



Caring together

EDTNA/ERCA News

European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association/
European Renal Care Association

Issue 2 • 2007

President's Message

Dear Members,

I am very pleased to inform you that preparations for the 36th EDTNA/ERCA International Conference in Florence, Italy (15-18 September) are progressing well.



I have attended the site selection meeting with some industry partners and can confirm that the conference venue, *Fortezza da Basso*, is an exceptional historical building that will make our conference an unforgettable event.

More than 30 eminent guest speakers will present their scientific papers including Prof. Locatelli, Prof. Tesio, Dr. Ledebro and Prof. Lopot to name just a few. Some 60 speakers from Europe and beyond will also be in Florence to share their thoughts.

This year we received some 291 abstracts, which represent a 33 % increase from last year's submissions. In order to accommodate all the high-scored abstracts into the final programme, the Executive Committee has decided to increase the number of scientific posters at the Conference.

I am pleased to announce that the following companies have confirmed their corporate education sessions: Amgen (*Changing Trends in European CKD*), Astellas (*Adherence Matters in Transplantation*) and Nipro (*State of the Art Vascular Access*). I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank these companies for their support and for organising the scientific lunch session for our delegates.

Like every year, we will organise an industry exhibition where you can meet your industry colleagues and friends to discuss latest treatments and other technical developments for renal patients.

The EDTNA/ERCA Secretariat, the Local Organising Committee (LOC), the Scientific

Programme Committee (SPC), and all volunteers are working hard to ensure that this conference will be THE event of the year for all professionals working in the renal care field.

The theme, *Caring Together: Managing the Complications of Chronic Kidney Disease*, is guaranteed to be a success.

Make sure you do not miss this unique event in the most romantic city in Europe!

With best regards,

Jitka Pancirová
President EDTNA/ERCA 2006-2008

The EDTNA/ERCA website address has changed!
To access the website please use

www.edtnerca.org (no dash!)

EDTNA/ERCA 2007 Annual General Meeting in Florence

EDTNA/ERCA Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the unique opportunity for members to hear about the latest development within the association, meet face-to-face with the leadership, ask questions about the different activities and decide about the future of their organisation.

Italy. All members are strongly encouraged to attend this event and take an active part of the life of their association.

As a member of the EDTNA/ERCA you are also entitled to submit motions for consideration at this AGM. Any suggestion for motions should be sent to the Secretariat Office Manager, Anna Öhrner at: anna.oehrner@edtnerca.org, by 1 June 2007.



The next AGM will be held on **Monday 17 September 2007** during the EDTNA/ERCA 36th International Conference in Florence,

Do you wish to join the EDTNA/ERCA volunteers' team and become an active member of your Association? The Executive Committee is looking to fill 2 open positions in their team as of September 2007. Deadline for application is 1 June 2007. For more information on how to apply please contact the Secretariat Office Manager, Anna Öhrner, anna.oehrner@edtnerca.org

Inside

Next EDTNA/ERCA AGM 1

Member Spotlight 2
Clinical Practice Guidelines for
Hepatitis C in CKD
Collaborative Research in
Nephrology
Educating for Better Health

Psychoactive Drugs 3
Advances in Technology
EKHA Launch

Promising Future of
Bone Health 4

Member Spotlight

Berislav Poje
Key Member
Croatia



Can you describe the profile of renal nurses in Croatia?

80% of renal nurses in Croatia are young females, under 40, for most with high school degree. Every year a large number of them decide to go back to college to get higher educational degree.

How do Croatian nurses usually get educational information?

Unfortunately we don't have specialised literature for renal nurses in Croatia but lately we have organised lectures under the Croatian Nursing Chamber, which also allows exchange of experiences and learning opportunities of new working methods and approaches in renal nursing.

Do you think the recently launched e-membership category will be appealing to Croatian nurses?

That is a great idea and I think that a lot of nurses in Croatia will recognise that becoming a member of EDTNA/ERCA is easier than ever before.

In your new role as KM for Croatia, how do you plan to promote EDTNA/ERCA in your region?

My plan is to raise EDTNA/ERCA profile and awareness in Croatian nursing journals. I also plan to encourage my colleagues to become members of this large family during my lectures and at other national seminars I attend.



Educating for Better Health

Don't miss out on the EDTNA/ERCA Spanish seminar on 15-17 November in Valencia, Spain.

