



ISN COMGAN REPORT April - June 2004

July 20, 2004

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

I want to report on ISN COMGAN's activities in the second quarter of 2004. This is proving to be our busiest year ever and ISN COMGAN has participated in 11 international meetings, and sponsored more than 50 speakers this quarter. In all, the meetings this quarter were attended by over 5,400 participants for a six month total of 8,200. There has also been a site visit to Senegal.

A. Meetings

1. The ISN 2004 conference on Prevention of Progression of Renal Disease in Hong Kong June 29-July 1 was a spectacular success. There were 1269 participants from 39 countries making this the largest ISN Prevention meeting ever. The meeting was organized between COMGAN and the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology. Congratulations are extended to Philip Li and the superb Hong Kong Scientific Committee.

The meeting began with a Consensus Conference at which guidelines for prevention of CKD in Asia were co-ordinated. An inspiring opening ceremony took place with addresses by E.K. Yeoh, Philip Li and Jan Weening. Presentations representing most Asian countries took place over two days. International ISN speakers included Jan Weening, Bob Atkins, Giuseppe Remuzzi, Kiyoshi Kurokawa, Bill Mitch, Paul de Jong, Eberhard Ritz, Hans-Henrik Parving, David Harris, Barry Freedman, Priscilla Kincaid-Smith and John Dirks.

The leadership of Asian nephrology was very well represented and corporate support was outstanding. The deliberations of the meeting will be published in *Kidney International*. Again congratulations to Philip Li and our Hong Kong colleagues for a truly outstanding meeting.

2. Dr. Hequn Zou organized a conference on CKD prevention in Zhuhai (China) on July 2, which was attended by 200 participants. It included a very useful discussion with Jan Weening, Giuseppe Remuzzi and Giuseppe d'Amico about operative aspects of a project aimed at early detection and intervention for CKD in 3 areas of the People's Republic of China. These will also involve the Ministry of Health.

3. A very successful meeting the ISN Update on General Nephrology, Workshop on Renal Nephrology, Acute Renal Failure and Hemodialysis with Norbet Lameire was held

in Moscow, on May 27- June 2. Ably organized by Dr Natalia Tomilina and her staff, the conference attracted 550 participants. The two-day workshop on Renal Pathology, organized by Dr Arthur Cohen with the help of Dr Daniel Cattran and Dr Ellin Lieberman featured a clinical, case based approach that proved extremely popular. The workshops attracted 200 participants each.

Simultaneous translation made the sessions much more accessible and effective for all the participants. International and Russian speakers discussed prevention of CKD, transplants, hemodialysis and PD. ISN also sponsored Drs John Dirks, Norbert Lameire, Andrew Davenport, D. Fliser, Fred Finklestein, Eberhard Ritz, James Tattersall, Meguid El Nahas and Nicholas Hoenich.

Dr Tomilina reports that new regulations approved by Russian Ministry of Health Nephrology state that training now should include one year of internal medicine followed by 2 or more years nephrology training. It is a great step forward.

4. The XII Seminar of the Medical Academy for Postgraduate Studies took place from June 15-18, 2004 in St Petersburg. About 200 physicians attended from Russia and the CIS Republics. Attendees were predominantly internists.

The Seminar was sponsored by the Medical Academy and endorsed and supported by COMGAN, and ISN speakers were Dr. Michael Kashgarian and Dr. Ellin Lieberman.

5. Under the capable administration of Dr Guillermo Garcia, Garcia a very successful Hemodialysis Meeting was held in Guadalajara, Mexico April 2-4. It was attended by 110 nephrologists and 42 nurses from every part of Mexico.

6. A Joint ISN COMGAN KDIGO Conference on the Implementation of Global Guidelines for CKD was held in Beijing, China April 12-17. Organized by Dr Haiyan Wang, the meeting featured sessions on practice guidelines, population based studies of CKD and prevention of progressive CKD. ISN COMGAN was represented by three speakers at the Beijing conference, namely; Dr David Pugsley, Dr Rashad Barsoum and Dr Eberhard Ritz. Over 200 physicians attended.

