

# NEWS

# ISN

ISN NEWS 45 May 2013

## ISN GO Fellowships Sharing knowledge across borders



Advancing Nephrology Around the World

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# EDITORIAL

## The future of nephrology

This edition of ISN News is dedicated to ISN Fellows and young nephrologists.

Over the past two decades, the ISN Fellowship Program has conveyed knowledge, skills, experience and opportunities to younger renal physicians from less privileged parts of the world.

Over 500 nephrologists from developing countries have received invaluable training. Thanks to ISN, they have made the first steps to improving kidney care in their region. Sharing knowledge is what has brought them together as you will find out in the following pages.

Young nephrologists have their role in the future of nephrology and our Society. In 2007, ISN set up the Young Nephrologists Committee (YNC) to put its talented younger members forward and get them involved in shaping the future of the Society. The committee has carried out brilliant work since then, getting its members involved in the World Congress of Nephrology and Nexus "Meet the Professor" meetings.

Members of the YNC have also helped organize workshops in Brazil and India recently. Their mentorship program kick started to a great success in 2010, putting YNC mentors in touch with nephrologists in training to get advice and move forward in their career wherever they are from.

These initiatives reveal how education, research, professional development and leadership opportunities are helping young doctors achieve their professional goals and advance how nephrology is practiced worldwide.

To follow the activities of the YNC, visit the YNC Facebook page

facebook

### The ISN Team

#### ISN News

Published by ISN  
Staff Editor: Sally Horspool  
ISN Executive Director: Luca Segantini

*The contents of this publication are compiled in good faith. The publisher accepts no responsibility for omissions or errors.*

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# News in brief

## Date announced for next General Assembly meeting at WCN 2013

ISN is happy to announce that the next General Assembly meeting will take place during the World Congress of Nephrology on June 3, 2013 at the Hong Kong Convention Center (room S226 and 227). To download the agenda and read the bylaws visit: [www.theisn.org/latest-isn-news/leadership/isn-announces-date-for-next-general-assembly-meeting](http://www.theisn.org/latest-isn-news/leadership/isn-announces-date-for-next-general-assembly-meeting).

This year's meeting will welcome reports from ISN's President, Secretary General, and the Treasurer. It will also cover the activities of the ISN Global Outreach Programs and WCN Awards.

It will be an opportunity for participants in the meeting to ratify the new bylaws as well as the results of the General Ballot for New Councilors, President and President Elect. Finally, during this meeting, the Presidential Gavel will be passed on to the new ISN President, who will appoint the members of the Executive Committee.



It just takes one click. Join more than 2,000 ISN friends on Facebook and share stories on how you are helping kidney care around the world. This page connects the world, sharing stories, initiatives and ideas on how together we can make an impact on fighting kidney disease.

## Join ISN Education Global Outreach Postings and get your manuscript published

Last year, ISN started an important initiative as part of its overall ISN Education strategy: Global Outreach Postings. The aim of this initiative is to grant access to nephrologists from emerging countries to publish manuscripts that are in line with ISN's mission and of interest to readers from around the world, including in emerging countries.

ISN Education has gathered a team of reviewers from all over the world to help and support you to bring your manuscript to publication standards. To find out more about this initiative or to submit a manuscript, visit: [www.theisn.org/gopostings](http://www.theisn.org/gopostings).



## 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 specific benefits including exclusive eligibility for ISN capacity building programs, online and print subscriptions to *Kidney International* and access to *Nature Reviews Nephrology* online and reduced registration fees to ISN events. Not yet a member? Visit: [www.theisn.org/join](http://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](http://www.theisn.org/memberlogin)



# ISN GO Fellowships

## Taking nephrology training to the highest level

Past ISN Fellows tell us how the program has changed their lives and the state of kidney care where they live.

ISN Global Outreach (GO) Fellowships have been a popular choice for many ISN GO Program participants over the years. Why? They provide relevant and contemporary nephrology training to physicians from emerging countries. One of the key attractions is the chance participants get to share what they have learned and ultimately improve standards of care while becoming leaders in their field.

After the recent call for applications, 26 candidates were successfully accepted into the program and will receive ISN funding for their fellowship. For the first time, Israel has become a host country and will host Mohammed Alsheikh Hasan from Palestine.

The guiding principle of the program is that Fellows are required to return to their home countries after their training to convey knowledge and experience that they acquired during their Fellowship, thereby teaching countless young physicians and providing critical enhancement to kidney disease care in their local communities.

