



Caring together

# EDTNA/ERCA News

European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association/  
European Renal Care Association

Spring Edition • 2006

## President's Message

Dear Colleagues,



I am extremely proud to announce that the new EDTNA/ERCA website has officially been launched with a new look and feel. This new website offers a new navigation that is more structured and better organised. But most importantly, the new website also includes a Members-only area in which all education resources produced by EDTNA/ERCA have been stored. This area is exclusive to Members and is only accessible with a login and a password.

You will notice that some pages are still under construction. The navigation will also be modified as the Association gets involved in new projects. Please feel free to contact the Secretariat for any suggestions or comments you may have.

If you haven't registered for the Conference yet, don't miss out on attending an outstanding event which will offer numerous educational and networking opportunities. I look forward to seeing with you in Madrid! With best regards,

*Althea Mahon*

Althea Mahon  
EDTNA/ERCA President 2004-2006

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## EDTNA/ERCA Launches its New Website Including a Members-only Section!

**The EDTNA/ERCA is extremely pleased to launch its new website and at the same time its first Members-only section. This password protected area of the website is an exclusive benefit for all EDTNA/ERCA Members.**

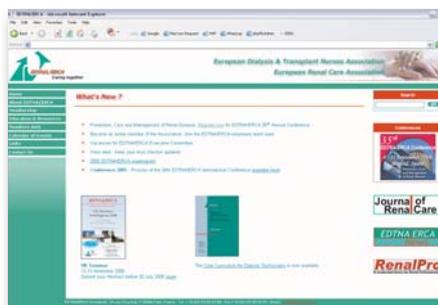
The EDTNA/ERCA website was first launched in 1997. The whole project was lead by André Stragier and the website was designed by Mr Pflugstmann from Hannover, Germany who is also the founder of [www.renalworld.com](http://www.renalworld.com).

Back in 1996, the Technician Interest Group unanimously agreed that the most important tool for the organisation to develop was its own website.

In 1997, André Stragier, who was presenting a paper at NANT in Minneapolis (USA), met with Mr Pflugstmann, who was promoting a free website to all associations.

André received the order from the then President, An Demol, to move the project forward after which he started to work daily with Mr Pflugstmann to develop this new website. Within a month the EDTNA/ERCA website was created.

With the increasing Member benefits and the constant concern in providing the most high-tech service possible to its Members, EDTNA/ERCA realised that it was time to create a Members-only area on its website. After several months of work with financial institutions and database specialists, the Secretariat is finally able to launch a new website with a new look and feel and most importantly a protected-area offering exclusive benefits to Members!



Some of the features in the Members-only section include:

### Update your Profile

You are changing jobs? You are moving? The feature 'My Profile' allows Members to update their personal contact details on-line, without having to contact the EDTNA/ERCA Secretariat. For this, all you have to do is click on the 'My Profile' icon and follow the instructions. After entering, your new contact details will automatically be updated in the central database.

### Renew your Membership On-line

It's time to renew your membership? The on-line renewal option allows you to renew your membership directly by entering your credit card information. Once the payment is processed you will receive an automatic confirmation from the Secretariat that your membership has been renewed for a consecutive year.

### Look for Job Opportunities

You are looking for a new job? Your Unit is recruiting? You want to find the most qualified candidate for a job opening? Make your search faster, easier, targeted and successful by using the NEW on-line Career Centre to post a job offer or your CV. We look forward to receiving your job opening opportunities.

### Find a Colleague

You are looking for a contact in a specific country or area of expertise? Use the on-line Directory to locate a key contact amongst the EDTNA/ERCA Members.

### And much more...

The Members-only section is also set up to offer exclusive educational resources to the Members. In this section, Members will be able to find and download the following resources:

- Copies of the current and past issues of the *Journal of Renal Care*®.

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## Member Spotlight

### Maria Cruz Casal Garcia EDTNA/ERCA 35<sup>th</sup> International Conference Chair



#### Why and when did you join EDTNA/ERCA?

Thanks to my Unit, I had the chance to attend

my first EDTNA/ERCA Conference. This was offered to me in compensation of the many Nephrology projects carried out for them.

The experience was great. I found that sharing such an event with colleagues from all over the world encouraged me to participate actively in the following conferences and of course in joining the Association.

#### What are your responsibilities as Conference Local Organising Committee Chair?

Although the list of responsibilities is long, my main duties are:

- Representing and promoting the Association as host of the International Conference, particularly on a local and national level
- Appointing a Local Organising Committee willing to share the tasks involved in the organisation and promotion of the Conference
- Collaborating in the scientific content of the program
- Identifying local contributions and sponsors to support the financial and logistical aspects of the event

#### Why would you encourage Members to take on an active role in EDTNA/ERCA?

My experience as a volunteer of EDTNA/ERCA has been entirely positive; this is why I encourage all my colleagues to do the same. As a volunteer, I have been able to learn financial, organisational and leadership skills, developing long term strategies, and partnerships with other associations.

I have improved my English and communication skills. All of these and many more have had an impact on my professional- as well as my personal life. But one must always keep in mind that being a volunteer carries with it a promise to manage the tasks that need doing, and that these activities may demand part of one's free time.

