Rewarding Excellence and Creating Resources: YNC Abstract Awards, New Regional Training Centers, the ISN-KDIGO Early CKD Toolkit, ISN Observatory of CKDu - and WCN’21

International Society of Nephrology <info@theisn.org>  
Reply-To: info@theisn.org  
To: narayan.nephro@gmail.com

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From Tapping into T Cells to Tackling Pregnancy-associated Hypertension: A Not-to-Be-Missed Scientific Program at WCN’21

Dr. Caroline Lamarche will outline her work on modified cells and alternative treatment for end-stage kidney disease in her talk, “CAR-T reg therapy and the possibilities in transplantation.”

Dr. Domínguez-Gil will discuss the challenges of providing kidney transplants in low-resource countries in her talk, “Promoting equitable deceased donor transplantation in developing countries,” and highlight strategies to improve these countries’ transplantation rates from deceased organ donors.

Dr. Kate Bramham discusses pre-eclampsia as both a cause and consequence of acute kidney injury and the challenges this presents to healthcare professionals caring for pregnant women in her talk, “Pregnancy-
associated hypertension and pre-eclampsia."

Register Now

Join the Global Nephrology Community at WCN’21: Only 17 Days Left to Register

Raising-the-Curtain Sessions

WCN’21 launches with special Raising-the-Curtain sessions connecting ISN’s ten global regions to highlight issues and initiatives in each area. Starting with the ISN Oceania and South East Asia Region and ending with the ISN Latin America Region, take a world tour from East to West between April 12-14.

Discover the complete program and find out what time your region features here. All Raising-the-Curtain sessions are open-access. Register for the sessions via the WCN’21 Portal using code RAISING21.

Register Now

Curate Your Conversations at WCN’21 Topical Networking Sessions

Discover the full WCN’21 Topical Networking Sessions program. From racial disparities and poverty in kidney care to the role of women in nephrology, connect with colleagues to enjoy stimulating conversations on diverse scientific topics at WCN’21.

Register Now

Inspiring Films From Around the World: Watch the ISN Community Film Event Finalists and Vote for Your Favorite

Watch all seven ISN Community Film Event finalists’ thought-provoking films here.

- The Mountain in His Blood
- Aham Kushalini
- A Successful Story of an Underprivileged Female Haemodialysis Patient
- A Struggle for a Normal Life
- Stop Chronic Kidney Disease in Rural Areas
- Mehwish - Challenging the Challenges (Story of a Dialysis Patient)
- Life Beyond the Transplant

Ready to Vote?
The winner(s) will be announced during the ISN Virtual World Congress of Nephrology. Online voting is open until 6 p.m. CET on Saturday, April 17, 2021.

The ISN Community Film Event is supported by:

Register Now
ISN Young Nephrologists at WCN’21: From Karaoke to 3D Co-culture Systems

YNC session
The Young Nephrologists Committee (YNC) is excited to host a YNC session during the main congress program.

Social event
The YNC social event will take place on Saturday, April 10, at two different time slots, 3 and 10 a.m. EDT (convert to your time zone here).

Share your excitement for upcoming WCN sessions with other young nephrologists, test your celebrity knowledge with fun quizzes, or even have a go at karaoke - unmissable!

Special Session: Young Nephrologists Committee - showcasing programs and awards to empower today’s leaders
Gavin Dreyer and Marina Wainstein, current chair and co-chair of the YNC, will outline the history, achievements, and future plans for the committee on Saturday, April 17, at 8 a.m. EDT, for registered WCN participants.

Two young nephrologists, Robert Kalesbula and Meghan Elliot, will talk about their inspiring journeys - the ideas and challenges that have guided their paths - and share the pearls of wisdom they’ve gained along the way.

Young Nephrologists Abstract Awards
Discover the 2021 recipients below.

ISN LATEST NEWS

Membership

ISN Collective-Member Societies: The Estonian Society of Nephrology

The Estonian Society of Nephrology (ESN) will participate in the Raising-the-Curtain sessions for the ISN Eastern and Central Europe Region at WCN’21 on Tuesday, April 13, at 6 a.m. EDT (convert to your time zone here).

The ISN has enjoyed a constructive collaboration with the ESN since 1995, notably supporting the biannual Baltic Nephrology Societies conference, which takes place in rotation in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, through the ISN CME Program.

The society is currently planning research initiatives in AKI epidemiology.

Read More

The ISN Welcomes a New Collective-Member Society

The Nephrology Society of Thailand (NST) has joined the ISN as a Collective-Member Society, further strengthening a mutual commitment to advancing kidney care in South East Asia.

The NTS has been involved in several ISN Granting Programs over the years, including:

- Institutions in Thailand supported health centers in Laos and Cambodia Through the ISN Sister Renal Centers between 2006 and 2014.
- The ISN Fellowship Program has trained 22 Fellows from Thailand, which, in turn, has hosted four ISN Fellows.
Announcing the Young Nephrologists Awards

The YNC is pleased to announce this year’s recipients of the Young Nephrologists Awards:

Dr. Julian A. Marschner (Germany)
Best basic science abstract
“A kidney-on-the-chip approach using primary human tubular cells in a 3D co-culture system.”