ISN Fellows receive hands-on training in advanced host institutions, allowing them to acquire state-of-the-art knowledge in basic and clinical nephrology, dialysis, transplantation, and epidemiology. The training focuses on providing the exact skills and knowledge specifically required by the home institution. The Program offers long-term fellowships (7–12 months) or short-term ones (2–6 months).

A recent survey indicated that after fellows have completed their training and returned to their home countries, over 80% are in positions in local academic centers with direct impact on clinical care and teaching.

Over recent years, the ISN GO Fellowship Program has expanded to allow opportunities for nephrologists from emerging countries to train in Host Centers in their own region of the world, rather than exclusively in North America, Europe, or Australasia. Such Fellowships are consistent with the overall goal of building capacity by offering appropriate clinical and research training.

You can get involved. **The deadline for the next call for applications is June 15, 2013. Applications can be done online: [www.theisn.org/fellowship](http://www.theisn.org/fellowship)**

**Here are some of the reasons young nephrologists have enjoyed their fellowship experience so much:**



**“It gave me confidence when relating to colleagues and patients and reinforced my knowledge and broadened my perspective in many ways”**

**Esmeralda Bordador**  
The Philippines



**“Through one of the meetings I attended as an ISN Fellow, I realized that if we did not start our own transplant program, sooner or later our dialysis program would not be able to cope with the increasing number of patients”**

**Charlotte Osafo**  
Ghana



**“I gained a more comprehensive understanding of the scientific, clinical and social role that modern kidney specialists should play today”**

**Felip Rodriguez De León**  
Panama



**“I discovered new concepts related to acute kidney injury and renal support therapies and how they can be easily applied to daily rounds. Now, we have a good collaboration with my host institution”**

**Armando Vazquez Rangel**  
Mexico



**“I hope to introduce more dialysis techniques that are not used in Jordan and encourage more cadaveric organ transplants. I also had ICU training and want to make further use of ultrasound as a bedside diagnostic tool”**

**Ahmed Hamid**  
Jordan

# ISN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM OFFERS SPECIFIC AND HANDS-ON CLINICAL OR RESEARCH TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUNG KIDNEY SPECIALISTS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD SO THEY CAN RETURN TO IMPROVE STANDARDS OF CARE IN THEIR HOME COUNTRY AND ULTIMATELY BECOME LEADERS IN THEIR FIELD.

**“As an ISN Fellow, I gained invaluable experience developing research, from forming a clinical question to designing the details of the protocol needed to find the answer.**

I also increased my knowledge in acute kidney injury, from physiopathology to treatment. I brought back a new level of expertise to the University of Sao Paulo, helping to raise the standards of clinical research in my institution and across Brazil.”

Etienne Macedo,  
Brazil and USA



Etienne Macedo

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Advancing Nephrology around the World



# Focus on an ISN Fellow

## Syrian nephrologist Jude Yagan shares her experience as an ISN Fellow in Boston while looking forward to attending WCN 2013.

ISN Global Outreach Fellowships have earned the reputation of giving young nephrologists the tools to kick-start their career. They have given them the chance to learn and share their knowledge, with the mission of improving the state of care in their region.

A challenge that Jude Yagan from the Mashfa Ibn Rushd Hospital near Aleppo, Syria was eager to take on. She spent a year at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, USA: "Looking back, the value of teamwork when caring for kidney transplant patients was the most important lesson I learned. The contribution of each person in the team was important for the success of each transplant."

In Boston, she learned every aspect of caring for a transplant patient from the day of surgery to complications of short and long-term follow-up. "This was not feasible in our hospital in Syria where teaching was scarce as there was only one nephrologist with limited transplant experience." She talks about being exposed to new ways of teaching and notions of pursuing evidence, discussing and sharing knowledge, teaching and caring for young fellows so they become good nephrologists.

Syria only has seven licensed nephrologists for a population of 4 million and care is basic, especially in the dialysis units where too many patients are dialyzing from a temporary catheter with high morbidity and mortality rates. Since war broke out there has been less hope to start a transplantation program.

**"Looking back, the value of teamwork when caring for kidney transplant patients was the most important lesson I learned. The contribution of each person in the team was important for the success of each transplant."**

Jude adds: "Our daily struggle is to maintain good quality care for our patients despite our limited resources. It is important to constantly educate ourselves as doctors to implement evidence-based medicine and quality care."

"Unfortunately, many things are out of our control and it can be frustrating, like the sudden lack of drug storage, the struggle to find non-governmental resources and the financial burdens of it on our patients."

