Introduction

Established in 1971, the EDTNA/ERCA has been addressing the needs of renal care professionals working in all areas of renal care, including nurses, physicians, transplant coordinators, psychological care workers, dieticians, teachers, social workers, managers and technicians. It is the only Association of its kind offering multidisciplinary collaboration and information exchange on a truly European and World-wide level. Member benefits include professional support, professional development, information exchange and numerous learning opportunities on a national and international level.

The EDTNA/ERCA has grown during the last 47 years to become one of the most important forums in Europe in the area of Renal Care. Through education and innovative projects, the EDTNA/ERCA has been able to consolidate an important number of objectives this year. Every year the EDTNA/ERCA publishes an Annual report where the most important activities, objectives, achievements as well as relevant facts about Volunteers are reported. The Association is run by Volunteers. This means that everything reported here is thanks to them, with our Industry Partners, a dedicated Secretariat and Conference Department, Marketing Director, Members and of course the Patients, who are always encouraging us to grow in education, knowledge and caring skills.

I hope you find this Annual Report useful to get an overview of the activities within our Association.

With very warm regards,

Maria Cruz Casal
EDTNA/ERCA Supervisory Board member & EDTNA/ERCA Publications Coordinator
Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure for me to present you the 2017 Annual Report, my last one as President of the EDTNA/ERCA. Our Association enjoyed a challenging and productive year thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Volunteers. We have focused on adapting and developing products and services not only for our membership but for patients and families. Enthusiastic Project Group and Consultants have continued working on many inspiring projects. Two new books were launched: one on “Home Haemodialysis - A Nurses Guide to Implementing Best Practice in Home Haemodialysis” (kindly supported by NxStage Medical), and “The Art of Communication - A Nurses Guide to Implementing Best Practice in Communication” (Kindly supported by Fresenius Medical Care). Added to that, following our objectives to focus in online services and products, and an App with two different entry points was launched on Home Haemodialysis for Health Care Professionals and for Patients. The available App on Venus Needle Dislodgment was also translated into German. Detailed information is provided in the section of Projects in our web.

Our partnership with Industry Partners has become even stronger and we continued to work together very closely. Very special thanks go to all of them for their kind and continuous support. They have put a great deal of energy into many Association’s projects over the last 12 months and contributed to many interesting sessions at the Krakow Conference. Without them, the Annual Conference would not have been as successful as it was.

I would like to take this opportunity and thank everyone who has dedicated any amount of time and energy to making the EDTNA/ERCA activities as successful as it has been. I was proud to be President of such productive Association and work with Volunteers, colleagues, friends, industry partners, Secretariat, Marketing director and Conference department who have supported me over the last 3 years of my Presidency and provided their support, advice and friendship. It has been a unique time for me and I believe that the Association has gone through a period of modernization and has an optimistic future. Detailed information about strategies, activities, projects, and Volunteers are provided within this report.

Receive my kindest and respectful wishes,

Marianna Eleftheroudi
EDTNA/ERCA President ad Interim 2017
The Executive Committee 2017

An enthusiastic Executive Committee composed by (From left to right): Ms Raquel Ribeiro (Portugal) - Member, Ms Maria Teresa Parisotto (Germany) - Member, Mrs. Edita Noruisiene (Lithuania) - Treasurer and Secretary Ad Interim, Mrs. Marianna Eleftheroudi (Greece) - President Ad Interim, Mrs. Maria Cruz Casal (Spain) - Supervisory Board Member, Mrs. Jane Golland (Israel) - Member, Ms Ilaria de Barbieri (Italy) - Member, assumed the high responsibility of driving the Association. The fact of having different nationalities, and living in different European countries was not a barrier to work together with efficiency and commitment. The EDTNA/ERCA is a complex Association due to its multicultural, multilingual and multidisciplinary structure. This means that the contribution of every single Volunteer was necessary to be able to consolidate projects and objectives. Mrs. Anki Davidson as Marketing Director was without doubt a key professional support the Executive Committee. Another key person whose extraordinary background about the Association and currently Finances Coordinator Mr Alois Gorke, was always available to help and guide the Executive Committee in all matters especially in those related with the Constitution requirements.

