

ISN news

An Official Publication of the International Society of Nephrology



X marks the spot!

Once again it is time to elect your representatives to the ISN Council.

The Council is the governing body of the Society and 13 new Councilors must be elected. The Nominating Committee has proposed two or three candidates for each of the 13 vacancies – details of all 36 applicants can be found on the ISN Nephrology Gateway. Successful candidates will serve three consecutive two-year terms.

The role the ISN Councilors play is important. Their duties include supervising ISN's business affairs, setting policies and defining our rules and regulations. All judicial and executive responsibilities for the Society rest with the Council.

Voting is easy. An online ballot facility will be available via the ISN website by clicking the 'Vote now' button and logging into the voting module. Individual user names and passwords will be sent by email to all ISN members who are eligible to participate in the elections. These identification codes can also be obtained from the ISN Elections Helpdesk. The online election process has been designed to ensure the highest level of security and anonymity for members.

If you are not able to vote online, then you may request a hard-copy ballot from the ISN Elections Helpdesk (for contact details, see page 5), to be returned by fax or mail. Last minute personal voting will be possible at WCN 2009 Milan, Italy on the ISN booth or at internet stations available in the Congress Center.

The elections results will be announced initially at the ISN General Assembly which will take place during WCN 2009 on May 24, from 7 to 8 am. A detailed agenda for the Assembly will be available on the ISN website one month before that date, and all members will be kept informed through a separate e-announcement.

WCN 2009 is also the venue for celebrating our ISN award winners. Some outstanding figures from the world of nephrology have been recognized and we look forward to meeting them, and many other members, in Milan.

For more details on the forthcoming elections, the award winners and much more, read on!

»»» Read more on pages 4, 5 and 6

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Carol Pollock

ISN – striding forward in 2009

This year is certainly a time of change at the ISN while ensuring continuity and service to our members. These themes are reflected in our interview articles with our outgoing ISN President Eberhard Ritz and the incoming President Bernardo Rodríguez-Iturbe.

The influence and reach of ISN is highlighted by the achievements of our Latin American and Caribbean colleagues in their growing collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization. This is outlined in the article on page 3 and it should make a major impact in the region on the health and welfare of CKD patients and those with related conditions. It also places the ISN at the center of medical developments.

Similarly, the ISN-COMGAN Sister Renal Centers Program has had an incredible effect in many parts of the less developed world. Following the 2008 assessment of the centers'

progress, the ISN is pleased to announce the first three 'graduate' centers from the program. Read about their successes on pages 10 and 11.

And, of course, we are all still recovering from our exertions for World Kidney Day 2009. Once again, WKD has broken records in terms of participation and profile raising for CKD and nephrology in general. We have tried to give a flavor of the exciting events and happenings that were organized by volunteers around the world in our feature on pages 14 and 15.

I hope to meet many of you at WCN 2009. The Congress is an opportunity to celebrate nephrology, our Society's achievements and, in particular, the outstanding figures from the world of nephrology who have been recognized for the ISN awards.

See you in Milan. Ciao! ▶

Don't forget

ISN news reminds you about the following important dates:

May 1, 2009

ISN-COMGAN Educational Ambassadors Program – annual application deadline
www.isn-online.org/society/outreach/isn_2009o.html

May 22 - 26, 2009

World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) 2009 – Milan, Italy – www.wcn2009.org

September 17 - 20, 2009

ISN Forefronts Symposium on Renal and Extrarenal Control of Acid-base Homeostasis in Health and Disease – Florence, Italy – www.isn-online.org/forefronts

In the Next Issue

Don't miss the ISN elections results!

ISN news

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*The contents of this publication are compiled in good faith.
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ISN Leadership 2007-2009

Executive Committee

Eberhard Ritz (Germany) - President
 William Couser (USA) - Past-President & COMGAN Chair
 Bernardo Rodríguez-Iturbe (Venezuela) - President-Elect
 John Feehally (UK) - Secretary General
 Victor L. Schuster (USA) - Treasurer
 William Mitch (USA) - Publications Committee Chair
 Saraladevi Naicker (South Africa) - Appointed Member
 Hai Yan Wang (China) - Appointed Member
 Jürgen Floege (Germany) - Council Representative
 David Harris (Australia) - Council Representative

Council

Africa

Saraladevi Naicker (South Africa)

Asia/Pacific

Georgi Abraham (India)
 Gavin Becker (Australia)
 David Harris (Australia)
 Lekuni Ichikawa (Japan)
 Philip Li (Hong Kong)
 Toshio Miyata (Japan)
 Rezvi Sheriff (Sri Lanka)
 Hai Yan Wang (China)

Europe

Tilman Drüeke (France)
 John Feehally (UK)
 Jürgen Floege (Germany)
 Giuseppe Remuzzi (Italy)
 Claudio Ronco (Italy)
 Peter Stenvinkel (Sweden)
 Kamil Serdengeçti (Turkey)

Latin America

Emmanuel Burdmann (Brazil)
 Ana Cusumano (Argentina)
 Juan Fernandez-Cean (Uruguay)
 Martha Franco (Mexico)

Middle East

Riyad Said (Jordan)

North America

Amin Arnaout (USA)
 Joanne Bargman (Canada)
 Agnes Fogo (USA)
 Richard Johnson (USA)
 Adeera Levin (Canada)
 Nathan Levin (USA)

ISN Committee Chairs

Acute Kidney Injury Committee - Ravindra Mehta (USA)
Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee - Gavin Becker (Australia)
COMGAN - William Couser (USA)
Disaster Relief Task Force - Raymond Vanholder (Belgium)
Young Nephrologists Committee - Fiona Brown (Australia)
Forefronts Core Committee - Heini Murer (Switzerland), Robert Alpern (USA)
History of Nephrology Committee - Leon Fine (USA)
Interventional Nephrology Committee - Miguel Riella (Brazil)
Medical Advisory Committee - Bernardo Rodríguez-Iturbe (Venezuela)
Membership and Marketing Committee - Claudio Ronco (Italy)
Nexus Core Committee - Kumar Sharma (USA)
Nominating Committee - Bernard Rossier (Switzerland)
Publications Committee - William Mitch (USA)

