

ERA-EDTA Follow-Us Farewell note

Dear readers,

Follow Us was the official printed newsletter of ERA-EDTA for 14 years. Its purpose was to provide important news about the ERA-EDTA Council, National Societies and developments in European nephrology. The idea of an official newsletter came from Jorge Cannata-Andia during the last part of his term as Secretary-Treasurer, but since he was to become President, Adrian Covic, who was Secretary-Treasurer Elect, became Editor-in-Chief. The first issue of Follow Us was distributed at the ERA-EDTA Congress in Istanbul in May 2005. After Adrian Covic, Andrzej Wiecek, Jonathan Fox and Ivan Rychlik became Editors-in-Chief. They edited 39 printed volumes of Follow Us in total.

Our Society must keep up with the trends and that means going fully online. ERA-EDTA Follow Us Flash was established as the digital supplement to the original newsletter. However, taking into consideration developments over recent years, ERA-EDTA Flash as the Society's electronic newsletter became a more important and up to date source of information for the members and supporters. Thus, the Council decided to integrate these two media in 2018 at the last meeting in Naples. You will receive the essential information about the ERA-EDTA Council and the collaboration with the National Societies in the ERA-EDTA Council column which will be irregular from now on.

It was a privilege to serve as the editors of Follow Us and we look forward to meeting you in ERA-EDTA Flash.

Ivan Rychlik
Secretary-Treasurer
Former Editor-in-Chief of Follow Us

Annette Bruchfeld
Ordinary Council Member
Co-Editor of Follow Us

We are Moving Ahead

An interview to Prof. Francesco Locatelli, ERA-EDTA President

Prof. Locatelli, your term as ERA-EDTA President is expiring this June, have you made a balance of these three years?

Of course, who wouldn't? I must say that I was very lucky since the balance is very positive: the number of members is steady, attendance at the annual congresses has been increasing, the journal is doing very well with the impact-factor and is receiving more and more papers, the educational courses have become more numerous and are held in more countries than before, the new Registry has proved to be an efficient structure, producing interesting and useful results, new European Best Practice Guidelines have been published.

In other words, all those things that our Association was already doing have been going on very well, and to this we have made additions: the new online journal NDT-Educational, establishing a Research Fund, a general comprehensive frame for the courses, a congress together with ISN, an agreement with ASN to organise sessions at the respective annual congresses, and modifying the Constitution of ERA-EDTA in order to include the new initiatives.

Of course I cannot take credit for all these things, considering the amount of work and ideas that were put in by the members of the Council and by many other members outside the Council, but I feel proud for having given my contribution.

Do you ever compare ERA-EDTA with the American Society of Nephrology? What are the main differences?

Europe is not one country, and there are great differences within it. This applies also to nephrology: there are many centres of very high-level around Europe, with top researchers and clinicians who can compete with the Nephrology centres of the United States; but there are also centres whose nephrologists, mainly because of socio-economical reasons, need more educational activities than high-level congresses or seminars.

What does ERA-EDTA do in consideration of these differences?

First of all, we are taking into consideration all these different requirements when we decide the programmes of our annual congresses, and we organise Educational Courses, not only in English but also in other



Prof. Francesco Locatelli opening the XLI ERA-EDTA Congress last year in Lisbon

languages, in connection with the congresses. Then, with regard to our publications, we had already a very good journal NDT, and we have added to it a new publication NDT-Educational, to meet the requests of another relevant number of nephrologists. By the way, the registration to NDT-Educational, which is an online journal, is free of charge precisely because of its purpose.

Will you miss your position in the Council?

I must say that it was hard work, because all of us were taking our duties seriously, but it was also an enjoyable experience in many ways. Looking back at these three years I value more than ever the cooperation that there was in the Council. I can say it was a group full of ideas and a very constructive attitude. This is something I will certainly miss.