This year the theme will be 'Educating Renal Patients for a Better Health'.

Promoting healthier life style and optimising patient's capabilities is an ongoing concern that renal care professionals and more precisely renal nurses should be more and more involved with.

Clinical Practice Guidelines for Hepatitis C in CKD: Request for Comments



KDIGO (Kidney Disease - Improving Global Outcomes) is an initiative to develop internationally agreed guidelines for the management of patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD).

The first guidelines to be developed deal with diagnosis, treatment and preventing transmission of Hepatitis C (HCV). The draft guidelines are due to be released at the end of May 2007 and your comments on the document, particularly the guidelines which cover preventing HCV transmission in haemodialysis units, will be very welcome.

The guidelines are based on published evidence and do not take financial considerations into account (resources will be handled in local implementation). For each guideline statement, the strength of the supporting evidence is given as strong, moderate or weak.

The summary statements for guideline 3 deal with the main topics of importance for the

prevention of HCV transmission in HD units, including the actual implementation of general hygienic precautions, the role (if any) of isolation and/or use of specific monitors for HCV+ patients and dialyzer reuse.

The statements are mainly supported by data on the routes of transmission of blood borne pathogens together with evidence drawn from a systematic review of outbreak investigations in which nosocomial transmission was confirmed using molecular virology and the authors looked at possible infection routes.

To see the translated guideline statements, download the supporting text (in English only), and find out how to submit in your comments, please go to www.edtnaerca.org/kdigo

Thank you for your help in this world-wide project!

Dr. Michel Jadoul and Dr. Elizabeth Lindley,
KDIGO Hepatitis C in CKD Workgroup

Collaborative Research in Nephrology

The Collaborative Research in Nephrology (CRN) is often called upon to collaborate with other organisations that specialise in nephrology care. One such request came to us from the EDTNA/ERCA Nutrition Interest Group.

The Interest Group, established in 1986, was formed to promote nutrition and dietetic intervention in renal therapy. The Chair, Ione Ashurst, the project leader, Annemarie Visser, and other members of the group have initiated a project on the development of the European Consensus Statement on Nutrition Support in Adults on Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT). The purpose of this project is to develop guidelines in order to achieve a high level of quality nutrition support for

patients on dialysis. A systematic literature review is being conducted on all current methods of nutrition support in adults on RRT to determine evidence-based practice. A survey will also be conducted in a minimum of 6 European Countries and the USA to assess nutrition support practices and recommendations for adults on RRT to evaluate current practices. All CRN members are being asked to participate in this important survey.

The second project is to publish a book on Nutritional Supplement Recommendations in Kidney Failure Patients. The objective is to provide evidence-based information on all vitamins, minerals and trace elements with regard to metabolic changes and recommendations for patients with kidney disease. The publication will also report on the most commonly known alternative supplements including their function, role and implications for patients with kidney disease. The CRN participant for this project is Maureen McCarthy, MPH, RD, CSR, LD, who graciously volunteered to assist with the alternative supplements section.

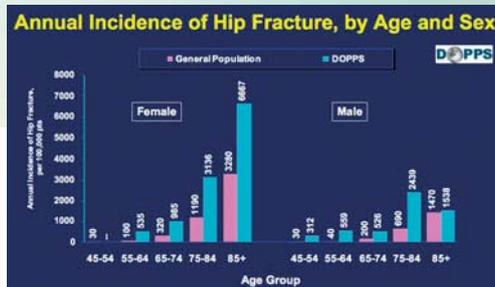
CRN is honoured to collaborate with EDTNA/ERCA on these noteworthy activities and hope to forge a long lasting relationship for future endeavours.

Deborah Brommage, MS, RD, CSR, CDN,
Chair, Collaborative Research in Nephrology

Psychoactive Drugs – A Way to Reduce Fractures?

A recent article by Dr. Michel Jadoul, in *Kidney International*, describes the prevalence of hip fractures and the incidence and risk factors associated with hip fractures and other fractures in representative groups of haemodialysis facilities and patients in the 12 countries of the DOPPS.

Older age, female sex, prior kidney transplant, and low serum albumin were found to be predictive of new fractures. Elevated risk of new hip fracture was observed for selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and combination narcotic medications. High parathyroid hormone levels were also associated with an elevated risk of any new fracture, as were several



General population incidence estimates from US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Discharge Survey, Year 2000; DOPPS incidence estimates based on a period-prevalent sample of patients and hospital admissions for hip fractures, 2002-03.

medications: narcotic pain medications, benzodiazepines, adrenal cortical steroids, and combination narcotic medications.