## What's New in EDTNA/ERCA

# EDTNA/ERCA Joins the European Kidney Alliance

**Dr. Jorge B. Cannata-Andía, President of ERA-EDTA, has officially invited EDTNA/ERCA to be involved in the European Kidney Alliance.**

The European Renal Research Community and the International Society of Nephrology have started in 2005 to form a group that could promote increased funding for kidney research projects towards the European Commission.

At the same time – but unbeknownst to each other – the European Renal Association and the International Society also independently started to look into whether or not the kidney community may have an opportunity to have a stronger voice in the European Union.

As appropriate stakeholder mappings were conducted, all groups started to learn about each other's activities and started to come together to make sure the European renal physicians and researchers community would act with one voice, involving patients, physicians, experimental and clinical scientists, nurses, technicians and social workers as well as industry and healthcare providers.

In a number of meetings between representatives of the above-mentioned groups and some other prominent and active nephrologists from around Europe, these said representatives had more concrete discussions based on an in depth policy audit and stakeholder map to discuss concrete steps to launch this alliance.

The purpose of this Alliance is mainly to 'speak with one voice' and ensure long-term strategy to reduce the incidence and impact of kidney disease in Europe and raise awareness whilst establishing it as a priority in the European Union.

As the structure of the Steering Committee is still under discussion, the Alliance should also include an Executive Group to meet with key contacts and speak at meetings as well as Task and Working Groups.

Representatives of the Alliance have realised that without the patient and nurse organisations the group would not be complete. Funding issues are under discussion.

More information will be communicated shortly.

### »»»» EDTNA/ERCA Launches its New Website including a Members-only Section! (Continued)

- Current and past issues of *EDTNA/ERCA News*
- **Research Projects Reports, Guidelines, Handbooks, etc ...**

The Members-only section also includes a **specific area for volunteers**. In this section, volunteers will find guidelines, templates, copies of reports, policies and procedures, and many other useful tools they may need to help them in their job.

We hope you will enjoy the new look and feel of the website and that you will be able to find your way with the new navigation. Please note that some of the pages are still under construction; also do not hesitate to

visit the website regularly for up-to-date information.

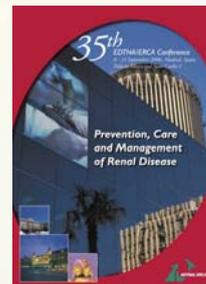
To enter the Members-only section of the website, visit [www.edtna-erca.org](http://www.edtna-erca.org), click on the icon 'Members only' and follow instructions. Your log-in is your membership ID number and your password is your last name (as written on your card). Your membership ID number is the number that appears on your membership card.

If you have lost your membership card or encounter problems entering the Members-only section, please contact the EDTNA/ERCA Secretariat at [info@edtna-erca.org](mailto:info@edtna-erca.org) or call +33 1 53 85 82 69.

**Conference Update**

**Prevention, Care and Management of Renal Disease**

8-11 September 2006  
 Madrid, Spain



**Don't Miss Out on the Upcoming EDTNA/ERCA 35th International Conference**

Register now and take part in an outstanding programme! Some of the highlights include:

- A Keynote Lecture delivered by Prof Luis Miguel Ruilope on "Prevention of Renal Disease, the First Step in Cardio-vascular Protection" which will be followed by the traditional and not to be missed 'Welcome Cocktail'
- The scientific programme, including some 50 sessions, will offer a balance of renowned guest speakers and oral abstract presentations
- Delegates will have the opportunity to gain and exchange information with experts by attending Symposia and Advanced Skills Workshops
- Nearly 100 poster presentations will be presented in addition to the oral sessions
- Corporate education sessions have also been organised in order to invite the Industry to take part in the Conference
- Scientific and technical exhibitions will be held with the aim of discussing the industry's latest products and equipments

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) is also very pleased to announce that the Conference will be held under the auspices of Her Excellence Mrs Elena Salgado, Spanish Minister of Health who has accepted the invitation to support the Conference as President of Honour. Register before 1 July and benefit from the early bird fee!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> announcement should be with you shortly. For any additional questions and to register please contact Céline Soulier at the EDTNA/ERCA Secretariat (e-mail: celine.soulier@edtna-erca.org) or visit [www.edtna-erca-madrid2006.com](http://www.edtna-erca-madrid2006.com)

**Nutrition in Kidney Failure Patients: a New Guidance Book on its Way!**

Health professionals often need to look through several books and articles for information and guidance on micronutrients recommendations. Consequently the Nutrition Interest Group is developing a book: **Nutritional Supplement Recommendations in Kidney Failure Patients**, which will cover all the vitamins, minerals and alternative supplements in renal failure.



The food industry is a multi-million business that constantly markets hopes for optimum health. Patients with chronic diseases, such as kidney disease, are often in search of miracles and vulnerable to their suggestions. Renal health professionals are often faced with patients with long lists of unusual

supplements that can sometimes be detrimental and associated with negative clinical outcomes and they often need to look through several books and articles for information and guidance on micronutrients recommendations.

