We Invite You to an Exciting Congress in Amsterdam

From Pieter ter Wee
Congress President

Dear colleagues,

The annual ERA-EDTA meeting in Amsterdam is rapidly approaching. The meeting will be held at the largest conference centre of the Netherlands: the RAI, which already has a history of organising meetings for over 100 years (www.rai.nl). It is a spacious modern conference centre right in the middle of Amsterdam, easily accessible by public transportation and with many hotels in its proximity. The focus of the RAI’s staff is to create an environmentally-friendly meeting environment in which participants can easily connect with each other to share knowledge. The latter can only be achieved by offering a high quality scientific programme to which the scientific committee, chaired by Dr. David Wheeler, is putting the last final touches. The meeting will start on May 31st with 20 CME courses followed by the Opening Ceremony of the main meeting at 18:00 hrs. After the welcome words by the Presidents, two different topics concerning the quest for water management in the future will be presented, followed by a getting together with drinks and entertainment. The main scientific programme will contain 50 symposia and over 30 mini lectures concerning the major issues of nephrology, dialysis and transplantation, which together with the lunch symposia and the poster sessions holds the promises for a high quality scientific meeting.

In addition Amsterdam has many things to offer, ranging from many good places to drink and eat to a large number of cultural highlights including world famous museums like the van Gogh Museum and the completely renovated Rijksmuseum (picture) and Stedelijk Museum as well as the “Concertgebouw”, home of one of the world’s best orchestras, the royal “Concertgebouworkest”. But even without these highlights, just wandering along Amsterdam’s famous canals with its many beautiful merchandise houses with their characteristic gables is a relaxing and inspiring experience. Therefore, it’s my pleasure to invite you to join us in Amsterdam for a combination of both a high quality meeting and an excellent leisure environment.

A Rich and Stimulating Programme

From David C Wheeler
Chair of the Scientific Programme

It has been an honour to serve the ERA-EDTA as chair of the Scientific Committee of the 51st Annual Congress in Amsterdam. The committee’s remit was to put together a balanced scientific programme that would have wide appeal, while including the usual favourite topics and involve a balance of speakers from the different regions of Europe. This has inevitably proved challenging, but thanks to the efforts of the committee members, we are now in the process of finalising the details. Our planning process began with a meeting at the American Society of Nephrology in San Diego in November 2012. After a second meeting at the 50th ERA-EDTA Congress in Istanbul, our outline plans were presented to Council in August 2013. Council members provided helpful input that allowed us to optimise the balance of the programme.

The 51st Annual ERA-EDTA Congress starts on Saturday 31st May with a selection of preconference CME activities, most of which have been organised by the Scientific Working Groups. The main programme runs over the subsequent three days and is divided into 8 colour coded themes which, we hope, will help delegates follow their favourite topics. Three high profile international speakers (Bruce Molitoris, Hans Clevers and Ueli Schibler) have agreed to give our plenary talks scheduled for mid morning slots without competing parallel sessions. Other highlights include talks by international speakers from outside Europe, two sessions supported by “The Lancet”, summaries of the recent 2013 American Society and ISN meetings, a joint session with the Chinese Society of Nephrology and two late breaking clinical trials sessions. In planning the 50 symposia and 30 mini lectures, we have attempted to highlight the best clinical and basic research and to provide an update on topics that are evolving rapidly, particularly where new data may modify clinical care.

We hope that the chosen topics will be of interest and that we have been successful in minimising clashes that make session selection difficult for the delegate. Most importantly, we hope that you enjoy the meeting and find the programme stimulating and educational. Your feedback will be greatly appreciated and will help in the organisation of future annual meetings of the ERA-EDTA.
Attractive Poster and Free Communications in Amsterdam

Report from the Paper Selection Committee

From Denis Fouque, Chair of the Paper Selection Committee, and Silvia Menoni, ERA-EDTA Headquarters

The annual ERA-EDTA meeting is regularly growing over the years both with regard to the number of attendees as well as with regard to the submitted abstracts. Last year in Istanbul, 2400 abstracts were submitted from 76 countries. 270 international reviewers graded them and 1615 abstracts were accepted for presentation. Among them, 180 were selected as oral communications, which represent only 7.5% of the total number of submitted abstract, thus a rather selective choice. The first ten countries to submit abstracts were Italy, Japan, Turkey, Spain, Germany, Rep. of Korea, United Kingdom, Poland, China and the United States. The most frequent topics chosen in the abstract categories were: clinical transplantation, epidemiology and clinical outcome in dialysis, cardiovascular complications in dialysis, extracorporeal dialysis techniques and adequacy, progression and nutrition in CKD.