Objectives

The Executive Committee with a professional guidance and support of the Marketing Director, Volunteers, Renal Industries cooperation and other Conference Department has worked with efficiency, responsibility and conscientiously, not only in the current years objectives but keeping in mind a full EDTNA/ERCA Strategy 2020 focused on:

- **Excellence** - to enhance our standing as a leading multidisciplinary renal Association by promoting excellence within disciplines, tackling global challenges, providing cultural enrichment and improving efficiency to provide economic benefit
- **Experience** - ensure that our reputation for education programmes with an international dimension is of a quality to attract members worldwide
- **Commitment** - our commitment of engagement with members means that all key decision-making bodies will continue to have members’ representation
- **Opportunity** - development of an innovative training programme of broadening volunteers’ horizons while preparing them for exciting careers within the Association
- **Globalization** - extending the global reach and reputation of the EDTNA/ERCA, striving for global recognition of our activities and achievements in renal education
- **Collaboration** - further development of professional collaborations with industry partners and other professional associations to improve the sharing of knowledge and expertise
- **Digitalization** - invest in electronic education materials and web based technologies to improve accessibility and communication with members and the renal community as a whole
- **Rationalization** - redesign the operations model to achieve higher efficiency, reduce complexity and implement stronger monitoring of service providers and partners
Achievements

EDTNA/ERCA Global Positioning - Collaboration Program

For us, within our Association, it is about ‘Achieving the best standard of education and research for all renal care professionals caring and supporting patients and families around the world. To be able to live by this Mission and the Purpose and Reason for being a true renal professional association, we are many people involved. Many tasks were involved and shared among us with the aim to become stronger and achieve our goals.

Our Knowledge and Experience ensure that the outcome of our Educational Programs and Projects in Collaboration with our Partners shows the evidence of this. Our Commitment towards each other encourages us to do even more. Through our Global presence we have an Opportunity to share knowledge and experience, not only at Conferences and Seminars, but also through our Publications and Online Program. Our strength is to focus on the unique competencies and experience of each and every individual to create a Caring Culture that brings out the best in us all. We always strive for Excellence in everything we do. Our Collaboration Programme is a very important part of our success.

TRUE PARTNERSHIP AND GLOBAL APPROACH IN MANAGEMENT OF RENAL CARE, was our theme of this year’s Conference, however we intend to keep this title for our Collaboration Programme since this is absolutely the correct message and spot on. And it is all about Caring Together, based on this, we have developed the Visuals which demonstrate what we would like to communicate.

Achieving the Best standars of Education and Research for all renal care professionals Caring and Supporting their patients and families around the world - that’s our Mission. One of our Cornerstones in our communication is - Knowledge & Experience which leads to the fantastic result of our Educational Programmes. The second cornerstone is about Caring & Supporting Patients and their families

The synergies are very clear when it comes to the way we communicate our Collaboration Programme, showing the Evidence of our Collaboration with our different Industry Partners. One very good example is the flyer we have produced together with NxStage. This shows the commitment, dedication, professionalism, experience and knowledge our Association brings to the Community.

Online Strategy

Was also a key objective in 2017 driving traffic from the different communication channels and communication tools into the website. Many updates were implemented and the increase in the number of participants demonstrates to us that this is the way to follow.
**Website and Social Media Activities**

The website of the EDTNA/ERCA is the expression of the Association. More and more educational activities have moved from the paper based format to online or Apps. For that reason, we are continuously trying to improve and update the EDTNA/ERCA website on a regular basis.

During the last year, the layout of the website has changed to a modern and user-friendly version. All pages were successfully transferred to the new website. The Conference website was integrated in the EDTNA/ERCA website and now users have one website where they can find all the information regarding the Association and Conferences. A survey on the content and layout of the new website was conducted among volunteers and overall positive feedback was received and suggestions for improvement were taken into consideration and implemented.

In the member’s only section you can find various publications and educational material, annual reports, the Conference abstract book, Conference posters, Conference presentations, AGM minutes and free access to articles from the Journal of Renal Care. In the educational research section, which is opened for all users, “Vascular Access, Cannulation and Care: A Nursing Best Practice Guide for Arteriovenous Fistula” (in different languages), “Vascular Access, Cannulation and Care: A Nursing Best Practice Guide for Arteriovenous Graft” and “Art of Communication” are available for free download.

