



ISN COMGAN REPORT October - December 2004

January 31, 2005

To: Jan J. Weening, President ISN
cc: ISN Executive
ISN Council
COMGAN members

I want to report on ISN COMGAN's activities in the fourth quarter of 2004. This proved to be our busiest year ever in terms of CME's. ISN COMGAN has participated in 10 international meetings, and sponsored excellent speakers during the final quarter. In all, the meetings this quarter were attended by close to 2000 registrants for a 2004 total of well over 17,000 participants.

A. Meetings

1. About 140 participants from Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Serbian Republic (Bosnia & Herzegovina) attended the successful 3rd Update in Nephrology in Belgrade on October 8. The meeting was sponsored by the ISN and the European Renal Association in conjunction with the Serbian Montenegro Society of Nephrology and was organized by Nada Dimkovic.

A session co-chaired by Eberhard Ritz, Amira Peco-Antic and Stevan Pljesa on Renal Biopsy and Organ Allocation included an excellent talk by Agbes Fogo on approach to renal biopsy. Other sessions were on "New insights into Progression of Renal Diseases", Progression and treatment of Glomerular Diseases" and "Novel Therapeutic Approaches. In the latter session Jurgen Floege delivered talks on 'Glomerulonephritis therapy: an update' and "Extrasosseous calcification in uremia", while Eberhard Ritz spoke about calciumimetics.

2. The Congress of Nephrology in Perú October 14-17 was a well attended and a very successful event. The report of this congress submitted by Elizabeth Escudero indicated that there were 850 participants, including 300 physicians, 350 nurses and 200 dialysis technicians. The 21 international speakers included two speakers sponsored by COMGAN, Gerald Appel and Ravindra Mehta of the USA. Other speakers included Drs. Hurtado, Escudero, (Peru) Dr. Emmanuel Burdmann, (Brazil) Dr. Liaño (Spain), Dr. Lombardi (Uruguay) and Dr. Jorge Cerdá, (USA). All the registered participants were given a syllabus with the presentations of the invited speakers which was very much appreciated.

The Round Table on ARF Around the World provided a valuable description and comparison of ARF in developing and developed countries both in terms of prevalence, treatment and outcomes. Excellently moderated by Dr. Jorge Cerdá, some of the topics included: 'Epidemiology of ARF: the Brazilian perspective' (Emmanuel Burdmann);

‘Epidemiology of ARF: the European perspective’ (Fernando Liaño); ‘Latin American ARF Registry’; (Dr. Lombardi); and ‘the Role of Registries: ISN/ARF initiative: The ARF Task Force’ (Ravindra Mehta). The Round Table concluded with two clinical vignettes from Perú . The results of this meeting will be published later this year.

In conclusion, the organizing committee expressed their thanks for the continued support of ISN COMGAN for their congress.

3. ISN held a very important meeting in Amsterdam, November 13-14, on Prevention of Progressive Renal Failure: Its Global Impact. The focus was on the countries of the European Union and speakers included many ISN leaders such as Giuseppe Remuzzi, Barry Brenner, Paul de Jong, Eberhard Ritz, John Dirks, Dick de Zeeuw, Wendy Hoy, Meguid El Nahas, Hans-Henrik Parving, and F. Locatelli. Rafael Bengoa spoke on behalf of WHO.

At the conclusion of the meeting ISN issued a ‘Call to Action’ asking national health bodies around the world to consider the urgent implementation of proactive albuminuria screening. Such action –allowing for the early detection of renal damage, followed by treatment to prevent further deterioration of the renal function-- will reduce the number of patients suffering from kidney failure, heart failure and diabetes (in both the short and long term) and their associated costs. These recommendations were presented at press conference held in the Hague in the presence of Prof. Kingma, Inspector General of Health and Chief Medical Officer of The Netherlands immediately after the meeting.

4. The Venezuelan Society of Nephrology held its VIII Congreso Venezolano de Nefrología on November 17 –20 In Caracas. A total of 474 nephrologists participated in the Congress and the scientific program had 13 international guest speakers including ISN sponsored speakers Drs. Sergio Acchiardio and Vanda Jorgetti. There were 96 invited speakers at the national level who presented the latest advances in nephrology in 6 plenary sessions, 6 symposiums, 4 continuing medical education courses, 9 main themes and 102 abstracts presented either as free communications or posters.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the presence of Dr. Peter Agre, recipient of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. The ISN, SLANH, and 10 industry patrons made all this possible through the collaboration of sponsorship.

5. The Indian Society of Nephrology held a very successful 35th Annual Conference November 18-21 at the Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi. It was attended by over 500 registered delegates Dr John Dirks was honored in the Inaugural function for his leadership as the Chairman of the COMGAN and for all the help and assistance provided to India and other countries in South Asia since 1994.