This year during the 51st ERA-EDTA congress in Amsterdam, May 31st-June 3rd, attendees will be able to listen to 30 minilectures distributed in 32 free communication sessions. For this meeting we received 2165 abstracts, which are now in the reviewing process. No doubt that everyone will be able to choose the topics of his/her choice and find the best educational and scientific information.

The results of the most exciting late breaking clinical trials will be presented in two symposia which for sure will be among the most attended and appreciated sessions of the congress. There will be a special call for these abstracts from March 3 to 27, 2014. Please check www.era-edta2014.org, under the “abstracts” section.

The ERA-EDTA is always keen to help young nephrologists attend the yearly congress and encourages them to submit their works. Up to 90 travel grants will be given to the highest scoring abstracts whose authors are 40 years of age, or younger. The best two abstracts for each category will receive 1,000 euro, while all the remaining ones will receive 500 euro. All of them will receive complimentary congress membership.

The very best abstracts submitted by authors who are 40 years old or younger, and come from Europe, a country bordering Europe or the Mediterranean Sea will then be considered for the Stanley Shaldon Award for Young Investigators for the next three years. The award consists in a special invitation to attend the ERA-EDTA Congress, three years of ERA-EDTA membership and a prize of 10,000 euro.

We are really looking forward to meeting you in Amsterdam!

The ERA-EDTA Young Fellowship Programme

Next Deadline to Apply

The ERA-EDTA Young Fellowship Programme favours the growth of young investigators in clinical and research Nephrology field by promoting exchange/collaboration among Renal Centres of the ERA-EDTA geographical Area (all European countries and countries bordering Europe and the Mediterranean Sea). From 2006 till 2014, the Programme has awarded 151 Fellowships.

ERA-EDTA supports two different kinds of Fellowships:
- Research Fellowships (Long-Term or Short-Term) for advanced training through research and/or promoting a research collaboration between two institutions;
- Clinical Fellowships (only Short-Term) for training in specific clinical techniques.

The Fellowship Programme will open the next Call on May 1st, 2014, with deadline on July 1st, 2014.

More information and forms are available on the ERA-EDTA website www.era-edta.org, under the “Research” section.)
ERA-EDTA Congress 2013 in Istanbul: Results of the Post-Congress e-Survey

From Markus Ketteler, Chair of the Administrative Offices

As a society aiming for steady improvements, the success of a congress needs to be continuously evaluated by the attendees. In addition to an on-site survey on the quality of the logistics, organization and contents of the congress program, this year participants were especially asked for their opinions on present and future electronic materials and their role for successful educational activities. A total of 193 answers were received (fig. 1), while 10 questions were addressed.

Feedback on quality was the key issue of the survey, and the general question of how would the attendees rate the quality of the received materials’ content and webcasts received an overwhelmingly positive reply (39% excellent, 58% good). Of the available e-presentations, top scoring topics were “membranous nephropathy”, “acute kidney injury” and “glomerulopathies”, fitting well with the results of the on-site surveys indicating that the majority of participants are interested in clinical nephrology, while only 3 participants each rated one presentation to be of lower quality. For the future, a significant percentage of votes asked for more representation of “transplantation” in the e-materials.

The company Shire went an innovative way in Istanbul and focused on an e-presence during the congress. Despite some initial technical challenges, this endeavor went well and was appreciated by the users. On a scale from 1 (= not useful at all) – 5 (very useful), this new project scored an excellent 4.6.

Smartphone Apps could potentially develop into another novel technical platform for congress materials. 82% of the survey participants confirmed that ordering available speaker materials instantly at each scientific session via an App would be highly valuable. However, directly joining a panel of innovative physicians and speakers to develop such next generation digital e-material services and provide feedback to concepts that will consequently be sent out was found to be less attractive – this question received agreement only by 36% of the survey users.