You are welcome to enter our website: https://www.edtnaerca.org

Social media channels are linked with the website in order to increase traffic to the website and improve its visibility. The most popular and used social media is Facebook. Instagram was opened during the Krakow Conference and the number of followers increases continually. The activities on Twitter and LinkedIn are continuing.

Jane Golland
Executive Committee website & social media link

**Projects Consolidated**

*Home Haemodialysis - A Nurses Guide to Implementing Best Practice in Home Haemodialysis - joint project between EDTNA/ERCA & NxStage*

The decision regarding the choice of the RRT modality is crucial. It impacts all aspects of patients’ lives and the lives of their families. Studies demonstrate that many patients, when given the freedom to choose, will select a treatment modality on the basis of their lifestyle.

Education of the patient and exposing them to the option of Home Haemodialysis (HHD) is vital to increase the uptake of this modality. It is also crucial that health care providers are familiar and well educated about the option of HHD and feel confident being advocates for this treatment option.

One of the main goals of the EDTNA/ERCA is to provide educational resources for nurses and other health care professionals who care for renal patients, both as printed material and as online application tools.
This tool is focuses on health professional-patient pathways to support the successful implementation of HHD. It offers practical guidance for managing a HHD program with information to enhance effective training of patients to empower them to feel secure performing dialysis at home.

The objectives of this tool are: to increase the health care professionals’ awareness of the benefits of HHD, to provide them with an educational tool which can help them understand the unique needs of home haemodialysis patients, to implement this knowledge into practice and to improve access to HHD for patients who can benefit from it. This tool with many chapters has been brought together thanks to the cooperation and collaboration of enthusiastic professionals from various countries.

Several workshops in different languages were held at the Conference with the aim to provide wide information about this Haemodialysis technique and the usefulness of the Applications and book.

Safety going digital - Increasing the awareness of Venous Needle Dislodgement - Joint project between EDTNA/ERCA & Redsense Medical

This Project started in 2015 with the main objective to create awareness of the lack of knowledge about VND and the consequences if nobody acts.

The objectives were to:
- Minimize the risk of VND
- Work as a Team between the Nurse and the Patient
- Include Patient education for Home HD
- Highlight the 12 steps which are extremely important

To succeed with this project we support a blame free environment and the mindset of safety has to be included into the culture as well as leadership. EDTNA/ERCA plays an important role to increase the awareness of safety further. Thanks to the extraordinary collaboration of Angela Drähne, German Brand Ambassador, this App is now available also in German.

A Book on the Art of Communication – A Nurses Guide to Implementing Best Practice in Communication

Editors: Mike Kelly (EDTNA/ERCA Psychological Care Consultant, Ireland), Alison Larkin (Psychotherapist, Ireland) and Debbie Fortnum (Australia and New Zealand Brand Ambassador).

Was also launched and distributed at the Conference thanks to an educational grant of Fresenius Medical Care, and it was a great success. Thank you also to the Editors.

This practical Guide was developed as part of the EDTNA/ERCA’s educational objectives for 2017 focusing on improving and fostering best practices in communication with patients. The aim was to gain greater insight and understanding of the importance of effective communication.
Nurses are aware of the value and importance of clear and regular communication with patients, and the challenges that it may pose for successfully conveying a meaningful and straightforward message. Communication is without a doubt complex and is influenced by an extensive array of factors. Therefore, learning is the key that is required to deepen our awareness of what and how we communicate.

**Advice About Exploring Nutrition Practices Among Renal Nurses - Project EDTNA/ERCA & B. Braun Avitum**

The main objective is to explore the level of awareness, knowledge and current practices of nutritional care among nurses dealing with Chronic Kidney Disease patients. Preliminary data was conducted through a survey at the last Conference in Valencia in 2016. The results have been evaluated and it was identified a high interest in getting more education on Nutrition. This led us to extend the project by a wider collection of data through a new survey. The survey was performed during spring and the results were presented at the International Conference in Krakow. This Project will be consolidated with the development of an Application and will be launched at the 2018 EDTNA/ERCA International Conference. We appreciate the collaboration we have with B. Braun Avitum and we are very enthusiastic about this joint Project.

**Cooperation Agreement Between EDTNA/ERCA and Diaverum Servicios Renales SL – Spain for promotion of Holiday Dialysis**

The title of the Collaboration Programme is: The Benefit of Holiday Dialysis. EDTNA/ERCA and Diaverum Spain agree to work towards the common goal: Improving care, safety and support for Patients to go on Holiday Dialysis. The intent is to provide insight and increase the awareness of the advantages of the flexibility and freedom it brings to Dialysis Patients.