ISN-COMGAN Committee Chairs

CME Programs - Norbert Lameire (Belgium)
Education Committee - Saraladevi Naicker (South Africa)
Fellowship Committee - John Feehally (UK)
Hemodialysis Advisory Committee - Nathan Levin (USA)
Kidney Health in Disadvantaged Populations Committee - Guillermo Garcia Garcia (Mexico)
Peritoneal Dialysis Advisory Committee - Fred Finkelstein (USA)
Renal Pathology Advisory Committee - Agnes Fogo (USA)
Research and Prevention Committee - Giuseppe Remuzzi (Italy)
Sister Renal Centers Program Committee - Rashad Barsoum (Egypt)

ISN-COMGAN Regional Committees

East Asia Committee - Hai Yan Wang (China)
South Asia Committee - Georgi Abraham (India)
OSEA Committee - David Harris (Australia)
Middle East Committee - Riyad Said (Jordan)
African Committee - Omar Abboud (Sudan)
Eastern and Central Europe Committee - Adrian Covic (Romania)
Russia and CIS Committee - Konstantin Gurevich (Russia)
Latin America Committee - Pablo Massari (Argentina)

Latin American intent

Thanks to an ISN initiative, driven by the Committee on Kidney Health in Disadvantaged Populations (CKHDP), Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is to become part of a major regional program to reduce Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) in Central and Southern America and the Caribbean. In collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization and other regional health bodies, this represents a significant move towards assessing and tackling the extent of CKD in Latin America.



Representatives of the different organizations gathered on April 17, 2008 in Antigua, Guatemala for a workshop on the Prevention of Kidney Disease

On April 17, 2008, Antigua, Guatemala was the setting for a workshop on the Prevention of Kidney Disease which gathered together representatives from the Central American and Caribbean Nephrology Societies, regional health ministry officials, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), representatives of the ISN-COMGAN Committee on Kidney Health in Disadvantaged Populations (CKHDP), and the Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension (SLANH).

Topics for discussion included the epidemiology, treatment and burden of kidney disease together with its socio-economic impact. As a result of the deliberations, a plan of action was established to include markers for kidney damage in regional initiatives on the surveillance and epidemiological control of diabetes and cardiovascular disease, with the ISN-COMGAN CKHDP Committee, SLANH and national nephrology societies providing expert input. For four years, PAHO has been implementing a regional Strategy for the Prevention of NCD which, in turn, has prompted health ministries to create national NCD programs in each country. These have focused on diabetes and hypertension but, until now, have not included CKD.

In addition, PAHO will now promote the inclusion of the national nephrology societies in the regional committees on NCDs to enable the implementation of guides for the control and surveillance of renal disease. CKHDP and SLANH will also be included in the CARMEN Network (PAHO's Combined Actions for Multi-factorial Reduction of NCD), and the initiative for the Control of Diabetes in Central America (CAMDI).

The consensus reached – which covers close collaboration both at a local national level and at higher regional levels –

is important as it opens the way for participation by ISN and national societies in the development of health policies across the region.

This significant achievement for Latin America has its origins in the 2005 ISN/SLANH meeting in Villarrica, Chile. This event demonstrated the uneven burden of CKD across Latin America, and revealed that the Central American region was particularly vulnerable.

Future action

In order to analyze the progress of the actions taken and to establish new goals, it was also agreed to set up similar meetings in the future. Initially, these will be held using the PAHO/WHO internet network. The next 'live' meetings will be held in Guatemala City this month, followed by one at the Latin American Congress of Nephrology in Mexico City in April, and another one in El Chaco, Argentina, later this year. CKD will be included in the next summit of Health Ministers of countries in the region (Central America and Caribbean), too. This gathering will be organized by PAHO and will focus on NCD.

In the future, a further step may be to link this new alliance with the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF).

The successful achievement of this initiative has involved significant input from a number of individuals including Bernardo Rodríguez-Iturbe (SLANH), Enrique Perez-Flores (PAHO), Guillermo Garcia-Garcia (ISN-COMGAN CKHDP), Ricardo Correa-Rotter (SLANH and COMGAN Latin America), Santos Depine (SLANH) and, in particular, Randall Lou-Meda (SLANH and ISN-COMGAN CKHDP). ▀

President Eberhard Ritz looks back on his presidency – highlighting prevention, boosting diversity

The past two years have seen some significant progress by the ISN. Dr Eberhard Ritz reflects on his presidency of the Society, selecting some personal challenges and outlining the achievements that have proved most significant to him.

One major challenge for the Society is to broaden the age profile and diversity of its membership. “We were a ‘graying’ society,” states Dr Ritz. “And there was a clear deficit of women and members from the emerging or developing world so I initiated action to get more women and members from the developing world on to the ISN Executive Committee.”

Dr Ritz also gave high priority to raising awareness of the Society and increasing its activities in Africa and South-East Asia. “In particular, the ISN-COMGAN program, which I see as the flagship program of the ISN, is an initiative that the Society can be intensely proud of,” he says. “It is a unique program and clearly distinguishes us from other regionally based renal organizations.”

Similarly, the ISN Young Nephrologists Committee is “alive and kicking” and helping to stimulate membership and activity. “The upcoming World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) in Milan has seen some excellent input from our young nephrologists,” continues Dr Ritz. “They have proposed, in collaboration with ERA-EDTA, some good topics and new procedures. This is very encouraging for the future of the society and the profession as a whole.”

Dr Ritz sees WCN 2009 as a sign of the Society’s success. “We have a superb program of events and the number of participants, papers, and level of support from industry – a critical factor – is substantial,” he says.

Collaboration

The professor is also very pleased with the expansion of ISN’s co-operation with “neighboring” professional societies. “When I came into the presidency, I said that collaboration was key to our future success,” explains Dr Ritz. “We have promoted the role of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in areas such as hypertension and diabetes, highlighting the importance of early detection and prevention. This has

expanded the role of nephrology in the wider medical community and raised its profile.”

Dr Ritz is especially happy that, under the leadership of Dr Bill Couser, WKD 2009 is focusing on hypertension and will raise awareness of markers for CKD. “For instance, we have been very successful in getting articles on CKD and hypertension into *The Lancet* and other prestigious medical science journals to raise awareness of the links between CKD, hypertension and diabetes, but we need to make sure that health managers and the public understand the role of CKD and hypertension and are aware of the need to reduce salt consumption, etc.”

