Chronic Kidney Disease and Hypertension -
Twin challenges for 21st century Europe

Lunch seminar, Tuesday 10th March 13:00

European Parliament, Strasbourg, Members’ Salon

World Kidney Day is an annual occasion to raise awareness of chronic kidney disease (CKD). The theme for WKD this year is ‘Keep the Pressure Down’, with the aim of raising awareness of hypertension as both a risk factor and symptom of CKD.

Further to the successful 2008 European Kidney Health Alliance symposium in the European Parliament, this year EKHA and WKD are joining forces to organise a lunch seminar to pursue critical advocacy campaigns on CKD and ensure that last year’s ‘wake-up call’ will be followed by concrete policy measures.

It is estimated that 8% of European citizens are currently affected by some form of CKD and this number is expected to rise because it is linked to other modern epidemics such as high blood pressure, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

In the long term, CKD can lead to renal failure and the need for dialysis or a kidney transplant. Central to the current EU-level debate on organ donation and transplantation is the simple fact that demand for organs for transplantation far outweighs supply. There is an immediate need to increase organ donation, but equally important in the longer term is the need to reduce the number of people developing renal failure.

Public health measures to identify early kidney disease are emerging as central to prevention efforts.

During the seminar ‘Chronic kidney disease and hypertension – Twin challenges for 21st century Europe’, an eminent panel of speakers will highlight the cause and effect of Europe’s hypertension and cardiovascular epidemics and their inseparable link to CKD. Panelists will also present innovative European initiatives that are working towards improving the identification and management of kidney disease.

The event will be hosted by MEP Mrs Frieda Brepoels (Belgium, EPP-ED), Rapporteur of the European Parliament’s proposed Directive on standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation.
Programme

Welcome and introduction
Professor Andrew Rees, Chairman of the European Kidney Health Alliance

Statement of support for EKHA and WKD

Chronic Kidney Disease: Cause and effect of Europe’s hypertension and cardiovascular epidemics
Carmine Zoccali, MD FASN, Institute of Biomedicine, Clinical Epidemiology and Physiopathology of Renal Diseases and Hypertension, Ospedali Riuniti, Reggio Calabria - Italy

Public health strategies to address CKD and its associated diseases
Tom Oostrom M.Sc., Vice President Dutch Kidney Foundation.

Self-management of CKD
Valerie Twomey, patient

General discussion – ‘Round-table

The European Kidney Health Alliance
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. EKHA takes a multidisciplinary approach involving patients and their families, doctors and nurses, researchers and other healthcare professionals who work cooperatively for a European health environment in which there is a sustained decrease in kidney disease and its consequences. EKHA Member organisations are the following:

CEAPIR (European Kidney Patients’ Federation)
EDTNA/ERCA (European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association/European Renal Care Association)
ERA-EDTA (European Renal Association - European Dialysis and Transplant Association)
IFKF (International Federation of Kidney Foundations)

World Kidney Day
World Kidney Day (WKD) is a global health awareness campaign focusing on the importance of our kidneys and reducing the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide. The campaign is celebrated every year on the second Thursday of March in more than 100 countries on 6 continents.

Organisers

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