The Benefit of Holiday Dialysis: to visualize the message in a simple and understandable way and to educate about the benefits of Holiday Dialysis. EDTNA/ERCA supported the distribution and promotion of this guide in English, German and Spanish through our Brand Ambassadors and Social Media channels.

**Multilingual Patient Education Documents EDTNA/ERCA & B Braun Avitum Project**

Fourteen educational papers translated into 12 languages, whose main objective was to empower nurses in the patients education have been updated. A great work achieved thanks to a fantastic cooperation of translators, Project coordinator, Tai Mooy Ho Wong and B. Braun Avitum.
Online Educational Resource for Health Care Professionals (HCP) – Electronic Library Translated into Different Languages

Collaboration between EDTNA/ERCA & National Associations

The EDTNA/ERCA Electronic Library is available to all members to download information on a variety of topics. Individual papers are written at different levels and are colour coded to help readers identify the level of information required by individuals. Each paper provides learning outcomes at the beginning and has questions at the end to enable you to check that these outcomes have been achieved through reading the paper. Educational papers at two distinct levels: Advanced and Expert.

EDTNA/ERCA offered to National Associations the opportunity of translating these documents to make them available to non English speaking nurses. At the last meeting of EDTNA/ERCA Executive Committee & Presidents of National Associations, more than 10 countries agreed. This Project also includes the development of new Papers. Translations into Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Slovenian, Spanish, and Turkish, are now available not only from the EDTNA/ERCA web but also from the websites of the National Associations involved.

We would like to say Thank-you to the Presidents of National Associations for such a great cooperation and the EDTNA/ERCA Brand Ambassadors from these countries for their great support in the success of this project.

The Profile of Nephrology Nurses - Nephrology Nurses in Context

It has been well documented that a fundamental role of any nurse is to care for individuals and their families who face challenges with their health and well-being. Nurses continue to be at the forefront of care delivery, in a variety of settings. Nephrology Nurses are concerned with the care of individuals who have kidney disease.

Patients with CKD may have complex problems and will require the specialist care of the nephrology multidisciplinary team. However, many health care providers, organisations and patients themselves don’t always have access to these specialist resources and it is often the nephrology nurse who is required to act as care coordinator and advocate to ensure patients and their families get access to the services, information and education that they require.

To respond with proactive solutions to these increasing and complex demands for patient care and service improvement, nephrology nurses have seen a noticeable shift in the development of roles and responsibilities. The profile of Nephrology Nurse therefore has developed to such an extent that it is almost an umbrella term for a number of selected specialties, all related but equally unique in their approaches to a variety patient conditions and care options available.

The shortage of nurses globally alongside reductions in spending on health services and on prevention of disease has resulted in difficult times for both patients and healthcare professionals. Despite this and within these constraints however, nephrology nurses have continued to drive significant change and improvements to services and standards to provide the highest quality of care for patients with kidney disease.

Within the EDTNA/ERCA is particularly evident through the continued membership, over many years of expert nephrology nurses, who through the association have continued to drive better care for patients through education. The passion, drive and striving for excellence will ensure that nephrology nursing is recognized as shining example of what nurses can achieve if they try and will.

An updated document of Nephrology Nurses Profile can be downloaded from www.edtna-erca.com. Thank you to the main authors: Prof. Maria Saraiva RN, BSN, MSN, PhD, Coordinator Nursing Research, Coordinator for Master in Nephrology Nursing, Escola Superior de Enfermagem de Lisboa, Portugal and Prof. Marie Richards - Director of Education/Training & Development SEHA Dialysis Services - Abu Dhabi, UAE.
Mouth care is part of the basic activity of nursing. Some studies have identified significant interactions between oral health and CKD that can affect the well-being of renal patients. Several authors have also concluded that periodontal disease is associated with cardiovascular risk and poor oral health can result in malnutrition. However, clinical literature suggests that the priority of oral health care for these patients seems to be low or neglected in practice. In renal care, great attention has been given to dialysis adequacy, vascular access care, peritoneal dialysis catheter exit-site care, transplantation care, psychological care, treatment adherence, nutrition and conservative treatment but not on care regarding CKD patients’ oral health. Studies have shown that CKD patients’ oral health is a very important but a neglected topic in clinical practice.