Going forward, Dr Eberhard Ritz sees a need to strengthen communications. “*Kidney International* is our flagship but we still need to strengthen activities such as the ISN Nephrology Gateway,” he emphasizes. “We must get our communication instruments up to date – improving the electronic gateway is fundamental to the future.” ▶



▶ President Eberhard Ritz

The ISN Councilors stepping down from their position in 2009

On behalf of all our members we would like to thank all ISN Councilors who are stepping down for their time and commitment to our Society:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Amin Arnaout (USA) | Jürgen Floege (Germany) |
| Joanne Bargman (Canada) | David Harris (Australia) |
| Emmanuel Burdmann (Brazil) | Iekuni Ichikawa (Japan) |
| Tilman Drüeke (France) | Giuseppe Remuzzi (Italy) |
| John Feehally (UK) | Claudio Ronco (Italy) |
| | Hai Yan Wang (China) |

President Rodríguez looks ahead – continuity in troubled times

Dr Bernardo Rodríguez-Iturbe will assume the mantle of ISN's Presidency in 2009 and is looking forward to his forthcoming two-year tenancy as leader of the Society. He will work to continue and expand the ISN's valuable work during these uncertain global economic times.

"The ISN has had a proud tradition of distinguished presidents," admits Dr Rodríguez-Iturbe. "And it is a great responsibility to be part of that group. Using a much-cited quote, I hope to be able to look far ahead because I will be standing on the shoulders of giants."

Dr Rodriguez believes that the ISN is a unique medical society because of its dedication to the advancement of the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of kidney diseases worldwide.

"Many of our activities are focused in the developing countries and disadvantaged populations, so the philanthropic aspects of the ISN are more prominent than in other medical societies," he stresses. "I strongly believe that these programs are a hallmark of the ISN and deserve to be kept going and expanded. I hope to be able to carry the message to members of the ISN that their participation and support is not only providing a forum for exchange of ideas and improvement of our specialty but, in addition, they are also contributing to improving the conditions of others less-favored than ourselves."



► President Bernardo Rodríguez-Iturbe

Economic impact

Dr Rodríguez sees the current global economic crisis as a real challenge for the ISN. "Not only because we depend mainly on our membership for financial support of the society programs," he explains. "But also because donations and grants from industry and philanthropic organizations will become more restricted." He sees streamlining administrative procedures and the development of imaginative fund-raising strategies as significant challenges in the present and immediate future.

Nevertheless, he believes that the ISN should maintain its role as the premier society for nephrology and nephrologists in the world. In addition, he is seeking to maintain close relations with national nephrology societies and establish liaisons with other medical societies with closely related interests – for example, diabetes, hypertension, nutrition and endocrine. "These inter-society relationships have already started with joint symposia and special lectures and I hope they will increase in the future," he concludes. ►

Global outreach

The ISN outreach activities are an area of particular focus for the incoming president. "Among the many programs coordinated by COMGAN, I believe that the Research and Prevention and Fellowship Programs are particularly important," says Dr Rodriguez. "The Fellowship Program aims to train individuals from different areas of the world that are very much in need of expert nephrology patient care while the Research and Prevention Program focuses on the evaluation and control of risk factors of the progression of Chronic Kidney Disease in regions of the world where end-stage renal disease is a significant health problem. In many of these regions little is known or done about it because other problems are overwhelming. Another program that is extremely important and has been very successful is World Kidney Day. It has undoubtedly raised the awareness of kidney disease worldwide: WKD and the message it carries needs continued support."

ISN 2009 elections information

Poll dates to remember:

Elections open on Monday March 30, 2009.

Deadline for reception of paper ballots is
May 22, 2009, 12.00 (noon) CET.

Deadline to vote online or on-site at WCN 2009 is
May 23, 2009, 12.00 (noon) CET.

Elections results will be announced at the ISN General Assembly in Milan on **May 24, 2009 from 7.00 to 8.00 am**

Detailed voting procedures will be available on the ISN website. For further information or assistance, please contact the **ISN Elections Helpdesk**.

International Number: +1-202-207-0537

US Toll Free Number: 1-866-ISN-5650 (1-866-476-5650)

Email: isnelections@votenet.com

Celebrating excellence in Milan – the ISN awards

As *the* major nephrology event of 2009, the World Congress of Nephrology in Milan is a fitting place to honor those medical and research professionals who have given exceptional service to nephrology over recent years and to identify emerging talent among our younger membership.



▶ Dr Heini Murer

▶ Dr Jared J. Grantham

▶ Dr Saraladevi Naicker

▶ Dr Claudio Ronco

▶ Dr Carl Erik Mogensen

▶ Dr Friedhelm Hildebrandt

▶ Dr Lisa M. Guay-Woodford

▶ Dr Corinne Antignac

Every two years, the ISN formally recognizes significant achievements, outstanding contributions and service to the renal community and the wider world of nephrology through a variety of awards and prizes. At WCN 2009 in Milan, the ISN will be bestowing four awards and two prizes in formal acknowledgement of exceptional service to nephrology by a number of talented individuals.

Four awards for achievement

The **ISN Alfred Newton Richards Award** recognizes outstanding basic research in fields relevant to nephrology and in 2009 is awarded to Dr Heini Murer of the Physiologisches Institut der Universität Zürich, Switzerland. Dr Murer is also Chairman of the ISN Forefronts Symposium Committee.

Dr Jared J. Grantham, MD from the University of Kansas Medical School, USA is the proud recipient of the **ISN Jean Hamburger Award** that recognizes his outstanding contributions to nephrology with a clinical emphasis.

The **ISN Roscoe R. Robinson Award**, established to acknowledge outstanding achievements in the field of education in nephrology and medicine, is awarded to Dr Saraladevi Naicker from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The **Shire/Bywaters Award** was established by the ISN Acute Kidney Injury Committee in order to recognize outstanding contributions to the understanding of acute renal failure. The recipient is honored for a lifetime of achievement in the field of

acute renal failure and receives the award at the Acute Renal Failure Satellite Symposia held in conjunction with the WCN. The winner of the 2009 Award is Dr Claudio Ronco of St. Bortolo Hospital, Vicenza, Italy.

Two prestigious prizes

The **ISN Amgen International Prize** for Therapeutic Advancement in Nephrology is granted in recognition of people who have contributed to better understanding and treatment of kidney disease through basic or clinical scientific research efforts that lead to therapeutic advances. The recipient for 2009 is Dr Carl Erik Mogensen of Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark.

This year, there are three winners of the **Lillian Jean Kaplan International Prize** for the Advancement in the Understanding of Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD). The award, which is conferred in collaboration with the PKD Foundation, is granted in recognition of individual medical or research excellence and leadership in PKD research. The awardees are: Dr Friedhelm Hildebrandt, MD from the University of Michigan in An Arbor, USA; fellow American Dr Lisa M. Guay-Woodford, MD of the University of Alabama, Birmingham; and Dr Corinne Antignac, MD, PhD of Hôpital Necker-Enfants-Malades in Paris.