7. ISN was one of the sponsors of a very important International Forum on the Live Kidney Donor held in Amsterdam on April 1-3. It was superbly organized by Dr Francis Delmonico and administered by the US National Kidney Foundation. One hundred of the world's leading experts from 40 countries, including 15 active members of ISN, gathered for this meeting. Other sponsors included The International Transplant Society and the National Kidney Foundation of Singapore, as well as five pharmaceutical companies. The goal of the Forum was to develop a consensus document on international standards of care for the live kidney donor. It covered issues such as monitoring donor safety, medical selection criteria, non-exploitation, quality of life, psychological and financial support, long-term follow-up, patient autonomy versus medical judgement, community acceptance and hospital institutional resources. A summary is available upon request. Jan Weening and John Dirks will meet with the Transplant Society on September 8 during their meeting in Vienna.

8. In keeping with its humanitarian mission, ISN participated in a joint meeting with the Iranian Society of Nephrology and the Iranian Association of Surgeons. The conference, held on April 15-16 in Tehran, Iran was entitled: Earthquake Renal Prevention and Treatment. Organized as a followup to the earthquake last year in Bam, Iran, ISN was

represented by five speakers: Drs N. Lameire, R. Vanholder, W. Van Biesen, M. Sever and A Rastegar.

9. The 13th Congress of the Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension, held in Punte del Este, Uruguay on April 21-24, had 1400 registrants from 25 Latin American countries. The meeting included a COMGAN/SLANH Symposium on April 21 on Prevention and Treatment of Chronic Renal Failure. Attendance at the symposium was excellent and the interest in prevention within the Latin American nephrology community is very strong, with many scientific contributions. In addition, a superb interactive renal pathology course was carried out by Helmut Rennke and Jan Weening.

Dr. Sergio Mezzano (Chile) President of SLANH and Dr Nelson Mazzuchi (Uruguay), President of the local organizing committee both did a superb job in developing an excellent meeting. ISN sponsored speakers included Drs Thomas Hostteter, Jesus Egido, Brian Pereira, Helmut Rennke, Jan Weening, William Mitch, Adeera Levin and John Dirks. Congratulations to Dr Manual Burdmann, a member of the ISN Council, who was named the next President of SLANH and to Bernardo Rodriguez-Iturbe, the new President Elect.

10. The 2nd Renal Failure Academy, organized under the auspices of ERA-EDTA, ISN COMGAN, The Romanian Society of Nephrology and the Romanian College of Physicians was held near Constanta, Romania June 8-10. This successful postgraduate course was designed mainly for young nephrologists from Eastern and South Eastern Europe and 68 young nephrologists from 12 countries attended the two days of intensive morning-to-evening courses on major topics in nephrology and renal replacement therapies. Speakers included Drs D. de Zeeuw, E. Ritz, W.Van Biesen, D. Tsakiris, A. Covic, J.B. Levy, Dr F. Locatelli, J. Cannata-Andia and J.Floege.

11. On June 25-26 The Guatamalan Society of Nephrology held a successful meeting on 'Early identification and prevention of kidney disease' sponsored by ISN. It attracted 300 participants. Organized by Dr Randall Lou, it featured lectures by Bernardo Rodriguez-Iturbe, Jaime Herrera-Acosta and Guillermo Garcia-Garcia.

B. Special Projects

1. In May, Dr Tewfik Nawar of Sherbrooke, Quebec made a visit to Dakar, Senegal a country of 11 million people with two nephrologists. His comprehensive report outlines areas of possible ISN collaboration, such as training assistance (particularly for interpretation of renal biopsies), support for local CME's, development of a network of francophone nephrologists in Africa, and the development of regional guidelines adapted to local conditions.

2. Dr Ricardo Correa-Rotter (Mexico) reports that his important project on "Development and validation of an educational program for diagnosis and prevention of diabetic nephropathy directed to general and family practitioners working in the public health system" has received funding from Mexico's National Council of Science and technology. The project also has academic sponsorship from ISN COMGAN.

3. Dr Vishnu Moorthy, from University of Wisconsin, spent six months in India as a visiting fellow with a large degree of support from the ISN. He visited four cities in southern India (Manipal, Mangalore, Vellore and Chennai) and taught undergraduate

medical students at seven medical colleges. His report is a fine example of how effective the visiting fellow program can be as he provided a detailed analysis on the state of nephrology in India followed by suggestions on what can be done. Dr Moorthy will speak on his findings at the ISN meeting and COMGAN Workshop in St Louis next October.

4. From April to June 2004, the COMGAN Research Committee has implemented its activities by starting to translate the general program of prevention of chronic kidney disease in emerging countries into operative draft projects targeting specific needs. This has involved so far Moldova, Nepal, Armenia, and China. The work is in progress and sees the active participation of the Research Committee members as well as local nephrologists that are directly contributing to finalize the project, in addition to making contact with local health authorities.