The conference featured two Orations, seven plenary lectures, two guest lectures, four symposia, six free paper sessions and three poster sessions. The topics discussed by COMGAN speakers included Current Status of Global Prevention of CKD: The Challenge for India, by Dr Dirks; Renal Transplantation: Scientific Progress and Clinical Challenges and Viral Diseases in Renal Transplant and Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis by Dr M Suthanthiran; Update on the morphological classification (including HIV nephropathy) by Dr Cinthia Drechenberg; and two by Dr N Perico -

Pathophysiology of Progression of Renal Disease in Proteinuric Nephropathy and Prevention Recipe of Disease Progression for the Office Practice.

6. The November 19 nephrology CME meeting in Kumasi, Ghana, on was superbly organized by Dr. Jacob Plange-Rhule. The theme of the meeting was renal medicine for primary care providers. Drs Eastwood, Bamgboye and Joe Adu attended on behalf of COMGAN (Africa). There were some 70 participants made up of hospital doctors, general practitioners, nurses and physicians assistants. The meeting was fairly interactive with active and useful discussions, and an important part of the discussions centered on how to manage renal patients in a resource poor environment.

Particular highlights included: presentations by Dr Bamgboye of developments in end stage renal management, including transplantation in Nigeria, which showed what was achievable in that part of the world; and a lecture detailing the studies of hypertension, salt intake and obesity by Dr. Plange-Rhule (based on studies carried out with Dr. Eastwood). The local organization of the Seminar was excellent and participants were made to feel very welcome. All participants submitting a blank CD received a copy of all the talks. In addition to ISN, sponsorship for the meeting came from Roche Products Ghana and Fresenius Medical Company UK.

7. The 3rd ISN - SLANT – ISN Update in Nephrology was held on November 22, 2004, Hotel Galadari, Colombo, Sri Lanka. A total of 70 delegates comprised Nephrology consultants and postgraduates in nephrology, medicine and renal transplantation participated enthusiastically in the meeting. During the Inauguration, Dr K S Chugh, Chairman South Asia Committee of the COMGAN addressed the delegates on the various activities of the ISN and the COMGAN

The scientific program included SLANT Oration on Transplantation: Progress and challenges by Dr M Suthanthiran; plenary lectures on Toxic Nephrology by Dr K S Chugh; Preeclampsia: new thoughts on an ancient problem by Dr Phyllis August; Viral diseases in renal transplantation and Focal segmental glomerular sclerosis by Dr Cinthia Drechenberg; Pathophysiology of progression of renal disease and Preventing disease progression in practice by Dr Norberto Perico; and Distal renal tubular acidosis in lower urinary tract abnormalities by Dr R K Sharma;

All the sessions were interactive and there was active discussion on each topic.

8. The 1st Cairo-Sheffield Nephrology Club Meeting on Detection and Prevention of CKD was held on November 25-26. The conference went very well and was efficiently organised by Adel Hassan with collaboration of Rashad Barsoum and Meguid El Nahas. It consisted of two themes: Detection and Prevention of CKD, and Cardio-renal Interface. The meeting was well attended and we had the usual mix of formal mini lectures, case discussions and debates.

The support of the ESN along with ISN COMGAN was much appreciated amongst young Egyptian nephrologists.

9. The very successful LIII Annual Meeting of the Mexican Institute of Nephrological Research (IMIN) was held in Puerto Vallarta, December 1-4, 2004. There were 353

registrants, an excellent turn out. An ISN COMGAN Symposium on “Refocusing attention towards early detection of chronic nephropathy was very well received. ISN sponsored speakers in the symposium included Dr. Thomas Hostetter (The National Kidney Disease Education Program in the USA: Some Early Lessons); Dr. Vicente Sánchez Polo of Guatemala City (Chronic nephropathy detection: Central American experience); and Dr. Guillermo García (Detection of chronic nephropathy in Mexico).

Other speakers included Dr. Ram Gokal (Current issues and future of PD and PD solutions and effect on peritoneal membrane preservation); Vicente E. Torres (Advances in kidney polycystic disease: from experimentation to treatment and another on Autosomic dominant kidney polycystosis: Hypertension and extrarenal manifestations); and Dr. Guillermo Herrera on Amyloidosis and paraproteinemias. Dr. Herrera also conducted an Interactive Workshop on Renal Pathology. Dr. Hostetter gave an excellent talk on ‘The aldosterone role in kidney failure and cardiac dysfunction.’ Other speakers included Dr. Charles Orosz, Dr. Bertrand Jaber and Dr Tommaso Bochicchio, Dr. Ma. Carmen Ávila and Dr. Mouin Seikaly.