Younger top achievers

In addition, for the first time the ISN Young Nephrologists Committee (YNC) will be announcing the winners of its Young Nephrologists awards at the WCN on May 24, 2009 from 12.00 (noon) to 2.00 pm.

This year, four award categories have been chosen: Best basic science from a developing country; Best basic science from a developed country; Best clinical science from a developing country; and Best clinical science from a developed country. Each winner will receive free registration to the Congress and a stipend of USD 3,000 to cover travel and accommodation

expenses. The four winners will also be asked to present their poster abstract at a dedicated oral session at the WCN.

The winners will be selected by peer review of poster abstracts submitted and accepted by the Congress. In addition, the best ten submissions in each category will receive special recognition as part of the WCN 2009 poster session.

To be eligible, you must be under the age of 37 and a current ISN member. If you are not a member yet then take advantage of the greatly reduced ISN member-in-training membership or become part of one of ISN's joint membership groups for nephrologists for developing countries. ▶

ISN-COMGAN News



Research and Prevention Program: supporting research in developing countries

The burden of chronic disease weighs heavily on developing and developed countries alike, but not all nations are equally able to effectively challenge this burden. Early detection and prevention programs are critical to the cost efficient reduction of such disease and have positive impacts on medical outcomes and healthcare budgets.

The ISN-COMGAN Research and Prevention Committee promotes research in low-middle-income countries, implementing and guiding research projects on early detection and management of non-communicable chronic diseases, in particular Chronic Kidney Disease, hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases by means of a truly global approach. It provides opportunities for developing countries to have more highly competent nurses and doctors, as well as more clinical research and prevention programs, with better patient care as the end result. The successful applicants from the second (October) round of applications in 2008 have just been announced.

The ISN proudly congratulates the three selected applicants and hopes the example of their success will inspire further applications for this critical capacity-building initiative.

Dr Irma Tchokhonelidze of Tbilisi, Georgia has been awarded for her project on the early detection and management of CKD, hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Dr Nazmul Islam from Sylhet, Bangladesh will receive support for his work on screening for the detection of CKD, and Dr Natalia Grinblat of San Miguel de Tucuman, Argentina for work on the

development and implementation of a program based on promotion, prevention, early detection and treatment of chronic renal disease among patients in the local Tucuman public healthcare region.

Regional focus

The Research and Prevention initiative currently focuses on three main areas of activity: screening, prevention activities, and research projects. Successful projects are selected according to the particular local needs, facilities and the economic realities of their region.

The annual deadlines for project proposal submissions are **April 1 and October 1**. Projects that have been approved by the ISN's Regional Coordinators and evaluated by an independent and geographically representative ISN Selection Committee will receive partial seed funding to set up their local program. ▶

For more information on the Research and Prevention Program, please visit: www.isn-online.org/society/outreach/isn_20089.html. Applications from all regions are welcomed.



Dr John Feehally

The ISN mandate and change of management

2009 marks a year of change and progress for the ISN. The bi-annual elections will bring new faces to Council. We are restructuring our society's management with offices in both Europe and the United States, and we have revised our mission statement to more clearly articulate our goals, vision and values.

The ISN – both as individual professionals and an international society – is dedicated to the goal of advancing the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of kidney diseases in the developing and developed world. To achieve this philanthropic mission we use a variety of channels to raise public awareness of kidney disease, connect renal professionals globally, support research, and provide nephrology education and training worldwide.

Delivering these objectives is a growing and increasingly complex task. To help guide us, the ISN Executive Committee is pleased to announce that Mr Luca Segantini has been selected as our Society's new Executive Director succeeding Tom Reiser.

Luca has significant international experience in all aspects of association management, business development, marketing and publishing. He combines entrepreneurial skills with the diplomatic experience needed to work successfully with ISN's many stakeholders around the world.

Joining Luca as the new ISN Society Manager is Ms Ferial Saouli who has nine years of association management expertise. Both will be located in the ISN's new Global Operations Center in Brussels and will take on their responsibilities as from April 1, 2009.

Also joining the new team in Brussels will be Mrs An Devriese, ISN's current COMGAN Manager, who will remain in administrative charge of all our COMGAN programs.

You will be able to meet the new ISN team during WCN 2009 and we plan to formally introduce the full ISN teams, both in Belgium and in the US, in our next newsletter. ▶

John Feehally, ISN Secretary General

Young Nephrologists News

A young nephrologist's view from Japan

The ISN Nexus Symposium in Kyoto in April should be a great platform for international mentoring and communication. Motoko Yanagita relays her experience as a young nephrologist and looks forward to a great event in Japan in 2010.

What is the most important thing a young nephrologist needs to start basic science research during their career? Although the research environment is critical, and the theme and subject essential, for Motoko Yanagita, the most vital element is a great mentor, as she explains.

There is a notable history of significant achievement by our forerunners in nephrology. A precise knowledge of nephrology research is indispensable, as one of the hardest tasks for a young investigator is to identify what is already known and what is not. Similarly, there are many pitfalls young nephrologists may fall into, so an experienced mentor is crucial to ensure they stay on the right path.

I started basic science as a graduate in vascular biology in 1997. The major topic in the lab was the mechanism of atherosclerosis, but the professor allowed me to start kidney research. The research environment was great, and the professors really supportive, but I often experienced difficulties with 'kidney-specific' issues. In such circumstances, senior nephrologists in

other labs and universities taught me their secrets and know-how – and being ISN members, they encouraged me to join, too.

Working as an ISN member on the Young Nephrologists Committee, I have realized that the situations in which young nephrologists find themselves vary significantly between countries. If established nephrologists in developed countries could mentor those in developing countries, it would be a great help. The ISN is the obvious platform to facilitate such a critical 'international mentoring system'.