This is why the Nutrition Interest Group is developing their book: **Nutritional Supplement Recommendations in Kidney Failure Patients**, to be launched in the course of 2006.

The Nutrition Group is currently seeking sponsorship for this project and also collaboration from other associations and similar renal nutrition groups. NKF-USA dietitians group and the British Renal Specialist Group have already confirmed their support on this project.

The book will be a unique tool for renal professionals offering evidence-based guidance on supplements where the majority of clinical information comes from the food industry. The book will be free for all EDTNA/ERCA Members.

*For more information visit the Nutrition IG web page on [www.edtna-erca.org](http://www.edtna-erca.org) or contact lone Ashurst, Nutrition IG Chair ([ione.ashurst@bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk](mailto:ione.ashurst@bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk)).*

**Become Active in Your Association Join the Volunteer's Team!**



Demonstrate your commitment to the field of Renal Care and to your Association by becoming an active Member of EDTNA/ERCA. There are a number of opportunities available today. Please visit [www.edtna-erca.org](http://www.edtna-erca.org) to review the list of open positions.

If you are interested or would like to recommend someone, please contact immediately Anna Öhrner at the EDTNA/ERCA Secretariat ([anna.oehrner@edtna-erca.org](mailto:anna.oehrner@edtna-erca.org)).

## Violence and Aggression within Renal Care

**Discussions have been held between Maurice Harrington and John Sedgwick about the possibility of a joint Education Board and the Research Board (EB/RB) research project focusing on the impact of violence and aggression within renal care in Europe.**

This work stems from an initial national survey by Members of the Royal College of Nursing Nephrology Forum regarding violence and aggression.

The results of the survey were presented to delegates in Vienna and highlighted that >80% of respondents had experienced high levels of violence in their practice. Violent

attacks had resulted in fractures and even a knife stabbing.

Whilst these are disturbing, high levels of verbal abuse were also encountered from patients as well as from family members. Violence and aggression is of interest to all Members of the renal multidisciplinary team and therefore it would be invaluable to consider this important issue from a much wider European view.

*For more information on this project, please contact Maurice Harrington, Education Board Chair (maurice.harrington@tiscali.co.uk.com) or visit [www.edtna-erca.org](http://www.edtna-erca.org).*

## A Volunteer Reports on the Eucomed/EDMA Event

**On 8 March, André Stragier attended the Eucomed and EDMA - European Diagnostic Manufacturers Association for the analysis of body fluids - meeting.**

The mission of Eucomed is to represent the Medical Technologies Industry in Europe, to generate a clear understanding of issues of importance to the industry and to ensure that such issues are raised appropriately at both European Union and national government level.

The purpose of this meeting was to demonstrate how both sectors are highly innovative and dynamic but also facing the same challenges; also faced by EDTNA/ERCA.

Presidents from both associations addressed the increasing number of heart- and diabetic patients as well as their associated problems which are the growing expenses and deficits in healthcare budgets of European countries. The discussion also highlighted the pressure on industry to reduce costs and the use of medical devices and diagnostics, possibly at the risk of the patients' health. "Health is Wealth" declared David Byrne, Former EU Health Commissioner. It was mentioned that the

European industry is clearly lagging behind the US industry, both in terms of competitiveness and innovativeness. R&D intensity is much higher in the US, as is scientific productivity. The US is in the leading position in terms of patent and publication counts.

These challenges have led to the establishment of rules for marketing medical technologies in the European Union:

- the medical devices directive (93/42/EC)
- the active implantable medical devices directive (90/385/EC)
- the 'in vitro' diagnostic medical devices directive (98/79/EC)

Mrs Georgette Lalis from the European Commission, DG Research concluded that this collaboration with respect was extremely important. Communicating science and innovation is essential to foster understanding and trust among the general public. A short explanatory movie illustrating the extensive domain of medical (including haemodialysis) and analytical devices is available on the Eucomed website.

*For more information, please visit [www.labtestsonline.org](http://www.labtestsonline.org) or [www.eucomed.org](http://www.eucomed.org)*

## Calendar of Events

- ▼ **Czech Nephrology Association Conference**  
22-24 June 2006  
Hradec Králové, Czech Republic
- ▼ **ERA/EDTA Congress**  
15-18 July 2006  
Glasgow, UK
- ▼ **EDTNA/ERCA 35th International Conference**  
8-11 September 2006  
Madrid, Spain
- ▼ **Nephrology Ibero-American Congress**  
18-21 October 2006  
Madrid, Spain
- ▼ **SEDEN Conference**  
1-4 October 2006  
Cordoba, Spain
- ▼ **TNNA 16th Annual Congress**  
28 October - 1 November 2006  
Antalya, Turkey
- ▼ **EDTNA/ERCA UK Seminar**  
12-13 November 2006  
Nottingham, UK

**For more information visit:**  
[www.edtna-erca.org](http://www.edtna-erca.org)



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Would you like to contribute to the next issue? Please send your articles and pictures to Karine Desbant, EDTNA/ERCA Marketing and Communications Manager (E-mail: [karine.desbant@edtna-erca.org](mailto:karine.desbant@edtna-erca.org)).