REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
GERARD LONDON

For my annual report I would like first to thank all Officers and Ordinary Council members as well as the staff of the Administrative Office for their continuous involvement and participation in the many activities of ERA-EDTA.

The main event of 2009 was the World Congress in Nephrology organized jointly between ERA-EDTA and International Society of Nephrology (ISN) in Milano (Italy). The Congress was attended by almost 10,000 participants that clearly indicate how successful it was. I would like to take advantage of the present report to thank all those who made the success of this event possible, beginning with Prof. Francesco Locatelli, President of the Congress, and the Scientific committee chaired by Prof. Kai-Uwe Eckardt and Prof. Pierre Ronco who prepared an outstanding program covering all major areas in nephrology bringing together all recent developments of basic and clinical science.

The success of ERA-EDTA Congresses in the last years, characterized by increasing number of participants and outstanding clinical programs, are proof of the increasing visibility and scientific impact of our Society. The ERA-EDTA is one of the fastest growing Medical Association whose purpose is to encourage and to report advances in the field of clinical nephrology, dialysis, renal transplantation and related subjects. This was made possible by many ERA-EDTA initiatives launched in the past, including the ERA-EDTA fellowship program, and the still increasing educational efforts of our Society with the organization of 30 CME courses throughout Europe. I would like to express my gratitude to Profs. Goce Spasovski and Ivan Rychlik for their involvement in these CME activities, and to Profs. Giovanni Cancarini and Dominique Chauveau for their implications in the management of Fellowship and Research programs.

To encourage scientific activities 2009 was the year in which our Society launched the Research program the main aim of which was to favour the establishment of Working Groups and Networks of research centres throughout Europe. The by-laws governing the Working Group activities were presented for Council’s approval in March 2009 and after announced on the ERA-EDTA website. Under the supervision of the new Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), Chaired by Prof. Heini Murer, 9 research projects were presented and, after external review, 4 were submitted to the Council for approval and will be available on Society’s website.

To attract young Nephrologists as well as to help Nephrologists from countries with “lower incomes” our Society continues to offer special reduced Membership fees, as well as travel grants.

The increased collaboration with National Societies is giving its fruits and one of the results is the joint congress of the ERA-EDTA and the German Society of Nephrology in München in June 2010. The Scientific Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Josep Grinyo worked very hard to ensure a wide choice of lectures and symposia covering various aspects of basic and clinical Nephrology.
This year will also be the year of the election of the new Ethics Committee as well as the year in which the creation of the “ERA-EDTA Award” will be done. This Award will be presented officially to awardees, for the first time, during the ERA-EDTA Congress in Prague in 2011.

I would finally like to highlight the role of ERA-EDTA publications: NDT, NDT Plus and thank Prof. Norbert Lameire, Jürgen Floege, and David Wheeler for their contribution and efforts in maintaining the high level of these educational and scientific journals.

Best wishes.

Gérard London
ERA-EDTA President