Last year, ISN membership in Japan increased significantly and the visibility of ISN has grown too, especially among young nephrologists. In April 2010, the next Nexus symposium in Kyoto, Japan will introduce an innovative session: 'Meet the Professor Breakfast'. This event will give young nephrologists the opportunity to meet established senior professors and gain insights and career guidance in a small interactive group. We hope this potentially invaluable relationship will continue afterwards via emails and 'webinars'. ▶

News in brief

Belding Scribner Trailblazer Award 2009



Dr Nathan Levin

Dr Nathan Levin was presented with the International Society for Hemodialysis (ISHD) 2009 **Belding Scribner Trailblazer Award** at the 29th Annual Dialysis Conference in Houston, Texas on March 8. Dr Levin was recognized for his significant contributions to the art and science of renal medicine. He is currently the medical and research director of the

Renal Research Institute (RRI) and clinical professor of medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. Dr Levin initiated and developed clinical dialysis programs at the Henry Ford Health System and the Beth Israel Medical Center before becoming a founder (in 1997) of RRI – a joint venture between Fresenius Medical Care and Beth Israel. RRI focuses on improving patient outcomes and strengthening clinical research in nephrology – two subjects of great interest to Levin. Over the years, he has had a close relationship with the ISN, as Chair of the Hemodialysis Advisory Committee, Chair of the hemodialysis theme for the WCN 2005 in Singapore, and in helping to establish the Kaplan Prize in polycystic kidney disease. ▶

Save the date – Nexus 2010 in Kyoto

The next Nexus symposium will be held in Kyoto, Japan from **April 15 to 18, 2010**. The working title for the event is ‘The kidney and vascular system: emerging culprits in pathogenesis and advances in therapy’. More information will be available shortly via the ISN Gateway, but mark your calendar now! ▶



Toji Temple in Kyoto, Japan

New title for NCP Nephrology

As of the April 2009 issue, the ISN journal *Nature Clinical Practice Nephrology* will be rebranded as **Nature Reviews Nephrology**. Alongside the change of name, the publication will have a new look both in print and online. The printed version will now be in full color and the website will be redesigned with improved navigation.



The Nephrology title will join seven existing Nature Reviews that are firmly established as the leading monthly review journals in their respective fields. Thanks to the revamp, each monthly issue of *Nature Reviews Nephrology* will publish 25% more content, providing readers with more high-quality articles covering advances in medical research, from bench to bedside. Content will include editorials, research highlights, news and views, reviews, case studies, and perspectives. The journal will not alter its editorial scope or commissioning strategy and will retain its distinguished external editors-in-chief and international advisory boards. For more information see: www.nature.com/clinicalpractice ▶

ISN Headquarters is moving!

Following an organizational review last year, and to provide improved member and program services, the ISN has implemented a new management and operational structure for the Society. As of April 1, 2009, ISN's Global Operations Center will move to a new location with a fresh team in Brussels, Belgium, and will be complemented by an Operations Center for the Americas located in Reston, Virginia, USA, just outside Washington DC. This new organization will increase ISN's effectiveness and efficiency. From April, the main contact points for Society matters will be:

ISN Global Operations Center

Rue du Luxembourg 22-24
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 213 13 67
Fax: +32 2 213 13 63

ISN Americas Operations Center

12100 Sunset Hills Rd., Suite 130
Reston, VA 20190, USA
Tel: +1 703 234 41 11
Fax: +1 703 435 43 90

The ISN email address (info@isn-online.org) and the ISN website address (www.isn-online.org) will remain unchanged.

Sister Renal Centers Program celebrates its first graduates

The ISN's prestigious Sister Renal Centers (SRC) Program proudly announces its first graduates since the program's restructuring in 2006. Launched in 1997, this pioneering ISN-COMGAN initiative is playing a significant role in boosting renal healthcare in developing countries through close mentoring and exchange with established centers of excellence.

The first three SRC pairs to graduate are the Arabkir Joint Medical Center in Armenia and the Institute of Child and Adolescent Health/Antwerp University Hospital, Belgium; the Ruijin Hospital of the Shanghai Jiaotong University in China and the Tenon Hospital in Paris, France; and another Chinese center, the Zhong Da Hospital in the Southeast University in Nanjing paired with the Institute of Nephrology at the University of Cardiff in Wales.

The SRC Program was developed to enhance co-operation between nephrology centers worldwide. Its mission is to advance the practice of nephrology in the developing world by linking renal units in emerging countries with centers in the developed world.

Support for success

Commenting on the first three 'graduates', Dr Rashad Barsoum of the Cairo Kidney Center and outgoing SRC Chairman said: "It is a pleasure to witness the graduation of the first three centers from the SRC Program. At all stages of their ascent to the top category, they have been consistently visionary, ambitious, focused and truly excelling. The secret of their success has been their intrinsic understanding of the mission of the SRC Program itself. The developing centers were able to undergo a dynamic, critical and transparent self-analysis, while the supporting centers were willing, and able, to address their partners' weaknesses and threats, to uphold their own strengths and to capture opportunities to promote their growth. It is clear that such collaboration positively reflects on both centers: a sister partnership is by no means a simple donor/recipient relationship." Dr Barsoum's successor as SRC chair will be Dr Paul Harden.

Any two renal centers can form an ISN SRC pair if at least one of them is in the developing world (the EC) and both are chaired by an ISN member. Since 2005, the SRC Program has provided a framework and benefits for the Sister Centers which depend on their progress at a number of levels. Sister pairs now jointly enter the program at Level C and can progress to levels B and A, and ultimately graduate, subject to satisfactory annual progress.

Armenia – Belgium

The Arabkir Joint Medical Center and the Antwerp University Hospital joined forces in one of the first pairings to embrace the SRC Program. However, the relationship between the two centers has deeper roots with medical personnel from Antwerp first visiting Armenia to provide emergency assistance in the immediate aftermath of the devastating earthquake in 1988.

Following entry into the program, an annual teaching course was established in Yerevan and followed by doctors from Antwerp, while some 35 Armenian doctors and nurses have been trained in Antwerp. To support these activities, a continuing education program has been set up in Armenia and Armenian personnel has also been involved in research studies in Antwerp.

Infrastructure in Yerevan has been significantly upgraded with the provision of hemodialysis equipment and new water-treatment systems. Today, the Armenian hospital can call on 19 dialysis machines, as well as new laboratory facilities for measuring blood cyclosporine and ferritine levels which have been installed with high levels of quality control.

A milestone in this partnership was the first kidney transplantation from a living donor in Armenia that was performed by a joint Antwerp-Yerevan team in 1999. Since then, the number of annual transplantations has steadily



► The first kidney transplantations from living donors were performed in 1999 by the Antwerp-Yerevan team

increased. Thanks to the prestige of the SRC Program, public awareness of kidney disease and treatment has been boosted through the Armenian media, with this partnership becoming a model for other SRC collaborations.

