Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are very glad to welcome you to Paris for the 49th congress of ERA-EDTA. We hope that the wonderful “Ville lumière” will charm you with its unique flavour of modernity and history. Paris is a megalopolis, with more than ten million inhabitants, a city as populated as some European States, full of contradictions and doubts, as well as potentials and treasures.

Twenty years after the last ERA-EDTA congress in Paris chaired by Prof. Claude Jacobs, this Congress inaugurates the 50th year of European Nephrology while taking place in a moment of global crisis of the European and World economy; as difficult as they are, the moments of crisis are also opportunities to reflect on the motivations of our present to build our future. Past and present, keys for the future, will accompany you both during the Congress and the time that we hope you will be able to enjoy in our beautiful city.

The scientific programme, carefully prepared by Prof. Jürgen Floege and his Scientific Committee, was built with particular attention towards the clinics, a major strength of European medicine, and to the integration of basic science into the clinical context. A major focus will thus be on the potential of translating research results into novel diagnostic and therapeutic strategies.

The three plenary lectures that deal with cutting-edge topics of major interest to all nephrologists (“The novel endocrinology of the bone”, “Fructose, metabolic syndrome and kidney disease”, “Genetics and clinical consequences of calcium and magnesium handling”), and the late breaking clinical trial session will be highlights of the congress.

Past and future will accompany us starting from the Opening Ceremony, as illustrated by the three prizes that will be awarded. Two will recognize the outstanding achievements of two great Masters of our discipline, Prof J. Stewart Camero, the innovative, non-conventional genius of the early days of Nephrology, and Prof. Vincenzo Cambi, to whom we owe major contributions to ERA-EDTA as well as the concept of “short dialysis” in a time in which shortening dialysis time also meant life-saving availability of dialysis for more patients. Dr. Giovana Seno di Marco will be the recipient of the young investigator’s award, selected out of the highest ranked abstracts of the three previous ERA-EDTA Congresses.

Memory is the refrain of the Opening Ceremony: memory in biology, through the lecture by Prof. Alain Prochiantz, and memory in the moving pictures of the Pioneers of Nephrology, who remind us of the adagio stating that only the one who knows the history does not risk reproducing its errors. The enlightened quotes on patient-physician relationship, on the sense of Medicine and Science, the wishes on patient-physician relationship, on the sense of Medicine and Science, the wishes of the Masters, will follow us as a most powerful wish.

Paris is also joy, la joie de vivre. The young artists of the École Nationale du Cirque will take you by the hand in the collective memory of the Circus, playing at the cosmopolitan music of Gilberto Richiero, merging artists and children, opera and rap.

The search for perfection, defining Medicine according to the Swedish Master Anita Aperia, links science and art. The symbol of our Congress, the water lily, photographed in the marvellous pond of the Orangerie, is just one among thousands of water lilies, in over 250 oil paintings by Claude Monet. This simple flower, paradigm of the Impressionism, painted in all hues and nuances, may reflect the same research for perfection that is at the basis of the progress of our discipline.

We hope that, in these days dedicated to the art of medicine, you will find some time not only for the great museums, as the Louvre and the Musée d’Orsay, but also for discovering some less known jewels, such as the Musée Marmottan, to see the small and marvelous painting which gave Impressionism its name, for living the experience out of time of the home-museum of Gustave Moreau, or for reflecting on the interactions between nature and art, looking at the inspiring water lilies in the oasis of Giverny, or for discovering the ever moving borders of the future in the City of Science.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to this meeting in Paris, wishing that the search for perfection in Nephrology will never end.
Interview with Carmine Zoccali,
Editor-in-Chief of Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation

Prof. Zoccali, last year you became Editor-in-Chief of NDT. What is the current status of the journal and what are your achievements since starting your position?