Finally, key questions were asked on how the individual e-material recipients may make use of the material (fig. 2) and how to improve the e-services in 2014 (fig. 3). According to the feedback, the majority of users employed the materials for their own education or to educate others at their respective workplaces. With regard to future improvements, it was asked to give up limitations just to selected sessions, but instead make as many presentations available as possible – certainly quite ambitious goals.

With these survey results, we as an innovative educational and scientific society consider our mandate received, so our mission will be to cope and go ahead with all technical possibilities in order to satisfy the needs and desires of congress participants to the highest degree. This year 2014 in Amsterdam, we will certainly offer (and then kindly ask again for feedback on) more of an “electronic” development of the ERA EDTA.
One year ago, the ERA-EDTA Council approved the creation of a working group dedicated to Chronic Kidney Disease-Mineral and Bone Disorder (CKD-MBD) and its activities officially started on January 1st, 2013.

Within two weeks after the announcement of the establishment of the CKD-MBD WG, the number of members approached 200, from Countries all over the world, and after one year we have reached 350 members. This not only underlines the broad interest in this field, but also provides a platform for intense cooperation and networking among colleagues with shared interest.

During this first year we had the opportunity to set up and organize several activities.

1. Meeting: we had our first CME meeting during the 50th ERA-EDTA Congress, May 18th 2013, in Istanbul, in which we officially introduce ourselves to the European Renal Community. There were almost 200 attendees and discussion has been really active.

2. Workshop: we had our first Workshop of the CKD-MBD Working Group, December 5th 2013, in Milan, with almost 300 attendees.

3. Research: Pan-European Calciphylaxis Registry: the already operational German Registry will be modified and expanded into a pan-European Registry, in order to identify risk factors that may form a basis for development of novel therapeutic approaches for this devastating complication. Development of the outlines of a multinational study on multi-targeted intervention study on CKD-MBD: As it is clear that causes of complications in CKD are virtually always multiple, it is unlikely that targeting single entities will lead to undisputed improvements in clinical outcome. Defining an acceptable treatment algorithm for CKD-MBD, beyond current KDIGO guidelines will be a challenging but mandatory step for which broad input from working group members can be extremely valuable.

4. List of publications: Current Vascular Pharmacology Special Issue on vitamin D


5. Future plans. We will have our second CME meeting during the 51st ERA-EDTA Congress, May 31st 2014, in Amsterdam, and our second Workshop of the CKD-MBD Working Group, December 4th 2014, in Milan. The working group recognizes the potential of European Cooperation on CKD-MBD related research, and educational activities. Multinational cooperation increases the likelihood of European funding, like the New Horizon 2020 programme. For the coming years this is likely the most fruitful way to proceed with clinically relevant research, especially for individual countries that suffer the most from the economic crisis. To meet its goal to disseminate state of the art knowledge in this specific field of CKD-MBD, the working group agreed with the editors of Seminars in Nephrology to dedicate an entire issue on this rapidly evolving field, which is scheduled for publication in 2014.

The Communication Team

From Mario Cozzolino and Marc Vervoort, on behalf of the CKD-MBD Working Group Board

The ERA-EDTA is a thriving renal association and over the years it has developed a rich portfolio of scientific journals and newsletters. At this stage, it is important to coordinate its various activities so as to transmit coherent messages. For this purpose the Council of the ERA-EDTA decided to create a Communication Team, which will include the ERA-EDTA President, the Chief Editors of NDT, CKJ, NDT-Educational, Follow us, Follow us Flash, the CEO of the ERA-EDTA and the external relations manager. The Communication Team will include Daniela Amodeo and Caroline Vinck, editorial assistants to NDT, and Francesca Trebelli, managing editor of NDT-Educational. The Editor in Chief of NDT will be the team coordinator.

