



Leading European Nephrology

EXCEL



## London re-visited - feedback from a magnificent Congress!

From Markus Ketteler,  
Chairperson of Administrative Offices

The 2015 Annual Congress of the ERA EDTA on May 28-31, 2015, was a magnificent success. 8,190 delegates from all over the world attended the 4-day conference at the ExCeL London Centre near Canary Wharf and digested a state-of-the-art scientific programme.



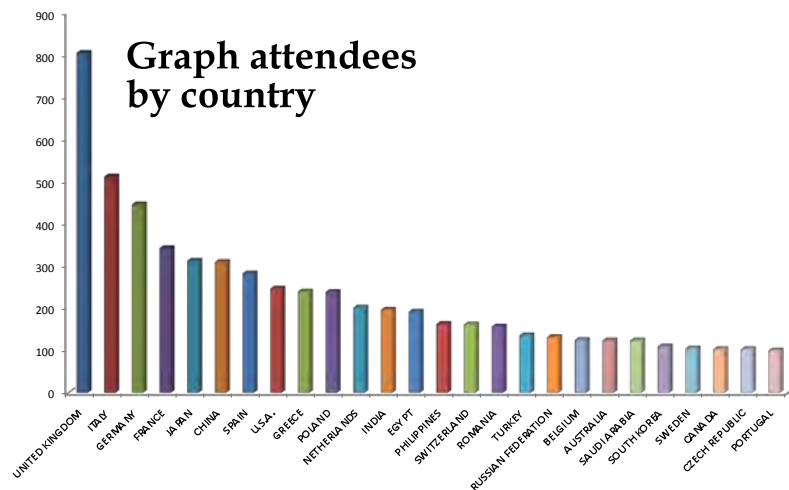
of 2,675 led to 1,970 accepted presentations, 138 as free communications and 1,803 in the poster format.

Highlight topics – with more than 1,000 attendees per session – were about “Salt – a health problem?”, “Longevity”, “Glomerulonephritis Clinic” and “CKD-MBD Update”. The best attended session formats included the “Late Breaking Clinical Trials (LBCT)” session and the two collaborative sessions organized together with the prestigious The Lancet journals – with simultaneous on-paper publications of the reported data.



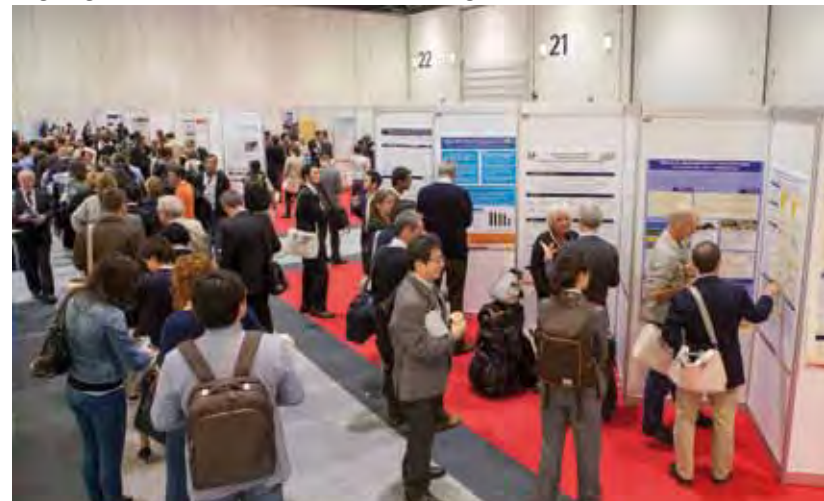
While about 60% of the attendees arrived from the European and Mediterranean core countries of the association, 19% came from Asia and 8% from the Americas, making the Congress a truly international event.

### Graph attendees by country



Another growing feature were collaborations with other International Nephrology societies, including the American Society of Nephrology (ASN), the International Society of Nephrology (ISN), **the Japanese Society of Nephrology (JSN)** etc. – split lectures in commonly held symposia exchanged highlights of each other’s Annual Congresses.