Shanghai – Paris



► The nephrology department at Shanghai Ruijin Hospital is now one of the best nephrology centers in China

China's Ruijin Hospital of Shanghai Jiaotong University formed an early SRC pairing with the Tenon Hospital in Paris, France. The collaboration was pioneered by Dr Gabriel Richet in Paris and in Shanghai by Dr Dechang Dong, the first Chinese councilor on the ISN Pacific forum. Their leadership is being continued today by – on the French side – Dr Pierre Ronco and in China by Dr Nan Chen who is vice-president of the Chinese Society of Nephrology.

Ruijin Hospital is now a leading academic department with advanced medical facilities making it one of the best nephrology centers in China. Since 2001, the hospital has achieved a significant boost in its clinical performance with large increases in outpatient numbers (now over 11,000), hospitalization capacity, dialysis and renal biopsies. During this SRC collaboration, both the current director in Shanghai, Nan Chen, and its vice-director Dr Wen Zhang, have trained in Paris. Training for individuals continues in both clinical and research activities.

The SRC pairing has ambitious plans for the future, too. Exchanges will continue and the duo is hoping to establish an international laboratory supported by the French public health organization INSERM. The Chinese side is looking to participate fully in the international nephrology scene: organizing conferences in China and scientific studies including epidemiological investigations on CKD. It is also aiming to become a SRC Supporting Center in China providing free national Continuing Medical Education (CME) courses that already attract delegates from all over the country.

Nanjing – Cardiff

With an initial link made in 1997, Zhong Da Hospital of the Southeast University Nanjing and Cardiff University of Wales were officially recognized as a SRC pair in 1998, with the first of an annual series of clinical and basic science seminars initiated in 1999. A year later, the two institutions started a formal exchange of research personnel and, in 2004, a CKD teaching course on delaying the progression of renal disease was delivered in Nanjing by Cardiff personnel. Shortly afterwards, three young nephrologists and two dialysis nurses from Nanjing were selected to train in Cardiff with the aim of improving the clinical renal service and research in the Nanjing center – a goal that has been successfully achieved.

Led by Dr Bi-Cheng Liu, the President of Jiangsu Provincial Society of Nephrology, Nanjing center has seen a significant increase in the number of graduate student trainings since 1998 (from one to around 20 today), while hemodialysis patient numbers have increased four-fold from 60 in 1998 to approximately 250 today. In 2007, a peritoneal dialysis unit was established in Nanjing. A sign of the pairing's progress was the joint organization of the Nanjing International Symposium on Renal Fibrosis, supported by Cardiff and the ISN in 2006 and 2008, which attracted more than 400 professionals. Nanjing has now become the key center in teaching, clinical and renal research in China's Jiangsu Province.

For the future, the Chinese institution aims to further develop undergraduate nephrology teaching and to set up a collaborative postgraduate nephrology course that will serve the Jiangsu Province. A framework will be established for quality standards for the delivery of renal services. In research, there will be support for basic training for Chinese fellows to come to Cardiff as part of their PhD studies, and one notable feature will be the continuing collaboration on research projects related to Chinese herbal medicine. ►



► Dr Dongdong Luo began her PhD studies in Cardiff looking at 'The role of IL-1 in TGFβ signalling'

For more information on the SRC Program, please visit: www.isn-online.org/society/outreach/isn_20088.html

Renal and Extrarenal Control of Acid-Base Homeostasis in Health and Disease

September 17-20, 2009
Florence, Italy

Co-Chairs

Giovambattista Capasso
University of Naples, Italy

Reto Krapf
University of Basel, Switzerland

Orson W. Moe
University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center in Dallas, USA

Carsten A. Wagner
University of Zurich, Switzerland

This Forefronts Symposium will explore various aspects of acid-base regulation in physiological and pathophysiological processes integrating cellular and systemic sensor and effector mechanisms. Topics range from acid-base regulation in model organisms to human disease and its treatment.

Bringing together scientists and clinicians from a broad range of fields related to pH-regulation, this symposium will provide a unique platform for interdisciplinary discussions of these scientifically exciting and clinically important processes.

Discover the full program and register online at
www.isn-online.org/forefronts

Important Dates

Registration Opening
April 27, 2009

Abstract Submission
June 15, 2009

Travel Grant Submission
June 15, 2009

Early Registration Deadline
July 15, 2009

www.isn-online.org/forefronts

Advancing Nephrology around the World



News in brief

Taiwan launches ISN membership drive



► The ISN well represented at the TSN annual meeting in Taipei!

In mid-December 2008, the Taiwan Society of Nephrology has launched a major campaign to increase ISN membership in the country. The campaign kicked off at the society's annual meeting on December 13 and 14 where an ISN booth was prominent and the important message on ISN's global activities was transmitted to members.

The move to increase ISN membership is part of the Taiwanese society's initiative to increase its own international interactions. The society's leadership, President Yu Feng Lin, Executive Councilor Chih Wei Yang, and Secretary General Kuo Cheng Lu, are keen to increase interaction with other Nephrology Societies in the Asian region and beyond, thereby enhancing regional awareness of kidney disease and its treatment. The society understands that collaboration works effectively only as two-way interaction and they are working to increase Taiwan's contribution to international responsibilities through closer ties with the ISN. ►

Indian society opens door to annual membership initiative

December was also a busy month for our Indian colleagues with the ISN featuring prominently and participating in a membership drive at the 39th Indian Society of Nephrology meeting held at Pune, India from December 18 to 20. The major meeting was attended by 800 delegates and the ISN booth was strategically placed next to that of the Indian Society of Nephrology.

Meeting delegates expressed the view that the ISN booth raised their awareness about several significant ISN initiatives such as group membership, World Kidney Day and Fellowship programs. This recent initiative has paved the way to pursuing a similar approach on an annual basis reaching out to Indian Society members that should help boost ISN membership in the region. ►

Educational Ambassadors Program opens

Since January 2009, the "ISN Educational Ambassadors" has replaced the Visiting Scholars Program (see ISN newsletter issue 28, page 3) and is now ready to receive its first applications. The program was redeveloped to further enhance ISN's renal educational services with a format that can achieve an immediate and tangible impact on renal health care services in developing countries.

