Dear Colleagues and Friends,

During the preparation of the joint congress of the ERA-EDTA and the German Society of Nephrology it was a great pleasure to see a growing number of delegates interested in coming to Munich in June 2010. The two societies have joined forces to produce a meeting of outstanding scientific quality with a record number of abstracts submitted.

The Scientific Committee, chaired by Prof. Josep M. Grinyo, has intensively searched for the best contributions in order to ensure a wide choice of lectures and symposia covering the various aspects of basic and clinical Nephrology. This year, and for the first time, two very attractive late breaking clinical trial sessions could be composed by the session chair Prof. Johannes Mann.

Attention has been given to support the young researchers and nephrologists, especially those having received support through the ERA-EDTA fellowship programme. New stars are visible on the horizon which hopefully will carry nephrology in Europe forward. An extraordinary number of travel grants for young nephrologists have been made available by both Societies this year. Clinical education was the major topic, a field where the ERA-EDTA congresses have reached a top level worldwide. Several new CME sessions are offered just before the official opening of the congress.

A total number of 2371 abstracts have been submitted to this meeting from countries all over the world. This is the highest number ever received for an ERA-EDTA congress and obviously I must thank Prof. Peter Stenvinkel and the whole Paper Selection Committee for their hard work in evaluating and choosing the free communications and the posters.

It appears that Munich will be attracting the largest number of nephrologists due to the scientific programme. Delegates however can also benefit also from the excellent social events the city offers. Munich is one of the most vibrant and modern German cities, with the charming of Bavarian culture and an outstanding number of castles, breathtaking churches and museums. Visit the baroque Nymphenburg palace, the English Garden and have a large Bavarian beerstein at the famous Hofbrauhaus.

Munich is situated in the centre of Europe and can be reached in the shortest time thanks to the excellent infrastructure. Germany’s second-biggest airport guarantees very good continental and intercontinental air connections. The venue of the meeting, the International Congress Centre Munich (ICM) is a modern convention centre that provides state-of-the-art facilities for a large congress but at the same time, within just 20 minutes with the U rail system, one can reach the heart of the city.

Munich is just a few steps away from some of the most wonderful castles and romantic churches (Pfaffenwinkel) from the late Bavarian king Maximilian II. Your way may take you south to Oberammergau passing monastery Ettal heading towards Castle Linderhof and the world famous Schloss Neu-Schwanstein. From there the Romantische Strasse can take you to Frankfurt airport on your way to your home destination.

June is a wonderful time to be here and we are very much looking forward to welcoming you to Munich for this exceptional joint meeting.
Passing the Baton of NDT-Educational

From Peter Stenvinkel, Editor-in-Chief of NDT-Educational

It is, indeed, an honor and a challenge for me to take over the position as the new Editor-in-Chief for NDT-Educational.

Since NDT-E was launched in September 2002, it has grown tremendously and, after almost eight years it has more than 10,000 registered users, not only in Europe, but also in many other parts of the world. NDT-E has been an excellent tool to keep the renal community informed on all the latest aspects of chronic kidney disease, renal replacement therapy and hypertension. Without doubt, the success of NDT-E is due to the hard and visionary contributions of its founding father Prof Carmine Zoccali. Early on Carmine Zoccali understood the power and potential of internet-based distribution of scientific information. The large and steadily rising number of NDT-E readers around the world is the best proof that Prof Zoccali’s visions and intentions were timely and that his hard and dedicated work has paid off. Carmine - the renal community is very grateful for your efforts in creating and managing NDT-E so well!

It is a great pleasure to take over the “NDT-E torch”, which is passed over to me in an excellent shape. It is my intention to keep NDT-E as a free-of-charge and updated internet-based tool that keeps spreading important scientific information and thereby helping the renal community to provide better care to patients with chronic kidney disease and hypertension. Any suggestions for the improvement of NDT-E will be greatly appreciated.

Young Authors of ERA-EDTA awarded abstracts

The authors of the abstracts below will receive a grant of EUR 1,000, free congress registration and a diploma.