NDT has been one of the biggest successes of our Society. Our Journal is one of the most read by nephrologists and I will strive to maintain the high standard set by past Editors and hopefully help the growth of NDT with editorial innovations, related to both to the format and to technology. Here are some of these innovations:

- New cover – b&w images of important personalities in nephrology, alternating with coloured images of personalities and events of the present.
- New design for articles and table of contents, with coloured inserts that will make the different sections easier to recognize.
- The resubmission time for revised articles has been reduced down to 3 months.
- The number of accepted articles is gradually decreasing, in an attempt to improve the quality of the accepted submissions – within the next 2-3 months we will be able to publish no more than 30 high-rate original articles per issue, divided into themed categories (basic science, clinical science: acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease, extracorporeal treatments of kidney failure, renal transplantation).
- We are meanwhile successfully increasing the number of invited submissions, both editorial comments (now called “In focus”) and full reviews.
- We have already invited 94 reviews and 65 Editorial Comments.
- We are accepting an average of 33 original articles per month, at the same time publishing roughly 45-50 per issue (as of July 2012); at this rate we were able to reduce, by almost 100 articles, the old backlog of the journal, and we will hopefully be able to make the journal thinner (as well as increase its quality) by mid-2012 or before.
- The invitations have been addressed to well known personalities, currently presenting their study topics at the most relevant nephrology events worldwide such as the last Renal Week in Philadelphia and the ERA-EDTA congress in Paris.
- We organized a new NDT Course on Critical Appraisal in Leiden aimed at fostering the growth of a new breed of Reviewers. www.ndt-educational.org/Leiden2012.htm
- The creation of the NDT Perspectives section, dedicated to Education in Clinical Epidemiology, the ERBP guidelines and to consensus documents produced by Working Groups of our society.
- The launch of periodical newsletters to editors and continental areas.
- The launch of themed issue: currently we are working on the CKD special issue and Crush recommendations, to be published in the next few months.

What are your future plans for the journal?
Some incubating ideas / proposals are:
- Blog (first attempt, not so successful).
- Creating a forum on “groupsite” as alternative to the blog: we are going to explore the possibility of opening an account on groupsite.com, to allow an easy discussion and sharing of information for the whole editorial board.
- Moving the “letters” section out of the printed version of the journal into an online platform: E-LETTERS.
- Develop video-articles, funding specific authors for the creation of videos and providing them with guidelines on how to create their own video articles. The videos would then be retraceable through links on the oxfordjournals page of NDT.

As you can see we have many ideas and are very open to any kind of suggestion that our readers might have - comments are always welcome.
The European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA) is an alliance of not-for-profit organisations who represent the key stakeholders in kidney health issues in Europe. These stakeholders are the ERA-EDTA, the European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association/European Renal Care Association (EDTNA/ERCA), the International Society of Nephrology (ISN), the European Kidney Patient’s Association (CEAPIR), and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF).

EKHA was formed to increase awareness of the challenges posed by chronic kidney diseases (CKD) and to promote effective public health strategies to fight what has been called Europe’s silent epidemic. EKHA aims to educate the EU public and EU policymakers about CKD and the risk factors that predispose to it.

The first and founding chairman of the EKHA’s management committee was Prof Andy Rees who after 6 years of pioneering work has finished his term and was succeeded by Norbert Lameire since January 2012. Each member association is further represented by 2 delegate members. The ERA-EDTA actual delegates are Raymond Vanholder, President of the ERA-EDTA and Mrs Monica Fontana Faughnan from the ERA-EDTA Headquarters.

Since its beginnings EKHA has been assisted by its management company, LOGOS based in Brussels; LOGOS will end its activities for EKHA at the end of June 2012 and a new management company, INTEREL, also based in Brussels, has been selected to continue this support.

Through this management company EKHA tries to increase the effectiveness of its lobbying for more funds to be targeted to the kidney in both the EU Directorate’s research and public health programmes. Since both Directorates produce funding programmes based on input from the Commission (already targeted by EKHA) but also on input of the individual member states, EKHA (and by extension ERA-EDTA) could thus greatly be helped by the National Societies of Nephrology who could, through their national contacts, also target the research and public health programmes of these EU Directorates.

