Dear Colleagues,

As President of the ERA-EDTA, I have the pleasure to announce the first call for the ERA-EDTA long-term Fellowship Grants.

The purpose of the ERA-EDTA Fellowship Programme is to support basic and clinical research in the field of Nephrology in Europe, mainly among young investigators. In addition, the ERA-EDTA Fellowship Programme will facilitate scientific exchange and collaboration between European Research Institutions.

Long-Term Fellowships are awarded for prolonged visits (12 to 24 months) and are intended for advanced training through research. The fellowships provide the travel costs and a stipend for the fellow and his/her family. Applicants should have a long-term commitment to perform research in the field of kidney function or disease and related areas, including renal pathology, pathophysiology, hypertension, cardiovascular consequences of renal disease, clinical epidemiology, dialysis and transplantation.

Shortly we will also announce the first call for the short-term fellowships (up to 3 months) established mainly to apply a technique not available in the home institution and to promote research collaboration between two institutions.

Applications have to be sent to the ERA-EDTA President and submitted online through the ERA-EDTA website at www.era-edta.org/fellowshipsintro.htm. The first deadline for Applications for the long-term Fellowships is May 26th, 2006. You will find all the complete information, application forms and rules, in the ERA-EDTA web page at www.era-edta.org/fellowshipsintro.htm.

Do not miss the opportunity to apply!

Prof. Covic, the ERA-EDTA Council is putting a lot of efforts into new initiatives for young Nephrologists. What was decided in 2006?

Keeping the line of developing existing programmes and creating exciting new educational initiatives, ERA-EDTA has decided to significantly increase - by 50% - the funding reserved for travel grants to attend the ERA-EDTA Congress. The total sum - 50,000 Euro - will thus be allocated to 89 grants based on the best-rated abstracts.

Do these initiatives involve also other Associations?

Yes, we are involving National Societies of Nephrology. The ERA-EDTA Council has decided to offer one grant to each National Society from Europe for the best presentations delivered by young Nephrologists at the National Annual Congress, offering free Registration to the next ERA-EDTA Meeting plus a three-year free membership to ERA-EDTA.

And what about the research? Are there any projects that have been defined?

The ERA-EDTA Council has decided to perform a clinical trial, in order to promote and co-ordinate studies aimed at slowing the progression of renal disease. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is perceived as a major public health problem. Apart from the need for dialysis and renal transplantation, the increased risk for cardiovascular events in patients with even a mild degree of renal function impairment, makes CKD a true challenge for European Health Systems. ARPA (Arrest Renal disease Progression Aim) will focus on patients, presenting risk factors for progression of renal diseases and will find out the most effective drug combination for preventing functional decline. The project is designed to pragmatically test the validity of available treatments used in combination. In addition, ARPA is a catalytic framework to boost research in various “buzzing” fields.
Excitement mounts for Glasgow

From David Goldsmith,
Chairman of the Paper Selection Committee

Judging from the record number of abstracts submitted - 2262 - a lot of people are hoping to descend upon Glasgow in July. This augurs very well for what should be a superb, entertaining and highly educational conference there. The conference facilities are some of the best in Europe, and the city will present a uniquely Scottish mixture of grit and pearl that only the best places can. We need in advance to thank all the hard work of the many abstract reviewers - more abstracts submitted means more abstracts to judge of course, and the superb professionalism of the Scientific committee and the meeting organising teams.

Let’s raise our glasses (hopefully charged with Malt Whisky) to Glasgow 2006!

D. Goldsmith

Elections in the Council

From Dimitrios Tsakiris, ERA-EDTA Council Member

This year at the ERA-EDTA Congress in Glasgow Prof. K.-U. Eckardt (Germany), Prof. G. London (France) and Dr. D. Tsakiris (Greece) complete their three-year term as ordinary members of the Council. The ballot which will take place in Glasgow will elect three new members from eleven candidates who have submitted their intention to serve as members of the Council for the following three years.

This is a record of candidatures for ordinary council members in the history of ERA-EDTA! In the last 10 years candidatures ranged from 3 to 7, but this year the number of 11 distinguished candidates hallmarks the turning point of increased visibility and prestige that our Society has gained in recent years. There is also a fair geographical representation of participating countries in the ERA-EDTA with candidates coming from UK (Dr. D. Adu, Dr. P. Warwicker), Germany (Prof. M. Kuhlmann, Prof. C. Wanner), Poland (Prof. A. Wiecek), Spain (Prof. JM Grinyo), Belgium (Prof. Y. Vanrenterghem), Czech Republik (Prof. V. Tesar), Hungary (Prof. L. Rosivall), FY.R.M. (Prof. G. Spasovski) and Israel (Prof. Y. Yagil). The complete curricula of the candidates can be seen at www.era-edta.org/candidates.htm.

The ERA-EDTA Council invites all Full ERA-EDTA Members to participate in the ballot voting for those they wish to represent them on the board that plans and decides the future of our Society.
In December 2003, the ERA-EDTA Council launched a new educational initiative: a series of CME Courses on different topics, to be held both in Eastern and Western European countries. After two years, this adventure has turned out to be so successful that we are receiving many requests for new Courses all over Europe. The ERA-EDTA Council will continue this initiative with new ideas for the future.

