



NEWS

**European Renal Association -
European Dialysis and Transplant Association**

ERA-EDTA Congress: An annual Highlight for the „Nephrology Community“

20 March 2014

The 51st Congress of the European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association (ERA-EDTA) from May 31 to June 3, 2014, in Amsterdam presented the latest developments in international nephrology with an extensive scientific programme of outstanding quality.

Especially groundbreaking were the three plenary lectures on current issues in cell biology and basic science: Bruce Molitos (USA) delivered a speech on „Pathophysiology of ischemic Acute Kidney Injury“, Hans Clevers (The Netherlands) on „Regenerative medicine“ and Ueli Schibler (Switzerland) on „The Mammalian Circadian Timing System: the daily rhythms of genes, cells, and organs“. Also the presentations of the „Late Breaking Clinical Trials“ in two sessions attracted attention and presented advances in the fields of nephrology, hypertension, and diabetology. Latest study results were also presented in the joint symposium with „The Lancet“ – which emphasizes the high degree of the congress’s reputation.

The ERA-EDTA Congress established itself as the most important meeting for European nephrologists long ago, but is now becoming more and more international: The number of registered delegates (nearly 8,000) is growing – as well as the number of the ERA-EDTA members (nearly 7,000 now) – and the interest in this meeting is especially rising in non-EU-countries. Nearly 20% of the delegates are from Asia, 8% from Africa – and 7% of the congress participants take it upon themselves to cross the Atlantic coming from North and South America. Therefore, in the last few years, the annual ERA-EDTA congress has actually become an annual highlight for the „nephrology community“ worldwide!

On average, about 2,300 abstracts are submitted to the ERA-EDTA Congress each year, of which roughly a third is rejected. This demonstrates the high scientific demand. „We want to set the highest possible standards“, says Prof. Raymond Vanholder, who has been president of the ERA-EDTA from 2011 to this year’s congress. „We believe that a successful congress is not only about quantity, but mainly about quality of the presentations. We want to encourage all delegates, especially the young ones, to be ambitious and, thus, to promote nephrology as one of the leading subjects of internal medicine“.



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This is important because CKD, in spite of being epidemiologically and economically at least as important as diabetes, is still frequently neglected as a health hazard. More efforts should be made to increase the awareness of the general public and also of the medical community, especially of generalists and of specialists whose patients often suffer of CKD: cardiologists, diabetologists, urologists, oncologists, cardiac surgeons, vascular surgeons, rheumatologists, geriatricians, neurologists, intensivists, and transplant physicians. There is certainly still a need for educational activities in regard to CKD. The continuing advances and groundbreaking innovations that are presented at the annual ERA-EDTA congress will, in the future, attract more attendance from other specialties, a part from nephrology, and the growing number of participants will surely soon result in a higher awareness of CKD worldwide.

About ERA-EDTA

With more than 6,600 members, the ERA-EDTA ("European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association") is one of the biggest nephrology associations worldwide and one of the most important and prestigious European Medical Associations. It supports basic and clinical research in the fields of clinical nephrology, dialysis, renal transplantation and related subjects. The ERA-EDTA supports a number of studies as well as research groups and has founded a special "Fellowship Programme" for young investigators as well as grant programmes. In order to involve young nephrologists in all activities of the ERA-EDTA the Council decided to create a Young Nephrologists' Platform (YNP). Besides, it has established various research networks and different working groups to promote the collaboration of nephrologists with other medical disciplines (e.g. cardiology, immunology). Furthermore, a "European Renal Best Practice" (ERBP) advisory board has been established by the ERA-EDTA to draw up and publish guidelines and position statements. Another important goal of the ERA-EDTA is education: several series of CME-courses as well as the annual congress offer an attractive scientific programme to cover the need of continuous medical education for doctors working in the fields of nephrology, dialysis and transplantation. The association's journals, NDT (Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation) and CKJ (Clinical Kidney Journal), are currently the leading nephrology journals in Europe. The ERA-EDTA Registry is a large epidemiologic database comparing countries by assessing nephrology practice throughout Europe. Finally, ERA-EDTA is member of the European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA), a consortium of renal societies that actively interacts with the European Parliament. For more information please visit www.era-edta.org