The 19 CME courses were already well-attended on the morning and afternoon before the Welcome Ceremony on May 28, 2015, paving the way into a meeting with 3 plenary lectures, 54 symposia, 30 mini lectures and 17 industry symposia. A record-high abstract submission number



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**ERA-EDTA website**  
[www.era-edta.org](http://www.era-edta.org)

**53<sup>rd</sup> Congress website (Vienna 2016)**  
[www.era-edta2016.org](http://www.era-edta2016.org)

**54<sup>th</sup> Congress website (Madrid 2017)**  
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**NDT-Educational website**  
[www.ndt-educational.org](http://www.ndt-educational.org)

**ERA-EDTA Registry website**  
[www.era-edta-reg.org](http://www.era-edta-reg.org)

**European Best Practice Guidelines (ERBP)**  
[www.european-renal-best-practice.org](http://www.european-renal-best-practice.org)



A progressively developing field under the umbrella of the ERA EDTA Congress is the potential to interact and follow-up using electronic tools. Free Wi-Fi and a free "e-material" service were implemented in London. Following an easy registration process, internet access was granted during the Congress hours. Further, a significant proportion of educational lectures was collected on a web-based platform and can now be downloaded for personal use or educational purposes at the home institutions.

All this experience should raise attention and curiosity about the upcoming 53<sup>rd</sup> ERA EDTA Congress, to be held in Vienna (Austria) on May 21-24, 2016. With the help and support of numerous leaders of European Nephrology, we are sure that the next meeting, in a top cultural metropolis right in the heart of Europe, will again fulfill all expectations.



# Farewell note: Serving for ERA-EDTA as councilor

*From Denis Fouque, Former ERA-EDTA Council Member*



I recently left the ERA-EDTA Council after three years of duty under the presidency of Raymond Vanholder then followed by Andrzej Więcek. I underestimated how rich and intense these three years would actually be when I decided to run for council membership. First of all, the council has two 3-days meetings every year plus two shorter meetings during the annual congress. All items addressed during each meeting are so numerous that every point must be concentrated as much as possible, a very challenging task when you have to present a report regarding the annual report of the activity for which you are responsible. The council meetings result each in minutes which are documents that are 80 pages, obtained from continuous recording of these meetings!

My specific duties were to take care of the ERA-EDTA website along with Vladimir Tesar, Gert Mayer, Monica Fontana, Francesca Trebelli and Ilaria Martini. Improvements were done, starting from the design, sections reordering, links developed with other renal societies, particularly those from Europe, and the creation of the patients and the Young nephrologists sections. The website is an open window on our Society and it is important to be very reactive and include the most recent medias tools as well such as Twitter and Facebook for example.

I was also involved in the congress organization by being elected as the Chairman of the Paper selection committee, intensively helped by Silvia Menoni. This role includes the organisation of the abstracts selection process starting from the call for abstracts, the reviewers' selection, the scoring of the abstracts, the acceptance / rebuttal and, finally, the allocation of those that are accepted.

Then the selection of best abstracts is done to prepare the oral communications sessions, followed by the posters thematic grouping. We were very happy to see a growing number of submitted abstracts, up to 2800 for the past London meeting (2015), one of the Society's records. Of note, we saw a growing interest for the Late breaking sessions call, which has a separate call and that is processed independently two months after the ordinary abstracts deadline. Up to ten studies were presented each year in a prime-time session echoed by the international medical press (a special Press conference is organised by Bettina Albers at the start of the congress). Finally, I also participated to the Lancet-ERA-EDTA initiative, started by Raymond Vanholder and now chaired by Andrzej Więcek. This powerful project was designed to elicit renal trials, epidemiological studies and reviews of highest standard to be proposed for publication in a special yearly issue of The Lancet, to be released at the same time as the annual meeting. The two first calls received more than 90 proposals, underlining the interests of nephrologists for this initiative. More than 10 papers were published in The Lancet and its sister journal The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology. During these years I really appreciated the high level of professional organization in the administrative offices in Parma, Italy. A very friendly atmosphere was present in each council meeting, which despite the huge amount of work left enough place for warm friendships with colleagues from all over Europe. I strongly recommend this type of experience to anybody who is interested and thus urge everyone to apply for councilor in the coming years.