Today, her fellowship experience helped her deal with these issues as she worked with a great team of doctors who never gave up – switching drugs, searching for solutions implemented by other groups worldwide.

In June, Jude will be attending the ISN World Congress in Hong Kong through an ISN grant. "I am looking forward to finding out about new developments and research in kidney transplant and to being in contact with other doctors from other parts of the world with the same daily challenges in caring for kidney patients and transplanted patients in particular," she says.

Jude Yagan (far left) with her colleagues at Brigham and Women's Hospital Boston, USA.



For more information on applying for an ISN GO Fellowship, visit: [www.theisn.org](http://www.theisn.org)  
Deadline for application is June 15, 2013.

# World Kidney Day 2013: Acute Kidney Injury - Stop Kidney Attack!

**Photos speak louder than words to describe this year's WKD campaign.**

World Kidney Day (WKD) started with an extraordinary bang this year, as the new website was launched – giving everybody even more of a reason to share what they were doing on the day. The site is filled with new features including an event map, access to bright new materials and social media discussions.

In its eighth year, the campaign was a roaring success once again with 542 events in 157 countries. Country participation has grown fast in a very short time compared to 11 countries taking part in the first World Kidney Day in 2006. This time, the most active countries were USA, India, Canada, UK, Malaysia, Thailand and Brazil.

Acute Kidney Injury was a theme that was embraced globally. Social media sites were buzzing: 2,520 active WKD friends on Facebook, more than 8,000 views of the WKD video, and 1,576 followers counted on Twitter.

During this campaign, World Kidney Day received more recognition from policy makers. There was active participation from Ministries of Health in a growing number of countries. World Kidney Day was also officially endorsed by the European Medicines Agency and recognized by the US National Institutes of Health and US Centers for Disease Control.

## WKD 2013 goes to the European Parliament

On March 5, 2013, ISN took part in a seminar at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium organized by the European Kidney Health Alliance of which ISN is a member, and hosted by MEP Zofija Mazej Kukovic, new Chair of the MEP Group for Kidney Health. She highlighted the importance of screening, prevention and the role politicians and scientists play in helping people make healthy lifestyle changes.

Ron Gansevoort from the University Medical Center Groningen spoke more about healthy eating, insisting on the importance of patient and doctor collaboration when managing treatment. Swedish Kidney transplant patient Per Ake Zillen explained how he lives a normal life thanks to his treatment but also through effective self-care.

More photos are available on the ISN and WKD Facebook pages.





Nepal



Thailand



Melbourne



Ankara



Malaysia



# Saving Young Lives

Last year, ISN joined forces with the International Society of Peritoneal Dialysis (ISPD), the International Pediatric Nephrology Association (IPNA) and Sustainable Kidney Care Foundation (SKCF) to develop a cooperative project in Africa and South East Asia. The Saving Young Lives (SYL) project sets out to establish sustainable programs using acute Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) to treat Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) in low resource settings in both regions.

Five years of funding was donated by a charitable foundation and it is expected that the centers established through this project will provide a model for developing similar programs in many other low and middle income countries in Africa, South East Asia and beyond.

ISN, IPNA, and ISPD contribute their expertise by providing education, training, and capacity building – but these three organizations are not involved in helping to meet the direct costs of patient care. SKCF is using its expertise and resources to ensure that PD catheters and PD fluid are made available in the centers, and provide these supplies sustainably.

Mary Carter, co-Founder and Director of SKCF is optimistic: “The challenge is to get the products approved and registered by authorities before they can enter in the country. This can take up to several years, but we have now been successful in several African countries such as Ghana, Benin, Cameroon, Uganda and Tanzania.”

Since its inception last year, the Saving Young Lives (SYL) consortium has gathered information and contacts across various countries and sites from both regions to assess the needs and help identify the challenges. John Feehally, ISN President and Chair of the SYL Steering Committee says: “The project, as well as helping to establish the centers in hospital, will also focus on training and education in the community to improve awareness of AKI, and equip local health practitioners for prevention and early care of AKI, as well as identify cases needing hospital care.”

The project supported an important training workshop in Cape Town, South Africa last November. Sixteen nephrologists and surgeons from various sub-Saharan African countries travelled to Cape Town to attend a one-week, hands-on training focused on PD catheter insertion and related clinical skills. The training was held at the Red Cross Children Hospital, organized by pediatric nephrologist Mignon McCulloch, and the head of pediatric surgery, Alp Numalogu.