The results suggest that greater selectivity in prescribing several classes of psychoactive drugs and more efficient treatment of secondary hyperparathyroidism may help reduce the burden of fractures in HD patients. (*Kidney International* 70: 1358-66, 2006)

For more information, contact the DOPPS Coordinating Center at www.dopps.org

Advances in Technology

Dialysis efficacy and patient stability can be continually improved as a result of research and development in renal technology.

Blood volume monitoring with automatic adjustment of ultrafiltration and conductivity, and measurement of ionic dialysance which gives an accurate Kt/V means that dialysis prescriptions can be altered with an holistic view of dialysis and not just a 'spot check' by monthly blood analyses.

Haemodiafiltration is now able to remove 'middle size' molecules. The development of reduced temperature dialysis results in an improvement of a patients' stability during treatment. The majority of dialysis equipment has some form of physiological monitoring incorporated into it, however this is not always utilised to its' full potential. Technicians need to advocate and promote its use to encourage new and improved techniques.

This will then enable dialysis prescriptions to be altered to achieve optimum results for patients. The role of the Technician continues to develop and is pertinent to the application and utilisation of technology to continually improve dialysis.

For more information, contact Andy Muggleton (e-mail: andrew.muggleton@derbyhospitals.nhs.uk), Member of the Technicians Interest Group

Launch of the European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA)



The European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA) was launched on 8 March 2007 to celebrate World Kidney Day.

Five major European and International organisations representing kidney health stakeholders (patients, nurses, physicians, researchers, dietitians, social workers and technicians) have agreed to this joint initiative aimed at addressing kidney health issues throughout Europe and raising the awareness of kidney disease.

The EDTNA/ERCA have joined with four key stakeholders; CEAPIR, ERA-EDTA, IFKF and ISN in making a commitment to address the urgent need for action in raising the awareness of kidney disease in Europe, and in particular the benefits of early detection in preventing, or at least slowing, its progression.

Continued >>>>

36th EDTNA/ERCA International Conference

15-18 September 2007
Florence, Italy

Caring Together: Managing the Complications of CKD

Preventing and Managing the Progression of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD): Stages 1 to 3

The full day Seminar will include sessions and interactive workshops on:

- CKD: Epidemiology and significance of the problem, Althea Mahon
- Definition and classification of stages of CKD, Karen Jenkins
- Renal investigations/assessment of CKD and diagnosis, Josep M^o Gutierrez, Tai Mooi Ho Wong
- Association of CKD with Cardiovascular disease: Treatment and management of blood pressure, Dr. Julian Segura
- Different methodologies to measure blood pressure, Dr. Georges Stergiou
- Strategies to inform the patient about his/her CKD. Effects of being labelled with CKD, Josep M^o Gutierrez
- Treatment and management of anaemia and renal bone disease, Dr. Jose Antonio Garcia Donaie
- Nutritional aspects: more than a diet, Antonio Ochando
- Diabetes: the effect on CKD progression and treatment, Sue Teasdale

A raffle will be organised by Microlife to win 4 tensiometers! Theoretical and practical exercises will be included to ensure an active session. Have fun while learning!

A copy of the CKD book will be distributed to all participants.

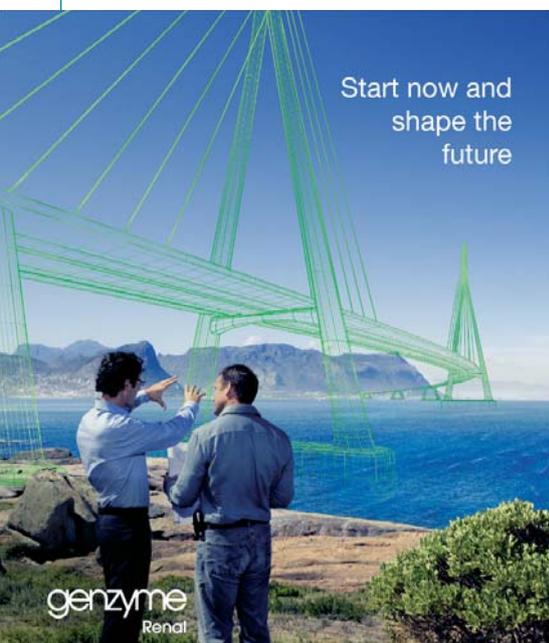
To register go to www.edtna-erca-florence2007.com



The EKHA stakeholders will work together to improve the quality of life and life expectancy of patients with kidney disease, which will be achieved by exchange of information on approaches to early detection and prevention of kidney disease and promote awareness to the general public. This will be accomplished through state-of-the-art medical research and clinical practice, education, training and promotion of the best possible treatment of all kidney patients through exchange of best practice among and between researchers, physicians, nurses and patients.