## Japanese collaboration builds momentum

*From Andrzej Więcek, ERA-EDTA President*

Following the signed agreement on collaboration between ERA-EDTA and Japanese Society of Nephrology, joint sessions were organised at each of the respective societies' congresses. At the ERA-EDTA Congress in London on May 30, 2015, a joint JSN - ERA-EDTA Session was chaired by Sadayoshi Ito (Sendai, Japan) and Andrzej Więcek (Katowice, Poland). The session was well attended by delegates both from Europe and Asia.

On June 6, at the annual Congress of Japanese Society of Nephrology in Nagoya, a corresponding joint session was chaired by Motoko Yanagita (Kyoto, Japan) and Ziad Massy (Paris, France).

ERA-EDTA was represented by Ziad Massy, Andrzej Więcek, Kai-Uwe Eckardt, Alberto Ortiz and Peter Stenvinkel. JSN was represented by Sadayoshi Ito, Motoko Yanagita, Seiichi Matsuo and Masao Nangaku. Both sessions were very successful and the collaboration between ERA-EDTA and Japanese Society of Nephrology will be continued and developed.



# New Ordinary Council Members introduce themselves



## Danilo Fliser Increasing the society's visibility

Born in 1962, I grew up in Slovenia and Germany. At the time when I finished my medical studies at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, major breakthroughs evolved in the field of nephrology. The use of ACE inhibitors significantly changed the course of kidney diseases, and treatment of renal anaemia with erythropoietin set the stage for recombinant DNA technology in

medicine. So, I was eager to start my academic career in the Division of Nephrology at the Ruperto-Carola University in Heidelberg, Germany. Under the guidance of Prof. Eberhard Ritz, I focused on translational research. After returning from a sabbatical at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, USA, I was appointed as Assistant Professor of Medicine. In 1999 I moved to Hannover, and was later on appointed as Associate Professor in the Department of Nephrology at the Hannover Medical School. There, my experimental research spectrum

broadened including also animal studies, with main topics being erythropoietin, RAAS-blockade and vascular biology. In 2005 I was awarded the prestigious *Franz Volhard Award* of the German Society of Nephrology. Finally, in 2007 I was appointed as Professor of Medicine at the Saarland University and Head of the Department of Internal Medicine IV (Renal & Hypertensive Disease) at the University Medical Centre in Homburg/Saar, Germany. The department's scientific focus is on progression and cardiovascular complications in CKD patients, with a strong commitment to translational medicine. As an active ERA-EDTA member, I participate in its working groups (EURECA-m and the endorsed EUTox), contribute to the ERBP commentary statements and serve on the NDT editorial board. In addition, I was appointed as the Scientific Committee Chair for the 53<sup>rd</sup> ERA-EDTA Congress in Vienna next year. The election to the ERA-EDTA council gives me the unique opportunity to contribute to the continuous advance of our society and the field of nephrology with all my professional expertise. Undoubtedly, a main ambition is to increase the society's visibility in, and also outside Europe, and I'm well aware that this mission desires relentless networking on all community levels. Nevertheless, I'm keen to work in concert with my European council fellows to accomplish this goal.



## Jolanta Malyszko Fostering interdisciplinary and international collaboration

I am a full Professor (2002) and, from 2013, chairman of the Second Department on Nephrology, Medical University, Bialystok, Poland. I completed my medical education at Medical University of Bialystok, Poland and graduated receiving diploma with merit for the highest marks in 1989. My clinical training was performed in the ICU and Nephrology Department, CHU Rouen, France,

Nephrology Dept, Heinrich-Heine University, Dusseldorf, Germany (as ERA-EDTA clinical scholarship), Kings' College, London, UK and Sourasky Hospital, Israel. During a Monbusho (Japanese Ministry of Education) scholarship at Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, I defended my PhD thesis on the role of FK 506 in transplantation in 1995. I established the PD program and Hypertension Outpatient Unit at my University and served for many years as a Nephrology consultant at the University Teaching Hospital. I have longstanding collaborations in both the clinical and research fields with cardiology and invasive cardiology departments at the University, as well as with vascular and transplant surgery.