The team will coordinate its activities via the web. A web platform will allow all members of the Communication Team to share a list of articles, reviews and presentations which they feel to be of particular value and worthy to be mentioned by all the communication resources of our society. The NDT and CKJ Editors will stimulate the publication of full reviews on selected ERA-EDTA congress presentations synchronising the publication of manuscripts with NDT-Educational issues. The Editors of NDT and the CKJ will propose to the Editor of NDT-Educational original articles or reviews to be commented in NDT Educational, with brief slide presentations (based on the article’s content) which will be accompanied by an editorial note written by the NDT Educational Editor. The Editor of Follow us will include a special column in each issue of the Newsletter to highlight all these articles, reviews and presentations shared in NDT, CKJ and NDT Educational. Newsletters by Working Groups will follow the same procedure but will focus more on articles and reviews of specific interest.

The ERA-EDTA is a harmonious society and I am sure that the creation of this Communication Team will allow all members to easily receive the most worthy scientific and organisational initiatives of our society.
From Andrzej Wieczek, ERA-EDTA Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Colleagues,

The ERA-EDTA is recognizing those who made outstanding contributions to the Association and to its field of interest. The Honorary Membership of our Society is the way of saying “Thank you” to all of them. In the previous issues (2) I had the honour to present the first recipients of this highest degree given by our Association. Now, I have the privilege to present the next Honorary Members of the ERA-EDTA recognized in 1987, 1988 and 1989 Marcel Legrain (France), Jules Traeger (France), Fred S.T. Boen (The Netherlands) and Mary Graham McGeown (United Kingdom).

**Professor Marcel Legrain** was born in Paris in 1923 and died in 2003 at the age of 80. He was one of the pioneers of nephrology in Europe and one of the founding fathers of the Société de Néphrologie, established in 1960. This was a Society which gathered nephrologists not only from France but from all Francophone countries. In 1976 he was elected as an ERA-EDTA Ordinary Council Member and in 1978 he became the President of the ERA-EDTA. At that time he was introducing novel methods of haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. He made a great contribution in establishing nephrology in Algeria and other North African countries. He was recognized as an Honorary Member of ERA-EDTA at the 24th Congress in (West) Berlin, 1987.

**Professor Jules Traeger** was born in 1920, and served as a nephrologist in Lyon. He was one of the pioneers of peritoneal dialysis in Europe. He was the third President of the ERA-EDTA and the President of the Congress in Lyon at the same time, serving his term in 1966. He was the co-editor of EDTA Proceedings which were published at that time in English and French. J. Traeger developed the anti-lymphocyte serum (ALS). In 1963 he opened, in Lyon, the first dialysis centre in Europe. He performed the first double kidney and pancreas transplantation in France. He was recognized as an Honorary Member of ERA-EDTA at the 25th Congress in Madrid, 1988.

**Professor Fred S.T. Boen** was born in 1927 in Jakarta, Indonesia. After moving to Europe he worked in Amsterdam. He was one of the pioneers of peritoneal dialysis and the first who wrote about the kinetics of the peritoneal dialysis in 1959. In the 60s he worked in Seattle together with another ERA-EDTA Honorary Member - Professor Belding Scribner - on the advancement of dialysis. Professor Fred S. T. Boen was Secretary-Treasurer of the ERA-EDTA, serving his term from 1979 to 1984. He was elected twice as an ERA-EDTA Council Member. He was recognized as an Honorary Member of ERA-EDTA at the 25th Congress in Madrid, 1988.

**Professor Mary Graham McGeown**, better known as Mollie McGeown, was born in 1923 in Lurgan in Northern Ireland and died in 2004 in Belfast. She was one of the pioneers of nephrology and transplantation. Her influence on this last field with her “Belfast Recipe” was recognized and appreciated not only in Northern Ireland but all over Europe. With hundreds of publications, numerous positions she held Professor McGeown has shown a path for other female scientists and clinicians. She was recognized as the first female Honorary Member of the ERA-EDTA at the 26th Congress in Gothenburg, 1989.