Dr. Sandhya Suresh (India)
Best clinical science abstract
“A randomized controlled trial of rituximab versus modified Ponticelli regimen in the treatment of primary membranous nephropathy - a pilot study.”

We warmly encourage you to join us at WCN’21 for the winners’ presentations on Saturday, April 17, from 8:30 - 8:55 a.m. EDT (convert to your time zone here).

Read More

Research

Available Now: CKD Toolkit for Healthcare Professionals

The ISN and KDIGO have partnered to create tools on CKD early identification and intervention for kidney health professionals, primary care physicians, and nurses working in primary care settings.

Access the toolkit here.

The ISN-KDIGO CKD Early Identification & Intervention Toolkit includes quick guides, infographics, teaching tools, as well as research articles, webcasts, and reports.

The toolkit will be updated with new material regularly.

This ISN-KDIGO CKD Early Identification & Intervention Toolkit Initiative is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from AstraZeneca.

Explore Ongoing CKDu Research and Share Your Data on the ISN Observatory of CKDu

The ISN i3C (International Consortium CKDu Collaborators) group has redesigned the ISN Observatory of CKDu map.

Access the map and share your data here.

This initiative was developed as part of ISN’s 2018-2020 Collaboration Plan with the World Health Organization (WHO).
Global Trial Focus

Every month the ISN-ACT Team lists interesting new randomized controlled trials (RCTs) from around the world.

Highlight:
- **ADVOCATE trial makes a case for steroid-sparing treatment of ANCA-associated vasculitis**

See the latest trials [here](#).

A summary of the highlighted trial is now available in French, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish. Support equal access to nephrology research: Become an [ISN Member](#)!

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ISN Participates

“Are Your Kidneys Healthy?” Campaign

Did you explore the “Are your kidneys healthy?” online quiz? [Available in 11 languages](#), this quick survey helps people gauge their risk of kidney disease and indicates when they should see a doctor.

The ISN and AstraZeneca developed this public awareness campaign to promote early detection in at-risk categories.

[Take the Quiz](#)

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GRANTS

Introducing the ISN@Work Gallery

Professor Helal: A Decade of Professional Advancement Through ISN Initiatives

Prof. Helal's professional journey is one of many to be showcased on the [ISN@Work Gallery](#) launching at WCN'21.

This gallery will highlight several ISN members whose work and professional development have benefited from ISN granting programs, as well as those who tirelessly advocate to raise awareness of kidney diseases or contribute to ISN research initiatives. The collective successes of recently graduated ISN Sister Centers and other ISN Programs and initiatives will also feature in the gallery.

Prof. Imed Helal was awarded an [ISN Fellowship](#) in 2010, training in clinical research focusing on Adult Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD) under mentorship from Prof. Robert Shrier at the University of Colorado Denver in the USA.
Announcing Twenty Newly-Recognized ISN Regional Training Centers

Twenty healthcare centers were selected from the 2021 application session for recognition as ISN Regional Training Centers (RTC) for a five-year renewable period. Currently, 21 centers in total have received ISN RTC status.

The ISN looks forward to improving regional access to kidney care alongside these establishments. Please join us in congratulating the new ISN RTCs.

Read More

ISN CME Program Supports ISN Sister Renal Centers’ Virtual Symposium on AKI

The ISN Continuing Medical Education (CME) online meeting, “Acute Kidney Injury Across Two Continents: An Anglo-Indian Virtual AKI Symposium,” was held on March 5 and 6, 2021, organized by the ISN Sister Renal Centers (SRC) pair between Yashoda Hospitals in India and Heartlands Hospital in the UK.

Watch a recording of the symposium here.

The meeting is one of several initiatives underway as part of the ISN SRC pair’s efforts to develop a robust preventive nephrology service to reduce diabetic kidney disease in Hyderabad (considered the diabetes capital of India).

Find Out More

Support the Detlef Schlöndorff Fellowship Fund

To honor and sustain Detlef Schlöndorff’s commitment to training fellows, the ISN invites donations to the Detlef Schlöndorff Fellowship fund.

Donate to the Detlef Schlöndorff Fellowship Fund.

This fund provides training to one physician per year from an emerging country with the long-term objective of establishing nephrology leaders in the Fellow’s home region to improve kidney care standards.

Dr. Etienne Ntabanganiyimana, from Rwanda, is the first Fellow to benefit from this fund. He is currently training in Interventional Nephrology under mentorship from Prof. Santosh Varughese at the Christian Medical College in Vellore.

The deadline to apply for an ISN Fellowship is May 1, 2021.

Apply Here.

Read More

Support the Ravi Mehta Acute Kidney Injury Fellowship Fund
The ISN invites you to make a **financial contribution** to the Ravi Mehta AKI Fellowship.

Donations are used to:
- **Support a Fellow**: Training in Acute Kidney Injury for one **ISN Fellow** per year from a low-resource country.
- **Make a difference**: After training at an ISN-approved institution, successful Fellows have the skills to improve the standard of care in their home country.