I am a fellow in internal medicine, nephrology, transplantation, hypertension and diabetology as well as a European Specialist in Clinical Hypertension. I have been granted the titles of Fellow of ASN (FASN) and of ERA-EDTA (FERA). I am a member of the Executive Council of Polish Society of Nephrology and Polish Society of Transplantation.

I am author and co-author of over 400 original papers, over 100 review papers and 30 book chapters, including two chapters in French, three chapters in 4<sup>th</sup> Oxford textbook of Clinical Nephrology, IF ~ 470, over 3000 citations, h-index-28. My hobby is visiting interesting places all over the world with my husband (a nephrologist) and 3 sons.

Being an ERA-EDTA council member I would like to focus on: the promotion and extension of the mutual collaboration between countries within ERA-EDTA and beyond, opening new directions of partnership with neighbouring specialties in both research and clinical fields, and enlarging the representation of young physicians interested in Nephrology performing research and clinical practice in leading ERA-EDTA centres. Having been appointed a member of ERA-EDTA website Committee, I would like to collaborate on further improving the website, so that a growing number of people may benefit from the multitude of ERA-EDTA activities. Together with all the members of the Executive Council I will work hard for the fruitful future of our Society in every aspect.



## Mustafa Arici From roots to the future of Nephrology

I was born in Ankara, Turkey in 1968. I graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, Hacettepe University in 1992. I received my residency and fellowship training in Internal Medicine and Nephrology at the same faculty. I was awarded a training grant from the

International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and studied in the field of "proteinuria and renal fibrosis" at the "The John Walls Renal Unit", Leicester General Hospital, Leicester, UK as an ISN fellow from 1998 to 2000. My main research interests are concentrated on chronic kidney disease and hypertension with a special focus on mechanisms involved in progression of kidney disease, albuminuria and fibrosis, cardiovascular risks and complications in CKD and dialysis, epidemiology of hypertension and cardiorenal risks of sodium consumption. I also have an interest on familial Mediterranean fever (FMF) and amyloidosis as they are significant causes of CKD in Turkey.

I served as a "Member of Board" to Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) from 2006 to 2009. I am an "Educational Ambassador" for International

Society of Nephrology, a member of the "KDIGO Implementation Task Force for Eastern Europe" and a member of "Regional Advisory Group" for the International Society of Hypertension. I represent Turkey in the "World Hypertension League" and "World Action on Salt and Health". I have been an elected member of the Science Academy, Turkey since 2014. I am the editor of the book "Management of Chronic Kidney Disease: A Clinician's Guide". I have served as an editorial board member for "Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation" since 2011. I have been an associate editor of "BANTAO Journal" since 2009.

I applied for ERA-EDTA Council membership in order to increase my service to the discipline and community of Nephrology in a broader sense. I am planning to focus on several issues. First, there is an urgent need to increase awareness of kidney disease for people and governing bodies. Second, there has been decreased interest in Nephrology as a career recently and, to change this tide, we need to develop some novel approaches in both teaching and practice. Third, this Society has a mission of creating solutions when a nephrologist encounters any administrative, clinical, educational, or research-related problem or when a kidney patient seeks for credible information.

I hope together with my colleagues in the Council, in the Parma Office and all members of ERA-EDTA, we may achieve at least some of my initiatives. What I know is that the roots of modern Nephrology were in Europe and I hope future will also evolve there. So, my motto for ERA-EDTA is "From roots to the future of Nephrology".

## Nephrology meets Art

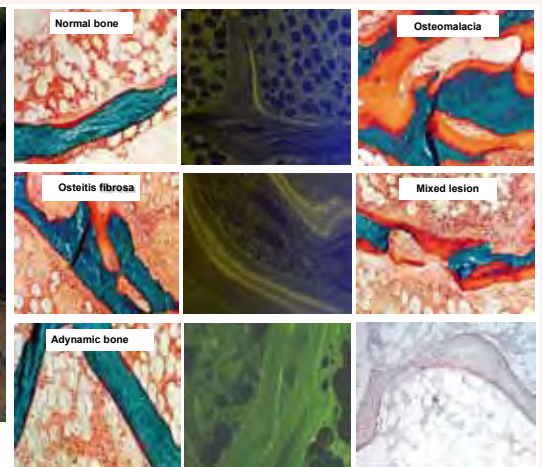
*From Pablo Ureña Torres, Board Member of the CKD-MBD working group*