ISN now invites the first applications from centers in developing countries and potential Educational Ambassadors. May 1, 2009 is the deadline for applications to be submitted by medical centers wishing to host an ISN Educational Ambassador during 2010. The application must be pre-endorsed by the centers appropriate ISN-COMGAN regional committee. The program then works to engage the requested expert or matches the request against a database of qualified and approved experts. For more information, visit the ISN Gateway at: www.isn-online.org/society/outreach/isn_2009o.html ►

World Congress of Nephrology 2009 – plan to attend the ISN meetings

ISN General Assembly

Sunday May 24, 2009 – 7.00-8.00 am – White Room 2 at MIC+2

A detailed agenda will be available on the ISN website one month before and a separate announcement will be sent by email to all ISN members.

General ISN-COMGAN workshop and poster session

Monday May 25, 2009 – 9.00-12.00 am – America Room in Mezzanine Hall 5

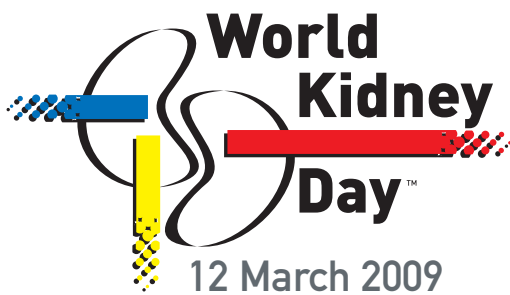
The workshop will highlight the latest successes and developments within ISN-COMGAN's realm of activities through presentations given by program participants who have made significant achievements and impact on the situation of nephrology in their home countries and regions.

ISN-COMGAN Fellowship and SRC poster session

Saturday May 23, 2009 – 10.30-12.00 am – Poster Area at MIC+1

Past and current Fellows who have submitted a successful abstract to the Congress are invited to participate in the Fellowship Poster session which makes them eligible for one of the three awards presented at the COMGAN workshop.

Honorary B and graduated A level centers from the SRC Program will be presenting their posters demonstrating their achievements on the level of local nephrology. The invited participants will be competing for the Schrier Award presented at the COMGAN workshop.



WKD 2009 – what did you do to raise awareness?

World Kidney Day 2009 (WKD 2009) was another rip-roaring global event raising awareness of the importance of our kidneys and how we can reduce the impact and frequency of kidney disease. From Addis Ababa to Tokyo, and Chicago to Sarajevo, nephrologists, medical colleagues and public volunteers made March 12 yet another record-breaking WKD celebration. Here we present just a small sample of the many activities that took place all around the world. And we say a huge thank you to everyone who took part!

The 2009 World Kidney Day campaign highlighted the importance of high blood pressure as one of the key symptoms and causes of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) with the campaign message “keep the pressure down”.

One key central theme – and the inspiration for simultaneous events around the world – was the concept of “on the move for kidney health”. This collective march encouraged mass participation by the public, celebrities and professionals across a public area by walking, running or whatever means came to hand (or foot)! Many colorful kidney congas twisted their way through streets across the world, distributing kidney health checklists as they went!

Stepping up in Lagos



Amongst those taking the mass-movement theme to heart were the Nigerian nephrologists who stepped out on a WKD 2009 walkathon to the Lagos State Teaching Hospital. Screenings and lectures were organized to coincide with the walk. A week of activities was also undertaken in Ogun State by the Olabisi Onabanjo Teaching Hospital, including screening and a number of notable guest lectures with state government representatives present.

Marching in Moscow



In Moscow, patient support organizations – the Kidney Cancer Research Bureau and the League of Patients – took to the streets under the banner ‘World without Kidney Cancer’. The street action included demonstrations, an exhibition of photographs taken by kidney cancer patients, plus information for the public on the importance of combating CKD.

Paris gala



Opting for a rather more sedate approach, a distinguished French audience enjoyed a fantastic gala of music and opera at

the world-famous Sorbonne in Paris on the eve of WKD. The event was organized by the Fondation du Rein and was under the generous patronage of French President Nicholas Sarkozy. On WKD itself, there was a major conference at the French National Academy of Medicine in Paris. This split into two parts: during the morning, a debate was held between representatives of medical and patient associations, while the afternoon was dedicated to a scientific meeting on renal disease management and therapeutic education.

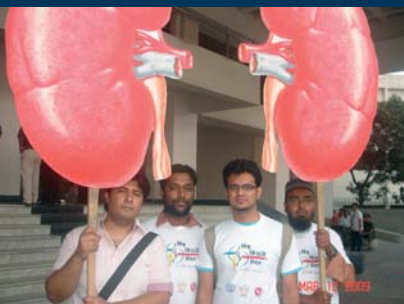
California calling



WKD 2009 events took place right across the USA, but a couple of different happenings were organized in sunny California. The Renal Support Network produced a play called *Who Lives?*, which opened at the Pico Playhouse, Los Angeles on the actual Day. The production, set in 1963, opens up issues around CKD, dialysis and organ donation as an anonymous citizens’ committee must decide who gets treatment... and who does not.

World Kidney Day Los Angeles arranged a number of events including a WKD Media Opportunity where celebrities such as Andy Garcia and Hilary Duff undertook a mini-screening, and George and Ann Lopez discussed the importance of early detection in the prevention of kidney disease. A Community Forum conference focused on a community dialogue on CKD to raise awareness amongst community members, caregivers, patient families, students, faith-based organizations, and researchers.

In addition, research hospitals across the southern California area held their weekly ‘grand rounds’ on nephrology related topics to coincide with WKD. This initiative targeted improved awareness amongst medical interns and residents concerning the need for innovative treatment and research in the field of nephrology.



Egypt – a walk in the park



A mass march around Al-Azhar Park, Cairo's largest biggest and centrally located park, was a feature of Egypt's WKD 2009, which included many educational activities for the public and free screening for those people visiting the park. Plenty of Egyptian celebrities and governmental representatives were also present at these events.

Football supports Turkey



The Turkish Kidney Foundation (TKF) prepared a variety of activities supported by widespread media coverage and advertising. A meeting on 'The CKD problem in Turkey and suggestions for solution' attracted the leading authorities on kidney health and nephrology.

Celebrities and prominent figures who had supported TKF activities during 2008 were recognized at an award ceremony and concert that was arranged after the WKD walkathon – known as the 'Happy Life Walkathon'. This march went from the foundation headquarters in Istanbul to the district square with participants carrying banners encouraging organ donation.

NGOs, sport clubs, kidney patients and members of the press all took part. And in the week following WKD, soccer teams competing in the Turkish national league displayed banners raising awareness of kidney health before the start of every game.

Education in Ethiopia



The focus for the Ethiopian Kidney Association was education, with talks given to the public in the capital, Addis Ababa. Ministry of Health officials attended kidney and blood pressure screenings and a seminar on kidney and hypertension was organized for medical doctors.