If you wish to learn more about our Honorary Members I encourage you to visit the links below and to read the stories of these four great nephrologists:

Marcel Legrain
http://ndt.oxfordjournals.org/content/19/1/259.full
http://ndt.oxfordjournals.org/content/13/10/2699.full.pdf+html?sid=32f08d38-46f7-4357-af89-b1d16bf9378b

Jules Traeger
www.soc-nephrologie.org/enephr/histoire/medailles/2004_traeger.htm
www.transplantation-medicale.wikibis.com/jules_traeger.php

Fred S.T. Boen
www.pdiconnect.com/content/29/6/601.full

Mollie McGeown
http://ndt.oxfordjournals.org/content/20/4/844.full
www.newulsterbiography.co.uk/index.php/home/viewPerson/1993
ERA-EDTA and EuroPD: Using Synergies to Promote Peritoneal Dialysis in Europe

From Bettina Albers, Press Office ERA-EDTA

“The goal of EuroPD is to promote, support and expand knowledge, research and clinical practice in peritoneal dialysis”, comments Prof. Nicholas Topley, Cardiff, UK, President of EuroPD. “Working more closely with ERA-EDTA will allow us to reach a wider audience, and reinforce to the wider nephrology community the utility and excellence of peritoneal dialysis as a therapy.”

“PD is a key method of renal replacement and could be used to treat at least 15 to 20% of dialysis patients. PD has a positive impact on quality of life, because it promotes self-management and empowers patients with more choice, information and control. It also is the most cost-effective dialysis therapy imposing the lowest financial pressure on society. ERA-EDTA is eager to promote PD in Europe and has therefore agreed to establish this collaboration with EuroPD as one of the main ways to promote PD education”, explains ERA-EDTA president, Prof. Raymond Vanholder, Ghent, Belgium. “We have to focus on improving the knowledge and training of nephrologists in the field of peritoneal dialysis”. To reach these aims, ERA-EDTA will host a track that is devoted to all aspects of PD during the annual congress and work together with EuroPD to produce electronic CME materials to promote PD education. It will also ensure that EuroPD initiatives acquire their due visibility among ERA-EDTA membership, and vice versa. ERA-EDTA will participate directly in future EuroPD meetings. This initiative will encompass also other activities of personalized renal replacement therapies, such as home haemodialysis and self care.

About EuroPD

EuroPD aims to promote, support and expand knowledge, research and clinical practice in peritoneal dialysis. It has organized its bi/tri-annual Meeting on eleven previous occasions in different European cities with an average attendance of 1200-1500 clinicians, scientists and nurses representing> 70 countries. These congresses are held in conjunction with the national nephrology societies of the host country or region. Knowledge and practice in the field of peritoneal dialysis is spread by keynote lectures, symposia, EuroPD masterclasses®, poster and free communications sessions. In addition EuroPD provides a series of one-day, two-track (beginner and expert) clinical practice-based CME sessions and supports other regional and international societies by organizing scientific and CME sessions. For further information please visit the EuroPD website: www.europd.com

CME Organised in Kinshasa Together with ISN

A joint CME organised by ERA-EDTA (ComIA) and ISN (ISN GO CME) in collaboration with local organizers Prof. Ernest Sumaili Kiswaya and Prof. Nazaire Nseka was held at the University of Kinshasa (Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo) from December 9th to December 10th, 2013. Prof. Raymond Vanholder (Ghent, Belgium) and Prof. Ziad A. Massy (Paris, France) on behalf of the ERA-EDTA and Prof. Norbert Lameire (Ghent, Belgium) and Prof. André Weigert (Lisbon, Portugal) on behalf of the ISN were present as speakers. The novelty of this CME was the participation for the first time of a nurse teacher, Mr. Tony Govaerts (Brussels, Belgium). Several Congolese nephrologists were also active as presenters. One hundred twenty physicians, (nephrologists, internists, general practitioners and other specialists) participated in the meeting as well as 30 nurses. The attendees were essentially from Kinshasa but physicians and nurses from Lubumbashi were also present. Courses were organized in parallel sessions for medical and nurse groups separately. The CME focus was related to CKD and its complications and its management including dialysis and kidney transplantation. During the courses, intense exchanges between the participants and the speakers were constantly held attesting the successful dynamic and interactivity of the CME.

From Ziad A. Massy, Chair of ComIA

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Editor-in-Chief: Andrzej Wiecek
Co-Editor: Mehmet Sakar Sever
Managing Editor: Silvia Maneni
Graphic design: Gianluca Evangelista
ERA-EDTA
c/o ERA-EDTA Administrative Office Via Spolverini 2
43126 Parma - Italy

www.era-edta.org