10. The Third ISN Update was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, December 10-13, 2004 and was attended by 400 registrants from 14 different countries, including Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, Lybia, Algeria, India and Pakistan. We express our appreciation to Dr Mona Al Rukhaimi and her colleagues in Dubai, who with the help of the ISN COMGAN office, organized this course. The postgraduate course began with a workshop on Renal Pathology led by Jan Weening, Terry Cook and Magdi Francis and an Imaging Course led by Sameh Morcos (Sheffield), Gertraud Heinz-Peer, L. Derchi and Philippe Otal. These workshops were designed for small groups of 30-60 people and were very interactive. The 3-day main course consisted of: a prevention of CKD session with John Dirks, Meguid El Nahas, Giuseppe Remuzzi, Franz Schaefer, Dick de Zeeuw and Tazeen Jafar (Karachi); a course on HD-PD led by Nathan Levin with Nicole Casadervall, Brian Pereira, Salim Mujais and Robert Lindsay (Canada); a session on renal transplantation led by Mohammed Sayegh with William Harmon (Boston), Emilio Ramos and A. Al Khadr; and a KI Forum with John Harrington as moderator and Kamil Badr (Lebanon) as discussant. A simultaneous pediatric meeting took place with the Arab Society of Nephrology and IPNA.

There were also daily afternoon workshops, which were very well attended.

Finally there was the occasion of the Grand Hamdan Prize, a remarkable event at which Bob Schrier was the popular recipient of the main prize for Pathogenesis and Management of Renal Disease. Professor Adib Rizvi of Karachi received the humanitarian award. It was an excellent ceremony attended by leaders of the UAE, the corporate and the medical world, which culminated with the awarding of the prizes by Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

B. Site Visit

Visith Sitprija and Kriang Tungsanga of the Asian Subcommittee made a successful first site visit to Lao Peoples Democratic Republic on December 9-10, 2004. They met with the Minister of Health, the Chairman of the Department of Medicine, his Deputy and the General Secretary to inform them the purpose of the visit and the policy of

COMGAN. Communication was done with ease since Lao people speak Thai. They expressed their interest in Fellowship Program and especially the Sister Center Program with Dr. Kriang Tungsanga's Renal Unit at Chulalongkorn Hospital in Bangkok.

Drs Sitprija and Tungsanga reported that improvement basic nephrology is needed in Lao. Books on renal diseases should be shipped to Dr. Kongkham Vongsaiya, Renal Unit, Friendship Hospital, Vientiane. Because the two countries share a similar culture and environment, training in Thailand would be the most appropriate. This could be accomplished through either the ISN Fellowship or Sister Center Program.

C. ASN Renal Week

A successful COMGAN Workshop was held on October 28 in St Louis as part of ASN Renal Week, October 27 – November 1. The turnout was excellent with about 80 COMGAN members in attendance. The atmosphere at the meeting was very warm, like a 'mini United Nations' as one person described it.

Giuseppe Remuzzi gave an excellent update of the ISN mission of prevention and a report on the ISN Research Committee in which he stressed the need to assist in training and prevention. His committee is starting a number of screening and prevention programs this year.

Eric Neilson reported on the OFAC regulations in the USA, which prevent ISN from funding CME's and other activities in certain specified countries, and a lively discussion followed.

Brief updates were then presented by many of the Regional Subcommittee Chairs, including Sarala Naicker (Africa), Bernardo Rodriguez-Iturbe (Latin America), Haiyan Wang (East Asia), David Harris (Indonesia), Kirpal Chugh (South Asia) and Natalia Tomilina and Ellin Lieberman (Russia) and John Dirks, on behalf of Visith Sitprija (South East Asia) who was unable to attend.

Reports from the Advisory Committee Chairs included Emmanuel Burdmann, who recently became Chair of the Tropical Diseases committee Asghar Rastegar Co-Chair with Michael Field of the Education Subcommittee, Nathan Levin (Hemodialysis) and David Pugsley (Indigenous People's).

Kamil Serdengeçti spoke about the very positive impact ISN COMGAN contributions have had on the development of young Turkish nephrologists. Vishnu Moorthy spoke eloquently on his year in India as a visiting scholar. Because medical schools are not up-to-date on their training methods and there are few nephrologists, early diagnosis and prevention is not possible. He pointed out, for instance, that most Indian medical schools still don't teach anything about the role of microalbuminuria.