Kiwi screening



Kidney screening was also the main focus of New Zealand's involvement in WKD 2009. From March 9 to 15, Kidney Health New Zealand organized public urine and blood pressure testing for MPs and members of the public in The Beehive (New Zealand's parliament building) in Wellington. On a similar theme, renal staff visited the operational sites of one of the country's largest breweries (Lion Nathan) in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin to screen workers and educate them about kidney disease.

South America salsa



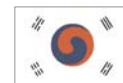
Events took place across Latin America including a major meeting of 200 medical doctors in Quito, Ecuador to present new information on kidney disease and to review particular initiatives on the prevention of renal disease. The session was organized by Clinica de los Rinones.

Well informed in Argentina



In Mendoza, Argentina WKD 2009 was celebrated by the regional mutuality organization for public employees (OSEP) with a public medical education campaign focusing on kidney disease and prevention.

Korea makes it 'kidney week'...



In eight cities across Korea (Seoul, Busan, Incheon, Daejeon, Cheongju, Daegu, Kwangju and Jeonju) the Korean Society of Nephrology (KSN) organized a week-long program of activities from March 9 to 14. KSN had already published the findings of its survey on the prevalence of CKD in the Korean population in 2008, and organized media publicity on the relationship between hypertension and kidney disease just before kidney week. Public lectures were held and free diagnostic medical examinations were on offer in all eight cities.

...in Japan, it is a month!



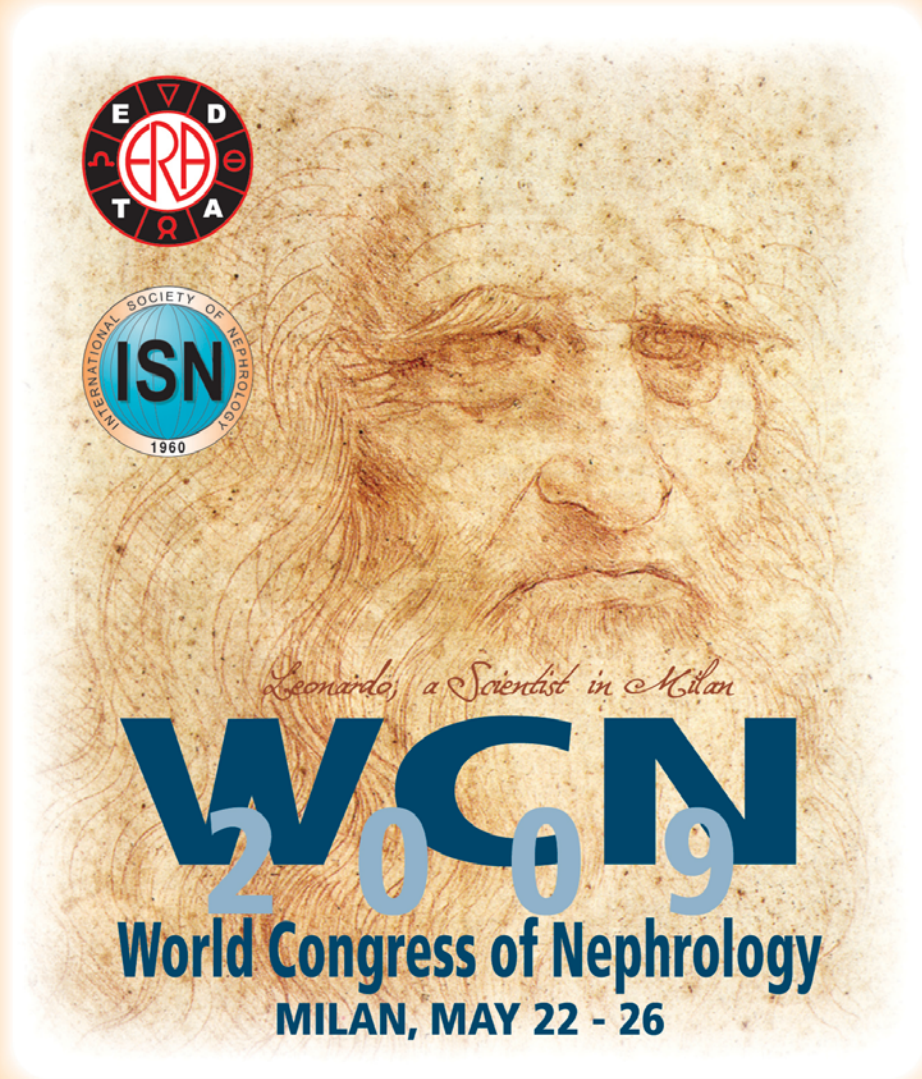
In Japan, the whole of March was designated as Japan Kidney Month with numerous events taking place across the country – many organized alongside Women's Health Week. Kidney walks were popular in Kanagawa and Tokyo, and public lectures were organized in Tokyo and Kyushu. Throughout the month, special kidney health medical check-ups were made available countrywide.

For more reports on WKD 2009, please visit: www.worldkidneyday.org

WKD is made possible in part by contributions from corporate partners. We thank them for their essential support.



Don't forget WKD 2010 will be on Thursday March 11 – it is never too early to start planning!



Leonardo, a Scientist in Milan

WCN 2009 World Congress of Nephrology MILAN, MAY 22 - 26

Organised by
**European Renal Association –
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Congress President
Francesco Locatelli
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Congress Secretary
Piergiorgio Mesa
(Milan, Italy)

TRACKS

- CKD - epidemiology and major challenges
- Aetiology and pathogenesis of kidney disease, clinical nephrology
- Hypertension and vascular disease
- Acute kidney injury
- Renal failure and dialysis
- Transplantation

HOT TOPIC AREAS

- The genetic basis of renal disease and therapeutic perspectives
- Changing views in glomerular function and the basis of glomerular disease and repair
- Progress in specific diseases
- Kidney diseases originating in childhood and infancy
- Update on renal cancer and tumor syndromes
- Special aspects of anti immune therapy
- Novel diagnostic aspects in kidney disease
- Pathophysiology and management of fluid and electrolyte disorders
- Comprehensive care of the CKD patient
- Controversies in the diagnosis and management of CVD in CKD
- Special aspects of dialysis care
- Novel aspects of vitamin D, calcium and phosphate metabolism
- Clinical practice guidelines in nephrology

www.wcn2009.org