A mix of lectures and practical training make for a successful workshop.



Time for group photo!



Visiting a patient at the dialysis center at Korle Bu Hospital, Ghana.



Mignon McCulloch says: “The workshop was a mix of theoretical lectures and practical training around PD, helping physicians to understand the practical challenges of inserting PD catheters in children. The highlight of the week was definitely the practical training where doctors could gain hands-on skills and confidence in numerous techniques including central line and PD catheter insertion in an almost real life experience.”

Victoria May Adabayeri, a participant in the Cape Town course, from the Korle Bu Hospital in Accra, Ghana found this course extremely helpful. “The course has given me the confidence to insert PD catheters. About 10 hours after arrival back home I inserted my first catheter, and it was very rewarding. The first one is the icebreaker. I do not think there could have been a more hands-on experience anywhere else.”

In February this year, the SYL Steering Committee met during the 12<sup>th</sup> Congress of the African Association of Nephrology, the 5<sup>th</sup> Congress of the African Pediatric Nephrology Association and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the Ghana Kidney Association in Accra, Ghana.

The aim of this fact-finding mission was to meet representatives of seven African sites to assess their needs and challenges to develop Acute PD programs in their hospital centers. Fredric Finkelstein, IPSD representative: “We met extraordinary people who really try to make a difference in their country to establish acute PD programs and save children who otherwise would face certain death.”

Based on the talks with the representatives and selection criteria, which have been developed, the SYL will be providing support this year for programs in Benin, Ghana, and Tanzania.

William Smoyer, IPNA representative explains: “SYL activities will vary from facilitating nurse training, sending educational ambassadors to spend a week at the hospital centers to teach nurses and physicians, or organizing CME workshops with worldwide nephrology leaders travelling to the country. This will all depend on the needs of each particular site and country.”

The Saving Young Lives partnership will also continue its work in South East Asia selecting sites and identify needs of various hospital centers.

For more information, please contact: Ariane Brusselmans: [abrusselmans@theisn.org](mailto:abrusselmans@theisn.org)

A chance to meet the local medical community and see their challenges first-hand.



# YNC corner

## Meet the YNC mentors

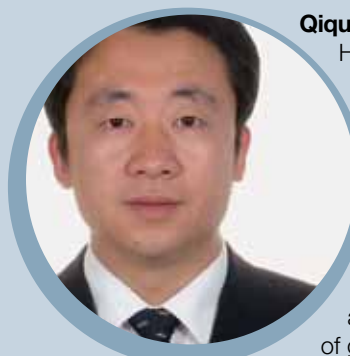
In our second round of presentations, we would like to introduce you to our YNC mentors. The YNC Mentoring Program helps young nephrologists rise to the challenge and help advance nephrology at home and abroad.

The ISN-Young Nephrologists Committee (YNC) Mentoring Program fosters international relationships between nephrologists and nephrologists-in-training or more junior nephrologists/nephrology researchers. Their objective is to discuss clinical cases and/or research projects of mutual interest.

ISN is now actively expanding this program to include more mentors from the ISN YNC and more senior members of the ISN leadership. The program has a special interest in promoting exchange visits between the mentees and the mentors so that they can all learn from each other. Participants in this program will be given additional consideration when applying for ISN Global Outreach or ISN Fellowship travel awards.



**Jeffrey Perl** is a staff nephrologist at St Michael's Hospital in Toronto and assistant professor of medicine at the University of Toronto. His primary research interest and clinical practice focus on improving the survival and quality of life for patients on chronic dialysis with a particular emphasis on peritoneal dialysis patients.



**Qiquan Sun** is a transplant nephrologist. His research focuses on improving renal allograft survival. Research interests include the pathogenesis of typical lesions in antibody-mediated rejection, such as capillary damage and microcirculating inflammation. Another area of research is the correlation of anti-endothelial cell antibodies with the outcome of graft survival.

**Mahmut Ilker Yilmaz** is a practicing nephrologist. His specific clinical interests include atherosclerosis and endothelial dysfunction in chronic kidney disease. Currently, he is interested in the relationship between endothelial function and TWEAK, PTX3, IL-10, sFAS, RBP4, FGF-23, CXCL16, and Endocan concentrations in Chronic Kidney Disease and renal transplant patients.