Since kidney diseases are so closely linked to other non-communicable diseases, it was appropriate that EKHA joined the European Chronic Diseases Alliance (ECDA) where, besides EKHA 9 other not-for-profit, science-based European organisations, join forces to reverse the rise in chronic non-communicable diseases. Thanks to these combined efforts contacts with EU administration have already been established and the awareness for these major “killers” of our populations is growing at the EU level. An important reflection paper on non-communicable diseases has just been prepared by the ECDA. It is rewarding that EKHA was asked to assume the role of secretariat of the ECDA for this year.

The ERA-EDTA has also recently become a member of the European Alliance for Biomedical Research where the attention for more funding for medical research, including kidney diseases, is emphasised.

One of the highlights of the EKHA activities is the celebration of World Kidney Day in the EU parliament with the support of our Kidney Group of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) under the active chairmanship of Mrs Frieda Brepoels.

This year, at the 2012 WKD event, besides a press conference, the problems of kidney transplantation in Europe focusing on the shortage of both living and deceased donors were discussed at a lively diner causerie in the parliament.

I hope that with this short report the ERA-EDTA members can appreciate that with their help the “battle” for greater awareness and attention for kidney diseases in Europe is fought on many levels...

ERA-EDTA Fellowship Programme

Next deadline to apply is September 1, 2012.

All information, as well as the regulation to apply, is available on the ERA-EDTA website www.era-edta.org, under the “Fellowship Programme” section.

In order to simplify the contacts between the applicants and the hosting centres, the ERA-EDTA has created two lists of Clinical and Research Centres that wish to receive fellows.

The Call for the European Clinical and Research Centres interested in receiving fellows is currently open; you can find all the necessary information to apply by checking the “Fellowship Programme” section of our website and/or by contacting fellowships@era-edta.org.
Dear Colleagues,

It is a great honor for us to have been given the opportunity to be the President and the Secretary-Treasurer of ERA-EDTA. Our Society encourages information, teaching and research in the field of clinical nephrology, dialysis, renal transplantation and related subjects and reports advances in those fields.

The year 2011 very well matched these aims.

The ERA-EDTA Congress in Prague was a substantial success. 1,989 abstracts were received of which 132 were accepted as a free communication and 1,151 as a poster. The general scientific content was received very well. The Congress was attended by 7,826 colleagues from 126 different countries. Compared to the last Congress organized by ERA-EDTA alone which was in Stockholm, the number of participants increased by 14.5%. A substantial increase was observed in the participation from countries outside Europe, especially from the Arab and Asian regions. We would like to thank all those who made the success of this event possible, beginning with V. Tesar, President of the Congress, I. Rychlik, Congress Secretary, and the Scientific Committee selecting an outstanding programme.

Last year brought a significant progress in the development of the ERA-EDTA Research Grants. The ERA-EDTA Scientific Advisory Board received 37 applications. From this huge number SAB members selected three outstanding projects that were then confirmed by the Council, granting a total amount of almost 2.5 million €. These projects: Starmen, LUST and EuroCyst should bring rewarding scientific results. It is also important to underline that we have recently started to monitor, in a very strict way, those grants which are ongoing from the previous calls. It is important to stress that our Fellowship Programme is also very efficient. From the year 2006 (when the Fellowship Programme started) till now ERA-EDTA granted 101 fellowships and immediately after the Congress in Prague in 2011, 8 new short-term fellowships and 10 new long-term fellowships started.

Much is being done in the sphere of Working Groups. A totally new ERA-EDTA Transplantation Working Group is at its final stage of organization and with the chairmanship of Prof. Daniel Abramo-wicz should begin its scientific and educational activity in the near future. Since the ERA-EDTA Council has received further applications to create new Working Groups, it is time to re-discuss about the entire number of Working Groups that the Society should fund.