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**Advocacy**

**Successful World Kidney Day Campaign Widely Shared Online**

*World Kidney Day* (WKD) took place on March 11. This year’s campaign highlighted the importance of living well with kidney disease to improve patients’ life quality. With the COVID-19 pandemic still impacting everyday lives, online activities were increased to include a podcast, webinars, and video messages.

The WKD 2021 campaign reached **164 million people** on Twitter on March 11, with **#worldkidneyday** gaining almost **228 million impressions**.

WKD thanks all its supporters: Astellas; AstraZeneca, Baxter, Boehringer Ingelheim; Diaverum; Fresenius Medical Care; Janssen-Johnson-Johnson; Sanofi Genzyme.

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**Webinar Presents Key Elements of ISN Member Campaigns Leading to Dialysis Patient Prioritization in National Covid-19 Vaccination Programs**

As part of ISN’s global campaign to prioritize COVID-19 vaccinations for the three million patients worldwide currently undergoing dialysis,

The ISN held the webinar, “**Prioritization of Dialysis Patients in National Covid-19 Vaccination Programs - Lessons Learned from Successful Campaigns**,” on March 9, 2021.

Dialysis patients face the dual challenge of being at a much higher risk of infection from COVID-19 and an increased risk of death compared to the general population.
ISN Joins GCCH in Raising Awareness of Circulatory Diseases

The ISN, alongside its partners in the Global Coalition for Circulatory Health (GCCH), contributed to MediaPlanet's cardiovascular health campaign with the article "Circulatory diseases - a growing global problem," to be published in the Guardian newspaper.

Read the article [here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=955924af99&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1695582916122090417&simpl=msg-f%3A1695582916888/11) from tomorrow, March 30.

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**EDUCATION**

EACCME Extends Accreditation for the ISN Academy

The [ISN Academy](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=955924af99&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1695582916122090417&simpl=msg-f%3A1695582916888/11) has had accreditation renewed by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) for a further two years.

Modules will be credited with one European CME credit (ECMEC®) per hour of e-learning provided that users complete the module and relevant assessment.

Through an agreement between the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) and the American Medical Association (AMA), physicians may convert EACCME credits to an equivalent number of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

Information on converting EACCME credits to AMA credits can be found [here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=955924af99&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1695582916122090417&simpl=msg-f%3A1695582916888/11).

Podcast

**World Kidney Day: Listen to the New ISN Global Kidney Care Podcast**


Their discussion covers the 2021 WKD theme, "Living well with Kidney Disease," and the need to increase education and awareness about effective symptom management and patient empowerment to encouraging life participation for those living with kidney diseases.

Listen Now

Upcoming Webinar

**Tuesday, April 6, 3 p.m. CEST**
ISN-TTS Webinar:
Donor/Recipient Pair - Risks vs. Gains - Infections

Speaker: Camille Kotton, USA
Moderator: Stephanie Pouch, USA

This webinar is hosted by The Transplantation Society.

Recorded Webinars

ISN Webinar:
Increasing the Sophistication of Kidney Disease Therapies in 2020 and Beyond

ISN-IPNA Webinar:
Renovascular Hypertension - How Biologic Differences Impact Evaluation and Treatment Through the Life Cycle

ISN & IFKF-WKA Webinar:
World Kidney Day 2021 - Living Well with Kidney Disease

COVID-19

Kidney International (KI) on COVID-19

- Best Practices for Correctly Identifying Coronavirus by Transmission Electron Microscopy
- Weak Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Response After the First Injection of an mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine in Kidney Transplant Recipients
- Longevity of SARS-CoV-2 Immune Responses in Hemodialysis Patients and Protection Against Reinfection
- Gross Hematuria Following Vaccination for SARS-CoV2 in Two Patients with IgA Nephropathy
- From confusion to clarity: RAS blockade in patients hospitalized with COVID-19

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Kidney International Reports (KIR) on COVID-19

- Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Training, Morale, and Well-being Amongst the UK Renal Workforce

Kidney International Editorial Selection

The STARMEN Trial Indicates that Alternating Treatment with Corticosteroids and Cyclophosphamide is Superior to Sequential Treatment with Tacrolimus and Rituximab in Primary Membranous Nephropathy

The authors hypothesized that sequential therapy with tacrolimus and rituximab is superior to cyclical alternating treatment with corticosteroids and cyclophosphamide in inducing persistent remission in patients with primary membranous nephropathy at high risk of progression. The results of this randomized, open-label controlled trial of 86 patients demonstrated that treatment with corticosteroid-cyclophosphamide induced remission in a significantly greater number of patients with primary membranous nephropathy than tacrolimus-rituximab.

Kidney International Reports Editorial Selection

Rituximab in Membranous Nephropathy

Due to its favorable safety profile, rituximab is now considered a first-line treatment option for membranous nephropathy, especially in patients at moderate and high risk of deterioration in kidney function. This review provides an overview of the current literature on the use of rituximab, including optimal dosing, a potential need for maintenance therapy, and assessment of long-term safety and efficacy outcomes.