**Fatio Abiola Arogundade's** research interests are in general nephrology and renal replacement therapies and renal transplantation. He has studied various aspects of Acute Kidney Injury and Chronic Kidney Disease looking at the pattern and clinical-pathology of anemia, HIVAN, bone mineral disease, sickle cell nephropathy as well as the link between hydrocarbon and kidney disease. He has also studied the cost effectiveness and usefulness of hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis in acute and chronic renal failure and proffered prevention strategies for Chronic Kidney Disease.



For more information about this initiative, visit the Young Nephrologists Committee page at [www.theisn.org](http://www.theisn.org).

# ISN Nexus Symposium 2014

## Efficient drug discovery and clinical trials in kidney disease



Following a successful Nexus Symposium in Copenhagen Denmark, ISN is excited to announce the theme of the 2014 symposium in Bergamo, Italy. **A New Era of Drug Discovery and Clinical Trials in Kidney Disease** will be the focus of next year's meeting, sparking fruitful discussion and debate. This meeting will take place in Bergamo, Italy from April 3 to 6, 2014.

ISN Nexus Committee Chair Toshio Miyata explains the reason behind this choice of theme: "In kidney disease, very few drugs have been developed despite an increasing number of patients. Treating most chronic kidney diseases mainly relies on drugs developed for other conditions, such as anti-hypertensive, glucose or lipid lowering, or immunosuppressive agents."

This symposium provides cutting-edge lectures on recent advances in drug discovery and clinical trials in kidney disease and has three pillars: target validation, global open innovation for drug discovery and clinical trial, and developing collaborative frameworks among academia, pharma and government.

He continues: "Implementing newer drug discovery and efficient clinical trials in kidney disease calls for a better understanding of the disease's pathophysiology. New target and molecules relevant to the disease need to be identified and validated."

"There is a need for advances in the science and technologies of drug discovery and development. Appropriate surrogate biomarkers and clinical end-points have to be established. There must be a better understanding of the latest regulations for pharmaceutical practice and more efficient strategies for pre-clinical tests and clinical trials."

In previous Nexus meetings, most, if not all, participants were nephrologists. Miyata explains: "This time, pharmaceutical representatives and regulatory authorities will also actively join our discussions on common global issues to delineate new frameworks towards efficient drug discovery and clinical trials in kidney disease."

“  
**Implementing newer drug discovery and efficient clinical trials in kidney disease calls for a better understanding of the disease's pathophysiology**  
”

This meeting may also stimulate young nephrologists to think about common, global issues surrounding our society, our pipelines, clinical trial networking and collaboration.

Typically there are three Nexus Symposia hosted over two years (one in World Congress of Nephrology years and two in off-years).

For further information, visit:  
[www.isnnexus.org/bergamo](http://www.isnnexus.org/bergamo)



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New to *ISN Education*, Global Outreach Postings help nephrologists from emerging countries publish manuscripts that are in line with ISN's mission and of interest to readers worldwide, including in developing countries. A team of reviewers from all over the world work together to help and support, and bring your manuscript to publication standards.

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Advancing Nephrology Around the World



# ISN Upcoming events

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

## ISN Forefronts Symposium 2013 - Stem Cells and the Kidney

The beautiful city of Florence, Italy is the setting for this year's Forefronts Symposium, taking place in Florence from September 12 to 15, 2013. It will bring together leading nephrologists and active investigators for four highly interactive days. This time around, Stem Cells and Regeneration in the Kidney has been chosen as the theme.

Stem cells represent the seeds of tissue regeneration and a promising source for novel therapies. Converging evidence suggests that they also represent basic units of development and regeneration in the kidney. Understanding the mechanisms that control renal progenitor fate and function represent a crucial step for translating kidney regeneration into the clinic and initiating the age of regenerative nephrology.

**Early bird registration for this event is open until June 17, 2013.**

Don't miss this opportunity to get involved and meet active investigators from surrounding medical areas to explore new scientific domains and review the latest developments in kidney disease.



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### World Congress of Nephrology 2013

May 31st – June 4, 2013, Hong Kong, China  
[www.wcn2013.org](http://www.wcn2013.org)



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### ISN Forefronts 2013

September 12-15, 2013, Florence, Italy  
[www.isnforefronts.org/2013/florence/](http://www.isnforefronts.org/2013/florence/)



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### ISN Nexus 2014

April 3-6, 2014, Bergamo, Italy  
[www.isnnexus.org/bergamo](http://www.isnnexus.org/bergamo)



For the full list  
of ISN events  
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# HELP STOP KIDNEY DISEASE AROUND THE WORLD

# ISN

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AND SUPPORT ISN'S GLOBAL OUTREACH

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Advancing Nephrology around the World