The committee is also working on the idea of preparing guidelines for detection and monitoring of chronic renal diseases in emerging countries. This would be targeted at providing effective tools, adequate to the needs and resources of these low- and middle-income countries.

C. Funding the Future

ISN's a major fund raising initiative continues under the able leadership of executive Director Tom Reiser, assisted by President Jan Weening and COMGAN Chair John Dirks. Approaches have been made to a number of pharmaceutical companies for increased sponsorship of both the Global Prevention Program and for specific projects. Initial contacts have been made with Bayer Diagnostics, Fresenius, Ausam, Abbot Labs, Roche, Genzyme, Pfizer and AMGEN. It is hoped that these initial contacts signal the beginning of long-term participation in ISN COMGAN projects.

D. Bellagio and Bellagio II

The meeting last March in Bellagio, in which 21 leaders in world nephrology met to discuss "Prevention of Renal Diseases in the Emerging World: Toward Global Health Equity" was a resounding success and a full report has been sent to the Rockefeller Foundation. The purpose of the meeting was to improve the overall standard of nephrology worldwide and develop a global clinical-scientific strategy involving developed and emerging countries. A scientific article edited by Jan Weening resulting from the meeting has been submitted to the Lancet. Giuseppe Remuzzi led the development of a proceedings of the meeting will appear in a Kidney International Supplement.

A further paper which has emerged from the Bellagio meeting is entitled: Demographic and Epidemiologic Transition in the Developing World: Role of Albuminuria in the Early Diagnosis and Prevention of Renal and Cardiovascular Disease by Ricardo Correa-Rotter*, Sarala Naicker, Ivor J. Katz, Sanjay K. Agarwal, Raul Herrera Valdes, Dan Kaseje, Bernardo Rodriguez-Iturbe, Faissal Shaheen, and Chitr Sitthi-Amorn, on behalf of the ISN-COMGAN Bellagio Study Group 2004.

The very successful International Symposium on Albuminuria in New York, May 16-18, chaired by Dick de Zeeuw, was organized by the NKF with ISN as a partner and included excellent ISN representation.

As a result of the March Bellagio conference and in keeping with ISN's policy of developing links with other associations in order to develop an integrated approach to the prevention of diabetes, renal and cardiovascular disease, ISN will shortly submit a

second grant proposal jointly with the International Society of Hypertension and the International Diabetes Federation to the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Program for a second meeting to be held in early 2006. Its goal will be to define strategies for an integrated approach to prevention of cardiovascular, diabetes and kidney disease.

E. Associations and Linkages

1. ISN continues to work closely with many regional and national societies and to seek occasions to link with other organizations. In April, a meeting was held with Jan Weening, Tom Reiser, John Dirks and Mickey Alderman, President of the International Society for Hypertension. As a result meeting, ISH sent a representative, Robert Fagard of Belgium, to the meeting in Moscow in May. This type of collaboration, similar to the linkage ISN has established with IPNA, will broaden as ISN and ISH cooperate on other initiatives. John Dirks and Mickey Alderman then held an initial meeting with Valentin Fuster, President-Elect of the World Heart Federation, in New York on May 17.

2. ISN has continued communications with the World Health Organization (WHO) to explore the option of enlarging the scope of our relationship to include specific joint activities directed at prevention of progression of chronic diseases including diabetes, cardiovascular disease and kidney disease with specific reference to emerging nations. To this end ISN COMGAN is moving towards a formal application for admission into official relations with WHO, which would lead to new opportunities for participation in global projects.

F. Advisory Committees and Regional Subcommittees

The role of the regional subcommittees and advisory committees becomes increasingly important as ISN COMGAN's activities expand in scope and number. This year has seen the addition of a number of new members on advisory committees, most notably Dr Emmanuel Burdmann who has taken on the Chair of the Tropical Diseases Committee. Dr Hequn Zou of China has joined the COMGAN Research Committee as has Dr Raul Herrera of Cuba, Marc de Broe of Belgium, and Keith Norris and Vishnu Moorthy, both from the USA. New Appointees to the Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee are: Keith Norris (USA), Egun Bamgboye (Nigeria) Andrew Narva, Wendy Hoy (Australia) and Bernardo Rodriguez-Iturbe (Venezuela).

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

I am pleased to submit this report on ISN COMGAN activities from April to June 2004. As always, 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 continuing support.

With best regards,