Dr Robert Schrier spoke briefly about the report he was preparing on the future of COMGAN and indicated that the integrated approach, which has characterized it from the beginning, would be maintained. The next ISN COMGAN Workshop will be held on Sunday, June 26 in Singapore at the World Congress of Nephrology.

D. ISN COMGAN Research Committee

Under the dynamic leadership of Giuseppe Remuzzi, the Research Committee has launched a number of Early Detection and Intervention Programs for CKD in the

developing world. The committee has developed a flexible prototype, which can be modified for specific regions and largely carried out under local leadership with management from members of the ISN COMGAN Research Committee. One such program, a pilot study in Middle and South China, is just getting started under the guidance of Professor Hequn Zou. The study has been given a \$30,000USD Grant for Scientific Research from the local government – an outstanding accomplishment.

Interest in screening and prevention programs has been expressed by Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Guatemala, Egypt, Morocco, Armenia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Saudi Arabia, India, Moldova and Nepal. During the past four months, the Research Committee has further implemented its activities on prevention programs for some of these countries at several levels. In particular, thanks to the outstanding contribution of Bob Atkins, much effort has been put forward in preparing a document entitled "Program for Detection and Management of Chronic Kidney Disease, Hypertension, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease in Developing Countries"(KHDC program). These guidelines for prevention program were put together to provide information to potential local organizers, form the basis of approaches to governments and other bodies, and for fund raising. It also should permit a very flexible yet overall conforming series of "prevention" programs worldwide. The document has been circulated to the Research Committee members for discussion and implementation before the final version will be placed on the ISN website and newsletter.

The Committee has been actively involved in planning and organizing early detection and intervention programs in some emerging countries. A feasibility prevention study has been started in early December in Moldova on 105 subjects under the co-ordination of Igor Codreanu and Adrian Tanase (Department of Hemodialysis and Kidney Transplantation, Republican Clinical Hospital, Chisinau, Moldova). Preliminary data will be available at the end of January 2005. Other projects are in advanced stage of organization, namely in Zhuhai - China (Hegun Zou and Giuseppe D'Amico), and in Sogod/Catman - Philippines (David Pugsley). In a more preliminary stage is also a prevention program in Armenia (Marc De Broe) and in Nepal (Sanjib Kumar Sharma). On this line WHO (Joanne Epping-Jordan, Geneva) asked the advice of the Research Committee for establishing an epidemiological protocol in Morocco on the behalf of the Ministry of Health of this country. Marc De Broe, a member of the Research Committee, is now actively operating for this mission as consultant.

The Committee, through the work of Bob Atkins, Meguid El Nahas, Dick DeZeeuw, Norberto Perico and Giuseppe Remuzzi, prepared and submitted an application to the Asia-Link program of the European Commission. This is designed to foster co-operation in the field of high education between the European Union and South and South East Asia and China. The program serves as a framework for a broad range of activities aimed at promoting mutual awareness and understanding, exchanges and co-operation between the two regions. The application focuses on educational projects on chronic diseases (kidney diseases, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases). Partners in this project are: M. El Nahas (Sheffield, UK), D. de Zeeuw (Groningen, The Netherlands), G. Remuzzi (Bergamo, Italy), H. Zou (Zhuhai, China), SK Agarwal (New Delhi, India), SK Sharma (Dharan, Nepal), MA Mansur (Dacca, Bangladesh).

E. Advisory Committees and Regional Subcommittees

As ISN COMGAN activities have gradually expanded in scope and number, the role of the regional subcommittees and the advisory committees becomes increasingly vital. We are most happy to welcome new members whose enthusiasm for the work of ISN COMGAN is much appreciated.

The Africa Subcommittee, under the talented leadership of Sarala Naicker, has added five new members: Boucar Diouf (Senegal), Taieb be Abdallah (Tunisia), Mohammed Benghanem Gharbi (Morocco), Ram Gokal (UK) and Onyekachi Ifudu (USA). Nada Dimkovic has joined the Eastern and Central Europe Committee and Shanyan Lin has joined the East Asia Subcommittee. Justin Silver has joined the Education Committee.

ISN COMGAN looks forward to the valuable contributions that will be made by all these new members.

Finally, Chapter 30, Diseases of the Kidney and Urinary System for the World Bank Developing Countries Disease Controls Priorities Project (DCPP) by John Dirks, Giuseppe Remuzzi, Arrigo Schieppati, Sue Horton and Adibul Rizvi has been accepted and will be part of the DCPP2 volume which will be published at the end of 2005.

I am pleased to submit this report on ISN COMGAN activities from October to December 2004. Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the efforts of so many COMGAN members who have demonstrated their commitment to our activities and goals and to Jan Weening, our President, for his ongoing support.

With best regards,