The first initiative was to run a workshop at Krakow Conference 2017 and a survey to evaluate nursing knowledge on oral care was distributed. With the results of this survey it was clearly identified that essentially there are 2 main areas of focus:

1. Attitudes to oral care
2. Knowledge of the impact of renal disease on oral care

* Dr Kumar’s presentation at the Krakow Conference Oral Care workshop was recorded and will be used for developing a webinar
* Dr Kumar and Tai Mooi will write a Continuous Education article on oral care in CKD with aim for publication (2018/2019).
* A second objective for 2018 is to elaborate, with the help of Dr Kumar, guidelines /protocol on Oral Care in CKD patients for the EDTNA/ERCA Conference in 2018

The EDTNA/ERCA Accreditation of Renal Education Programs 2017

The EDTNA/ERCA Accreditation of renal education programs continues to attract high quality applicants seeking EDTNA/ERCA recognition for their programs. The quality of applicants submitted for the 2017 cycle of assessments was outstanding. The varied approaches to delivering creative and cutting edge education was evident within applications received. There was an increasingly stronger emphasis on the impact of programs into clinical practice as well as the overall benefit of achieving EDTNA/ERCA accreditation to organisations in terms of their staff recruitment and retention strategies. The importance of providing recognised and approved programs to nurses is increasingly being seen as an additional attraction within recruitment strategies.

During the 46th International EDTNA/ERCA Conference held in Krakow, Poland successful accreditation awards were presented. Accreditation awards were presented to the following applicants who all demonstrated excellence in the development & delivery of high quality renal education:

* B.Braun Avitum - AG Dialysis Nurse Development Program - 3 year award granted
* Diaverum - Competence in Practice - Dialysis Programmes - 3 year award granted
* Fresenius Medical Care Asia / Pacific - Renal Nurse Education Program- RNE - 3 year award granted
* Fresenius Medical Care - Portugal - Renal Care for Nurses Programme-3 years award granted
* Fresenius Medical Care United Arab Emirates - Basic Peritoneal Dialysis Nursing Course - 3 year award granted
* Fresenius Medical Care / Abu Dhabi UAE SEHA Dialysis - Master (MSc) Degree in Renal Nursing - 3 year award granted

The Accreditation Committee welcome applications for the 2018 awards which will be presented in Genoa, Italy during the 47th annual EDTNA/ERCA International Conference. EDTNA/ERCA is also pleased to announce that
programs of learning which maybe shorter duration of learning i.e. workshops can also be considered for endorsement achieving ‘EDTNA/ERCA approved status’ recognition. If you are interested in seeking further information regarding accreditation or endorsement please contact Secretariat at secretariat@edtnaerca.org

John Sedgewick, EDTNA/ERCA Education Consultant
Chair - Accreditation Committee

Other Publications

The aim of EDTNA/ERCA is continue to promote quality renal care through education and continuous professional development through developing updated publications and other educational resources.

The printing of the book Peritoneal Dialysis – 500 Questions and Answers has been distributed at the Conference in Krakow. Many thanks to Fresenius Medical Care for their kind support.

Journal of Renal Care

The Journal of Renal Care (JORC) is published quarterly and during 2017 every issue was published in a timely manner. The JORC is now available to over 4200 institutions worldwide. There were over 70,000 article downloads in 2017, an increase of 25% on 2016. The most popular downloaded paper was Havas. K, Bonner. A, Douglas C. (2016). Self-management support for people with chronic kidney disease: Patient perspectives.

The key objectives for 2017 were met. These included:

- The ongoing development of the Associate Editor, Dr Magnus Lindberg from Sweden, who commenced in spring 2016. It is anticipated that he will take over as Editor in 2019.
- A joint ‘virtual issue’ with the Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics was published in November 2017 alongside thirteen free-to-download papers.
- The ‘Editor’s Choice’ continues to be identified for each issue, and these papers are available to freely download for a limited time.

The support from the managing editor and production editor at Wiley-Blackwell during 2017 has been very good. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Editorial Advisory Board for ongoing support and expertise in guiding the development of the Journal.

