



Leading European Nephrology

# NEWS

## European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association



### ERA-EDTA and the Japanese Society of Nephrology join forces to combat common disorder in kidney patients

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The ERA-EDTA is launching an exciting new collaboration with the Japanese Society of Nephrology (JSN) to promote joint research in the important field of mineral and bone disorder in chronic kidney disease (CKD-MBD), a condition that affects most people as their kidney disease progresses.

ERA-EDTA past president Professor Andrzej Więcek commented: "I am very pleased to support this new initiative and wish every success for the future. The ERA-EDTA and the JSN have been working together informally for some years, and this is the launch of the next step to closer collaboration in the specific field of CKD-MBD."

Professor Naoki Kashihara, president of the JSN, said: "The JSN has just celebrated its 60th anniversary, so we have a long history of research. I strongly believe that this kind of collaboration between the JSN and the ERA-EDTA will in future produce many more successful research activities in the area of CKD-MBD. I hope that the collaboration will continue for many years."

Discussions between the ERA-EDTA and the JSN are already proving fruitful. At the first formal meeting of the ERA-EDTA and JSN Working Groups on CKD-MBD, held under the joint chairmanship of Professor Mario Cozzolino for the ERA-EDTA and Professor Masafumi Fukagawa for the JSN, there were several suggestions to collaborate on scientific and clinical studies to improve understanding of CKD-MBD, and ultimately improve treatment and outcomes for patients.

CKD-MBD is a systemic disorder of mineral and bone metabolism, and affects both predialysis patients with severe CKD and those on dialysis, and causes damage to the bones, blood vessels and the heart. A successful kidney transplant helps to control parts of CKD-MBD, while other components progress. In addition, the condition may worsen again if the transplant fails.

CKD-MBD occurs when the failing kidneys are no longer able to maintain the correct levels of calcium, phosphate, vitamin D and parathyroid hormone (PTH) in the blood. It is diagnosed by either one, or a combination of, the following:



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- Abnormalities of calcium, phosphorus, PTH, vitamin D metabolism or endocrine axes related to these.
- Abnormalities in bone turnover, mineralization, volume, linear growth or strength.
- Deposits of calcium in the blood vessels or other soft tissues.

### About ERA-EDTA

With almost 7,000 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. It also 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 ERA-EDTA has the Young Nephrologists' Platform (YNP), a very active committee whose board includes members who are 40 years old or younger. Besides, it has established various 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 was 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; furthermore NDT-Educational is the online educational journal, open for free to all uses, of the Society as well as the very important and useful feature of NDT-Educational "Literature Review". The ERA-EDTA Registry is a large epidemiologic database comparing countries by assessing nephrology practice throughout Europe. ENP, the European Nephrology Portal, is the latest new initiative of ERA-EDTA: here all those interested in the activities of the Society can find everything that is done, all in one place! Finally, ERA-EDTA is member of the European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA), a consortium of patients, nurses, foundations all related to renal issues that actively interacts with the European Parliament. For more information please visit [www.era-edta.org](http://www.era-edta.org)

### About JSN

The Japanese Society of Nephrology (JSN) has been dedicated to preventing, treatment, curing of kidney diseases and thus improving the lives of all people affected by kidney diseases since its establishment in 1959. To achieve our mission, the JSN undertakes a broad range of efforts that: support research activities, facilitate the translation of new research findings into novel therapies, improve clinical care through professional training and education programs, connect health care professionals, raise public awareness of the importance of early recognition and treatment of kidney diseases, and expand collaborative alliances with other countries.



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The JSN has released a Clinical Practice Guidebook for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in 2012 and an Evidence-Based Practice Guideline for the Treatment of CKD in 2013. To facilitate clinical research, the JSN has established the Japan CKD Registry/Japan-Renal Biopsy Registry (CKDR/J-RBR), and is supporting several prospective cohort studies to determine treatments and prognoses for kidney diseases.

The annual meeting of the JSN as well as two official journals, CEN (Clinical and Experimental Nephrology) and CEN Case Reports showcase tremendous expansion in high-quality basic and clinical research. The JSN also holds numerous educational seminars for medical students and young nephrologists at the annual meeting as well as our eastern and western regional meetings.

Through these activities, the JSN has gained more than 10,000 members with more than 4,300 board-certified nephrologists.

In recent years, the JSN has placed a high premium on international relationships and collaborates with a greater number of international nephrology societies to transmit our activities and to expand our knowledge regarding a wide range of topics in nephrology. The JSN is also deeply committed to educating young nephrologists in developing countries in Asia through its Continuing Medical Education project.

For more information please visit <http://www.isn.or.jp/en>