ERA-EDTA has also started more in depth contacts with European Union. We are part of the European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA) together with the ISN, the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF), the European Dialysis and Transplantation Nurses Association/European Renal Care Association (EDTNA/ERCA) and the European Kidney Patients’ Federation (CEAPIR). The intention is to make renal diseases and their consequences more visible to the European Union, and its administrators as well as its politicians, so that more European support is offered for research and other kidney related initiatives. We are grateful to N. Lameire and Y. Pirson for their help in making this possible.

Hence, the Society is very active in many areas, with the intention to propagate scientific and clinical progress and visibility of European nephrology. A lot of structural changes are being accomplished which need to be condensed in tenable and fool-proof regulations.

Also this has taken a big deal of work and time from a large number of people in 2011. All this would be impossible without the efforts of many. Our special thanks go to all officers and Ordinary Council Members, as well as to the staff of the ERA-EDTA Administrative Office, for their continuous involvement and participation in the many activities of ERA-EDTA.
ERA-EDTA Award for Outstanding Scientific Merits.
Dr John Stewart Cameron is the recipient of the 2012 ERA-EDTA award for lifetime achievements in nephrology.
Dr Cameron started his nephrological activities in the late 1950s and worked essentially at Guy’s Hospital in London. He was active in a broad range of topics related to nephrology, going from diabetic nephropathy, to glomerular diseases, vasculitis, lupus nephropathy, renal biopsies and morphology, pediatric nephrology, uric acid in renal disease, transplantation, and CAPD. After his retirement, he has written several publications on the history of nephrology.
He was involved in many breakthroughs in the nephrological field: he started long before this became an accepted practice an integrated adult and pediatric nephrology service; he was co-author of one of the first, if not the first, Randomized Controlled Trial in nephrology; he pioneered in the use of descriptive mathematics in follow-up studies; his group was among the first to use azathioprine for glomerulonephritis and lupus, and the first to apply oral cyclophosphamide for lupus; and he published several studies on the involvement of complement and platelets in glomerulopathies.
Dr Cameron authored and co-authored approximately 460 publications, edited 12 books, and wrote over 150 chapters in books. He currently has a Hirsh-index of 69 and was cited more than 14,000 times. He published in the New England Journal of Medicine, the Lancet (69 times!), the Journal of Clinical Investigation, the British Medical Journal (49 times), the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, Circulation, and many more.
He trained more than 200 fellows from the UK and all over the world.
Dr Cameron is truly one of the giants of nephrology who was at the basis of many major new accomplishments which still have their repercussion today.

ERA-EDTA Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Society.
Dr Vincenzo Cambi is the recipient of the 2012 ERA-EDTA award for contributions to the society.
Dr Cambi became a member of ERA-EDTA in 1971. From 1978 to 1980 he served his first term in the Council of the Association as Ordinary Member. In 1984 he organized the Congress of EDTA-ERA in Florence. In 1984, he was re-elected Ordinary Council Member for a second term. In 1990 he was elected Secretary-Treasurer, which he remained till 1996.
In 1991, during this mandate of Secretary Treasurer, the yearly ERA-EDTA Congress had been planned in Belgrade, former Yugoslavia, but a war broke out a few months before. It was his initiative to rescue the Congress by transferring it to Rimini. In spite of the expenses that had already been made for Belgrade, he managed to make the global balance positive. In 1992, he was involved in the transfer of NDT to Oxford University Press, where it still is published. Also this move increased the financial benefit for the Society. From 1994 on, the organization of the Congresses was restructured, emanating in an own Congress Office. Thanks to his initiative the annual congresses are now the main revenue for ERA-EDTA.
His main achievement, however, was the registration of ERA-EDTA as a Charity in England, which made the Society more stable and secure regarding its finance and tax status. In 1996, when his term as Secretary-Treasurer ended, Dr Cambi was elected by the Council as Chief-Controller (a position that is now named “Chief of the Administrative Office”) and held this position until 1999. In 2002 he was nominated Honorary Member of ERA-EDTA.
Apart from his definite merits as a clinician and a scientist, Dr Cambi can certainly be considered as an organisational and financial wizard, who made key contributions to the current prosperity of the Society.

