



## Global Fellowship Club Circular 2

March, 2004

Dear colleagues, members of the GFC,

I have now received proposals from most GFCs in the 19 countries that have expressed their interest in this venture. I also had the chance to physically meet with a few groups, and was extremely impressed with the enthusiasm and ambition that were expressed in those meetings. We are still trying to reach fellows in other home countries, but I believe that we have enough enthusiasm and ideas to launch phase I in those 19 countries.

On the basis of what I read and heard, it is possible to formulate a few guidelines that I would request all clubs to follow in order to homogenize the rules of the game. This does not mean that we want to generate copies of the same style everywhere. On the contrary, I do hope that each club will have its own identity, vision and style. But at the end there has to be a core set of regulations that we should duly take into consideration.

### **Mission:**

GFCs are meant to be:

- A format for fellows to meet, interact, learn from each other, and conduct joint initiatives as research, registries, community service etc.
- Together with the ISN Councillors and COMGAN sub-committee members you will form a link between ISN on one hand and the regional renal physicians on the other. The latter includes the national and supranational societies, other associations and groups interested in kidney disease, as well as individuals seeking collaboration with the global society.

Structure:

- Each GFC must have at least five fellows.
- GFCs can be multinational, comprising members from adjacent countries where the number of ISN-trained fellows is less than 5.
- Each GFC shall elect a "moderator" who takes the administrative responsibilities and acts as a liaison officer, on behalf of the group, with ISN. The term of office should be 2 years. A moderator should only be re-elected once in a row.

### **Responsibilities:**

The following responsibilities are expected from all GFC members :

- All members of the GFC should be ISN members (full membership or Joint membership).
- Diffusion of ISN related information and active Recruitment of members to ISN.
- Helping ISN in the regional implementation of its programs, including COMGAN and similar meetings, CMEs during the national meetings etc.
- Advising ISN on regional/local issues as identifying individuals or assessment of institutions requesting ISN support, potential leaders, experts and teachers, etc.
- Working with the national societies (subject to approval by both parties) for the dissemination of knowledge among the medical profession (e.g. CMEs), conducting regional research (e.g. epidemiology) and improvement of patient care (e.g. implementation of clinical practice guidelines).

- Developing a rotary-like activity in their region, whereby regular meetings are held, with scientific and social components.
- Communicating with neighboring GFCs in order to develop a truly interactive network all over the globe.
- It is expected that all GFC's behave in an honorable fashion, not forgetting that they are representing the ISN.
- GFCs should submit an activity report to the Global Headquarters once a year.

### **Recognition:**

GFCs will be announced in the ISN News letter and electronic publications, including names and contact details. A web-based database of all GFCs will be accessible to all ISN members. Each GFC member will receive a membership ID Card issued by the ISN, and is entitled to use the term "Member of the ISN Global Fellowship Club" in his/her stationary, personal ID cards etc.

### **Privileges:**

- Access to certain restricted zones in the ISN website. These include certain databases (e.g. Fellowship database) specific GFC pages, chat rooms, special interest discussion groups, educational material etc. These will be set up in the near future.
- Publication of GFC news on the web and in the ISN Newsletter.
- Invitation of club members to write solicited articles for publication in appropriate ISN media.
- Assignment of specific GFC-organized sessions in ISN-COMGAN sponsored meetings, whereby GFC members design their own program and invite their own speakers. This is to be based on approval by and co-ordination from the meeting organizers and ISN COMGAN.
- ISN shall request national societies receiving ISN support to assign at least one 2-hour-session in their national congresses for ISN fellows to present their scientific, clinical, social and other achievements.
- Members of the GFCs shall have priority in ISN-managed travel grants
- Members of the GFCs shall be invited to participate in the ISN Fellows poster and oral sessions, and to all related social activities in the International Congresses of Nephrology worldwide.

By way of this message, I kindly request each club to gather, elect a moderator, draft its own bylaws (on the basis of the above core regulations) and send this information to Ms. An Devriese [ [an@associationhq.com](mailto:an@associationhq.com) ] before the end of May 2004 when the official launch of Phase I will take place.

We thank you for your enthusiasm and always welcome feedback and ideas; we look forward to a very fruitful collaboration.

Wishing you all the best.

Sincerely Yours,



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 Secretary General, ISN  
 Director, ISN Fellowship Program