symposium 2015
Immunomodulation of Cardio-Renal Function
October 22-25, 2015, Shenzhen, China
www.isnforefronts.org/shenzhen



ISN Nexus 2016
Translational immunology in kidney disease and new therapies for renal immunopathology
April 14-17, 2016, Berlin, Germany
www.isnnexus.org/berlin



WCN 2017
Sustainability and Diversity
April 21-25, 2017, Mexico City
www.wcn2017.org



For the full list of ISN events visit www.theisn.org



ISN FOREFRONTS SYMPOSIUM 2015

**IMMUNOMODULATION OF
CARDIO-RENAL FUNCTION**

**OCTOBER 22-25 2015
SHENZHEN CHINA**

www.isnforefronts.org/shenzhen