### The CME Programme: grown up but still growing

**From Rosanna Coppo, Chairperson of the ERA-EDTA CME Activities and of the Administrative Offices**

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### ERA-EDTA CME Courses in 2006

**ASN Highlights**
- July 15 - Glasgow, UK

**ERa-EDTA Highlights**
- November - San Diego, USA

**Applied renal physiology**
- July 15 - Glasgow, UK

**Peritoneal dialysis**
- July 15 - Glasgow, UK

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<td>March 4-6</td>
<td>Salzburg, Austria</td>
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<td>Ischemia in renal transplantation</td>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Barcelona, Spain</td>
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<td>Advances in dialysis</td>
<td>June 30-July 1</td>
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<td>REENA (Renal East. Eur. Neph. Acad.)</td>
<td>September 15-17</td>
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<td>Actualities in dialysis &amp; transplantation</td>
<td>September 16</td>
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<td>Clinical Epidemiology</td>
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<td>Danube Symposium</td>
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<td>October 6-7</td>
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<td>October 19</td>
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Check the complete calendar and programmes at [www.ndt-educational.org/eracourses.asp](http://www.ndt-educational.org/eracourses.asp)

### A few comments from Course participants

“Not only was the course extremely well organised and very informative but the material applied broadly to novices and also to some of us who have done a bit of research!”

“Hands-on Sessions were VERY useful and really good. Thanks a lot!”

“It was a great course. I worked a lot with statisticians but never tried to understand what they are doing. So now I understand and may even be able to ask better questions.”
It is with great pleasure that we invite you to the 44th ERA-EDTA Congress in Barcelona on June 21st to 24th 2007, to be held at the Barcelona International Convention Centre (CCIB). The Centre is a modern 100,000 m² complex equipped with state-of-the-art technology and offers an ideal location on the seashore. Its immense versatility and its architectural beauty make it a perfect venue for the specific needs of the Congress, and the new Forum Building within the complex is a unique piece of architecture that has become an emblem of today’s Barcelona. The city boasts a large number of top-quality hotels, and there are now several to be found near the CCIB, with easy access to the city centre. This will be the first ERA-EDTA Congress to be held in Barcelona since 1970, despite the fact that Barcelona has been a pioneer centre of nephrology in Europe. The Scientific Committee will prepare a high quality and varied programme that will incorporate the latest developments in basic and clinical nephrology in the form of lectures, mini lectures, symposia and courses, as well as Industry-sponsored symposia.

We also invite you to take the opportunity to experience the delights of Barcelona: its 2000-year-old history, its stunning architecture, its immense cultural diversity, its inimitable style, its avant-garde cuisine and its warm sunny weather. During your stay, don’t miss the most emblematic Gaudi Modernist buildings, nor the Miró or Picasso Museums. You may also like to venture further afield, to the many wonderful historic places to be found in other parts of Catalonia.

We do hope that you will come along to the ERA-EDTA Congress in Barcelona to share with us the excellent scientific programme and to experience a little of the history and culture of this dynamic city.

Visit the Congress Website at www.eraedta2007.org

News from the II QUEST Convention in Vienna
From Carmine Zoccali, Chairman of the ERA-EDTA Registry

In a recent survey, made on the basis of electronic contacts through NDT-Education, Epidemiology & Clinical Epidemiology resulted to be the least appealing sub-speciality in nephrology. Only a tiny minority of nephrologists show an interest towards epidemiology and allied sciences. In crude numbers, the electronic contacts to epidemiology articles is about 1/10 than those of the most successful sub-speciality, i.e. hypertension. In a way this is disappointing because clinical epidemiology is now considered as the basic science to modern medicine and because the vast majority of ERA-EDTA members are clinicians. To start enlarging the potential and the horizon of the ERA-EDTA Registry and to spur interest in epidemiology, we felt that we needed a new initiative, the QUEST initiative, QUality EUropean STudies. I emphasise the substantive, “initiative” rather than “project”. An initiative is something needed to set in motion the readiness to embark in new ventures: it is the first step of a series of actions. QUEST aims at stimulating the input from national and regional registries, i.e. the powerhouse of all registry activities, and to help the aggregation of working groups formed by national experts in various areas nominated by national societies on the basis of suggestions given by national registries. QUEST working groups have now proposed interesting ideas for new studies and we are confident that, at least some of these can be started in the near future. Among these projects there was much common ground because most research questions were patient-centred and because there was a strong interest in guidelines goals and on the association among clinical practices and clinical outcomes. Furthermore there was a diffusely perceived need of an intervention study of a special kind. An interesting idea conceived by Prof Christoph Wanner (working group on cardiovascular complications) is that of testing the effect of a concerted effort by doctors and nurses to focus on unmet guidelines goals. The protocol of this study is almost ready and hopefully it will start in the beginning of 2007. The study aims at exploiting in full the doctor-nurse alliance and, for this reason, we have invited the EDTNA-ERCA to provide the needed advice on this study.

Visit NDT Educational

www.ndt-educational.org

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