ERA-EDTA Young Investigator Award
Dr Giovana Seno di Marco is the recipient of the young investigator’s award. The long list of candidates is selected out of the highest ranked abstracts of the three previous ERA-EDTA Congresses. In this way, we award not only a brilliant scientist, but also one who is committed to our Society.
She accomplished a very varied career and worked first in Brasil, which is her birth country, then in Paris, France, and is now active in Münster, Germany. She has a degree in biomedical sciences and a specialization certificate in immuno-histochemistry and immuno-cytochemistry, which she obtained in Santiago, Chile. She was awarded three grants, among which one from the Else Kröner Fresenius Stiftung and one from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. She received ten awards.
She published in total 26 original publications, among which three in Kidney International, two in the Journal of Cellular Biochemistry, and one in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, Plos One, the European Heart Journal, Circulation, the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, Molecular Medicine, and the Journal of Hypertension.
She came out first among three high quality shortlisted candidates with what I would call a truly international curriculum, which offers her bright perspectives for the future. We are looking forward to the further evolution of her scientific career.
It is pleasing to see that the interest of young colleagues in the ERA-EDTA is increasing. To date, 980 out of 6350 members of the ERA-EDTA are young nephrologists and 93 of the 300 new members recently approved by the Council, are below 40 years old. In order to involve them even more into the activities of ERA-EDTA, the creation of a new ERA-EDTA body was approved at the Autumn Council Meeting in Krakow in October 2011. The Young Nephrologists Platform (YNP) is meant to give young ERA-EDTA members the opportunity to cooperate, share experience and influence the Association from the point of view of a younger generation. The new initiative invites young nephrologists to different committees of the ERA-EDTA activities such as the Working Groups, Scientific Advisory Board, CME Courses, Congress Scientific Committees and others. The YNP Board will also be involved in the preparations of the ERA-EDTA Congress programmes. I would like to underline that the initiative was enthusiastically accepted by our young colleagues. Therefore I’m looking forward with great optimism to the active collaboration of the different ERA-EDTA bodies with YNP representatives.

YNP membership
The Young Nephrologists Platform will consist of ordinary members and a Board. Nephrologists of 40 years of age or younger, who want to become ordinary YNP members should work in the areas of interest of the Association (basic or clinical nephrology, dialysis or transplantation). Ordinary Members, who fulfill the acceptance criteria will be approved by the Council after sending their application to the YNP Board. Candidates can also be proposed by their national society of nephrology. A candidate for Ordinary Membership must have at least one scientific paper accepted at an international conference within the last three years.

The YNP Board
The YNP Board will consist of a Chairman, five Board Members plus Ex-officio members - these being the winners of the ERA-EDTA Young Investigator Award. A Board Member must be a member of the ERA-EDTA who is under 37 years of age and must be the first author of at least three accepted abstracts at international congresses presented within the last three years. The YPN Board will serve for a three year term which cannot be renewed. Turnover and the election procedure will be similar to other ERA-EDTA bodies.

Due to differences in health systems, practical aspects of clinical nephrology and research levels, YNP members from different countries will certainly come up with different needs. We will be very happy to see how the YNP activities will help members resolve their problems and accelerate the development of nephrology in their countries. Thus, YNP will be also open to young nephrologists outside of Europe, provided that they are members of the ERA-EDTA.

For more information about the Young Nephrologists Platform please feel free to contact Prof. Andrzej Wiecek at awiecek@spskm.katowice.pl.

YNP regulations and application form can be found on: www.era-edta.org
To become a member of YNP the candidate have to submit the application form, which can be found under the following address: www.era-edta.org/membership/ynp_registration.php
A candidate for Ordinary Membership must be ERA-EDTA member under 40 years old and have presented at least one scientific paper (as an oral presentation or poster) at the international conference within the previous 3 years.

 Member of the Board of YNP must be under 37 years of age and must be the first author of at least 3 abstracts accepted at the international congresses.

To become a member of YNP Board the candidate have to submit the application form, which can be found under the following address: www.era-edta.org/membership/ynp_board_registration.php

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