The EKHA will work in cooperation with other health organisations at EU level to provide advice to the EU institutions and health bodies on research policies and programmes of relevance to the kidney and related medical communities. In addition it will identify the topics in which EU research could deliver real and effective progress in renal therapy and maintain the dialogue with EU health bodies to promote best practice in addressing the care of kidney patients.

For more information, contact
José M^o Gutiérrez Vilaplana
(e-mail: jm3508@wanadoo.es)



Start now and
shape the
future

genzyme
Renal

Renelgel is indicated for the control of hyperphosphataemia in adult patients on haemodialysis.

Please consult Summary of Product Characteristics before prescribing, particularly in relation to side-effects, precautions and contra-indications.

Further information is available on request, contact:
Genzyme Europe BV, Gooimeer 10, 1411 DD Naarden,
Tel: +31 (0)35 699 1200, www.genzyme.com

Renelgel[®]
(sevelamer)
Right from the start

RP142/1 04/07

Promising Future of Bone Health

The crucial factors in the pathogenesis of the major comorbidity of dialysis patients, renal bone disease, are phosphate retention, inappropriate parathyroid activity, unphysiological calcium body distribution and low vitamin D status.

Recently, the established pathogenetic link between bone and vascular pathology in end stage renal disease moved forward our traditional therapeutic concept.

Fortunately, new therapeutic strategies are capable to correct phosphate, calcium and parathyroid gland activity very effectively. Even more! Some of new drugs are promising not only for bone and parathyroid. Sevelamer has been shown to act as pleiotropic drug for metabolic health (lowering the inflammation level); analogues of vitamin D seem to offer the survival benefit and also calcimimetics have been demonstrated to improve several components of quality of life.

Nowadays, with application of research into clinical medicine, health care professionals stay no more with empty hands! It is up to us to carefully and with knowledge to apply these promises!

Prof. Sylvie Sulkova-Dusilova, Czech Rep.

Calendar of Events

- ▶ **British Renal Society Annual Conference**
11 - 13 June 2007
Birmingham, England
- ▶ **XLIV ERA-EDTA Congress**
21 - 24 June 2007
Barcelona, Spain
- ▶ **8th European Peritoneal Dialysis Meeting (EuroPD)**
7 - 10 July 2007
Helsinki, Finland
- ▶ **EDTNA/ERCA 36th International Conference**
15 - 18 September 2007
Florence, Italy
- ▶ **SEDEN National Conference**
4 - 7 October 2007
Cadiz, Spain
- ▶ **FS Nefro Annual Meeting**
9 - 11 October 2007
Denmark
- ▶ **Vascular Access Conference**
12 October 2007
Reggio Calabria, Italy
- ▶ **XV Seminar of Spain**
15-17 November 2007
Valencia, Spain
- ▶ **5th World Congress on Prevention of Diabetes and its Complications**
1 - 4 June 2008
Helsinki, Finland



Caring together

EDTNA/ERCA News is published by:

EDTNA/ERCA Secretariat
24, rue Chauchat
75009 Paris, France
Tel: +33-1-53 85 82 69
Fax: +33-1-53 85 82 83
E-mail: info@edtnaerca.org
www.edtnaerca.org

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@edtnaerca.org].

RenalPro
A moderated forum for Renal Professionals

RenalPro - A Worldwide Forum for Renal Professionals

RenalPro is a multidisciplinary forum for renal care professionals, which reaches over 700 subscribers from 30 countries worldwide. Don't miss the newest forum about patients death after dialysis due to weak access sites ('24 Patients Died from Bleeding - Precautions Urged').

RenalPro registration is free of charge and open to all. To register visit www.edtnaerca.org and click on the RenalPro logo on the right side of the screen

Thank you to our long-standing and very active volunteer, André Stragier, for overseeing and managing the RenalPro forum.