- Allopurinol improves vascular function in patients with chronic kidney disease
  Michelle Pei Kao, Dundee, UK

- Simple cystatin c formula compared to sophisticated creatinine and cystatin c-based formulas (CKD-EPI) for estimation of glomerular filtration rate
  Sebastjan Bevc, Maribor, Slovenia

- Cardioprotective effects of calcineurin inhibition in an animal model of chronic kidney disease
  Giovana Di Marco, Münster, Germany

- Restoring cGMp levels in diabetic rats attenuates podocyte damage
  Gabor Kokeny, Budapest, Hungary

- Protective effect of mesenchymal stromal cells (MSC) in experimental renal transplantation
  Francesca Bosio, Pavia, Italy

- Long-term glucose load predicts mortality in patients on chronic peritoneal dialysis – a 7-year cohort study
  Hon-Yen Wu, Banciao, Taipei, Taiwan

- Spak knockout mice express Gitelman’s syndrome and impaired vasoconstriction
  Sung-Sen Yang, Taipei, Taiwan

- OX40/OX40L costimulation potentiates acute cellular rejection in human renal allografts
  C. Afaneh, New York, USA
ERA-EDTA Elections

ERA-EDTA – 2010 ELECTIONS!
This year the ERA-EDTA Full members will be asked to elect, not only the two new Ordinary Council Members, but also the five nominated members of the new ERA-EDTA Ethics Committee.

Ethics Committee
Here are the names of the nominated candidates that will be elected by the ERA-EDTA General Assembly that will be held during the up-coming Congress in Munich (ICM Congress Center, Room 4AB, June 23, 2010 – 10:30 am):
- Jacques Bernheim (Israel);
- Frieder Keller (Germany);
- Krzysztof T. Marczewski (Poland);
- Drasko Pavlovic (Croatia);
- Richard S. Trompeter (U.K.).

Ordinary Council Members
Here instead are the five candidates for the two positions for the vacant Ordinary Council Membership:
- Peter Blankestijn (The Netherlands)
- Eliezer Golan (Israel)
- Marian Klinger (Poland)
- Adalbert Schiller (Romania)
- Mihai Voiculescu (Romania)

The on-line voting procedure for the election of these two new members was open from May 24, 2010 until June 21, 2010. All eligible voters received a personalized letter by post with the precise instructions on how to vote (including the personal username and password).

On-site only the members who have not already voted will be able to cast their vote, but only the paper ballot will be available - this is also due to the extreme security measures in place for these elections.

The voting station, next to the ERA-EDTA Membership Office, in the Registration Area will be open from 08:00 to 18:00 on June 25, 2010 (Friday), from 7:45 to 18:30 on June 26, 2010 (Saturday), from 7:45 to 18:30 on June 27, 2010 (Sunday) and also before the start of the General Assembly on June 28, 2010 (Monday) starting at 7:45 up to 10:30.

A valid identification document (i.e. passport of national identity card) of the Full member who wishes to vote must be personally shown in order to vote. Vote by proxy is NOT possible.

Full members can also vote immediately before the start of the ERA-EDTA General Assembly.
In 2009 ERA-EDTA launched a new initiative aimed at promoting the visibility of the scientific European research potential in Nephrology: the ERA-EDTA Research Programme. This initiative had to contribute to the establishment of high-level European networks of Research in Nephrology including either Translational or Clinical Research Projects. All the projects had to be multi-National.

The past call (July 1st 2009) granted three out of the nine submitted projects: here below is the ranking and the budget assigned to each one of them:

1. Vitamin K2 to slow vascular calcification in haemodialysis patients
   Project submitted by: Prof. Jürgen Floege
   Assigned budget: EUR 1.800.810,00

2. The cardiovascular comorbidity in children with chronic kidney disease (4C study)
   Project submitted by: Prof. Franz Schaefer
   Assigned budget: EUR 668.000,00

3. European validation study of the Oxford classification of IgA nephropathy
   Project submitted by: Prof. Rosanna Coppo (endorsed by the ERA-EDTA working group of Immununephrology)
   Assigned budget: EUR 190.000,00

For more information about this programme, please visit the Research Programme section of ERA-EDTA website: www.era-edta.org/ResearchProgramme.htm and keep it up to date so as not to lose the upcoming deadline that will be posted in the next few months.