A beautiful autumn day, before the second annual meeting of the CKD-MBD working group, I was walking in Milan when I saw the "Four seasons in one head" painting from Giuseppe Arcimboldo in an art gallery. Arcimboldo did a series of paintings of the head combining plants, animals and other objects. The meaning of the "Four seasons" remains elusive. It might be a self-portrait of the artist. If not, it might depict the god Vertumnus, who in Ovid's Metamorphoses disguises himself as an old woman to approach the lovely young Pomona and, having won her trust, woos and seduces her. I immediately thought that this painting could be a nice metaphor of what we were actually seeing in bone biopsies of chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients. In the painting the tree-stump, without its own leaves or fruit, represents the winter, which produces nothing itself, but depends on the production of the other seasons, like low bone turnover or adynamic bone disease. The small flower on his breast and over his shoulders symbolizes the spring-like normal bone, as well as a bundle of ears of grain bound to some twigs,

and a cloak of plaited straw covering his shoulders, and two cherries hanging from a branch forming his ear, and two damsons on the back of his head represent the summer, which in CKD would represent high bone turnover and secondary hyperparathyroidism. The two grapes hanging from a twig, one white and one red, and some apples, symbolize the autumn or the osteomalacia in CKD.



"Four seasons in one head"  
Giuseppe Arcimboldo



# ERA-EDTA Grant for National Societies

*From Andrzej Więcek, ERA-EDTA President*

During the annual meeting in Kolobrzeg, the Scientific Committee of the Polish Society of Nephrology selected the paper entitled “The role of anti-PLA2R antibodies in glomerulopathy” as best abstract. The author, Dr. Dagna Rukasz, received the diploma of best abstract and the ERA-EDTA Grant from the ERA-EDTA President, Prof. Andrzej Więcek. This was the third year in a row that the Polish Society of Nephrology had applied for the ERA-EDTA Grant. The ERA-EDTA Grant consists of three year ERA-EDTA membership and one ERA-EDTA Congress registration. National Societies of Nephrology are strongly encouraged to apply for the grant. The winner of the Grant is selected by the National Society. The regulations and the application form can be found on the ERA-EDTA website: [www.era-edta.org](http://www.era-edta.org), under the section “Collaboration with Societies”.



## EURODOPPS Winners Have Been Announced

EURODOPPS is a joint venture that brings together the strengths of two initiatives; the Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study (DOPPS) and the ERA-EDTA Registry, in collecting and analyzing epidemiological data on hemodialysis patients in Europe. The EURODOPPS data includes seven countries: Germany, Italy, France, United Kingdom, Belgium, Spain, and Sweden. EURODOPPS asked for proposals from external investigators for possible data analyses and selected the best projects. The winners, who were announced at the 52<sup>nd</sup> ERA-EDTA congress in London, will get the opportunity to visit the EURODOPPS team in Amsterdam for an internship. They will receive assistance with the statistics and interpretation from the EURODOPPS Senior Epidemiologist and assistance in writing the paper from the EURODOPPS Oversight Committee (EDOC). In other cases the EURODOPPS team in Amsterdam will do the analyses on their behalf.

The winners of this specific EURODOPPS call are:

- **Christiane Drechsler**, Würzburg, Germany: Beta blockers, cardiovascular events and all-cause mortality in diabetic dialysis patients
- **Flore Duranton**, Montpellier, France: Geographical factors and seasonal patterns of blood pressure in dialysis patients
- **James Fotheringham**, Sheffield, UK: Modification of the “Long Gap” phenomenon by treatment time and compliance
- **Sophie Liabeuf**, Amiens, France: Impact of therapeutic practices on patient cardiovascular outcomes in dialysis patients
- **Ionut Nistor**, Iasi, Romania: Effects of glucose-lowering treatments in patients with type 2 diabetes on dialysis
- **Albert Power**, Bristol, UK: Impact of stroke on quality of life measures in hemodialysis
- **Sabine van der Veer**, Manchester, UK: Using patient-level characteristics to predict fistula maturation: development and validation of a prognostic model.



### **ERA-EDTA Medical Disclaimer**

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