Professor Nicola Thomas
Editor
The EDTNA/ERCA Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Every second month the Newsletter of our Association is being published in 19 languages thanks the extraordinary work of our Brand Ambassadors, whose enthusiasm to make our newsletter available to country members and colleagues who do not speak English continues, to be highly valued. Of course, the Newsletter is linked with all social media.

Some Highlights from the 46th EDTNA/ERCA Annual International Conference, Krakow, Poland September 9-12, 2017

Under the theme: True Partnership and Global Approach in Management of Renal Care, the Conference Scientific Programme Committee has worked hard to ensure that delegates attend an informative and exciting Conference offering a valued learning experience.

From left to right: Anastasia Liossatou (Chair), Marianna Eleftheroudi (EC Link), Helen Noble (Member), Berislav Poje (Member) and Ilaria de Barbieri (Member).

The International Council of Nurses has accredited this Conference Scientific Program with 17.5 Continuing Nursing Education Credits. All Delegates had the chance of getting these Credits for their Curriculum.
The 3 Winners of the Manuscripts Scholarship Awards Were:

1ST PRIZE

Frailty in potential kidney transplant recipients
M. Vera Casanova1, A. Bach Pascual1, Y. Castillo Piña1, S. Álvarez Morales1, M. Folgueiras Lopez1, M. J. Pérez Sáez1, D. Redondo Pachon1, T.M. Ho Wong1, A. Faura Vendrell1, E. Junyent Iglesias1
1Nefrologia, Hospital del Mar - Parc de Salut Mar, Barcelona, Spain

2ND PRIZE

Renal patients' symptoms, experience and quality of life in their last year of life
Bonner1,2, S. Chambers1, H. Healy3,4, W. E. Hoy4, G. Mitchell5, A. Kark2, S. Ratanjee2, P. Yates1,6
1School of Nursing, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia; 2Kidney Health Service, Metro North Hospital and Health Service, Queensland Health, Brisbane, Australia; 3Kidney Research Laboratory, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Brisbane, Australia; 4Centre for Chronic Disease, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia; 5Primary Care Unit, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia; 6Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education, Queensland Health, Brisbane, Australia

3RD PRIZE

Using creative and therapeutic activities to improve dialysis patients' depressed-mood and physical inactivity
G. Pedreira-Robles1, A. Vasco-Gómez1, C. Herrera-Morales1, Y. Martínez-Delgado1, E. Junyent-Iglesias1, T.M. Ho Wong1
1Hospital Del Mar, Barcelona, Spain

The 3 Winners of the Best Poster Awards Were:

1ST PRIZE

Reduced actual sleep and sleep efficiency in patients on in-centre nocturnal haemodialysis
E. Holvoet1, S. J. Maertens1, W. Van Biesen1, S. Eloot1
1Nephrology, Ghent University Hospital, Gent, Belgium

2ND PRIZE

Successful treatment of a child with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation/continuous renal replacement therapy
S. Besedic1, K. Valentak1, J. Slavicek1, D. Milosevic1
1Department of nephrology, dialysis and transplantation, University Clinical Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

3RD PRIZE - 1ST TIME POSTER PRESENTATION

A new approach in our outpatient clinic for chronic kidney disease
S. Pečolar1, F. Kogal1
1Dialysis, Splošna bolnišnica Slovenj Gradec, Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia

Congratulations to the above authors in receiving the most prestigious and deserving awards as well as to thank them for their valuable contribution to the Scientific Programme of the 46th EDTNA/ERCA Conference.
On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee of 46th EDTNA/ERCA Conference, it is a pleasure and privilege to thank you all for attending the Conference. I hope you enjoyed both the Scientific Programme and the City. We are happy to have been able to host you in Poland for the first time in the history of EDTNA/ERCA. We wish that this important meeting for nephrology nurses had a positive impact on the renal care you give.

Anna Kliś
Local Organizing Committee Chair

Plenary Session

This introductory session was mainly focused on all the educational projects and activities consolidated this past year in partnership with our Industry Partners. This has involved the cooperation of Volunteers/Human Resources, Marketing Director and her team, and of course Industry Partners. This was therefore a perfect moment to recognize and appreciate all of their commitment with our Association and the final aim - with our patients and their families.

B Braun
The survey results were presented
GS: Paul Challinor (Germany) and Debbie Fortnum (Australia, New Zealand)

Fresenius Medical Care
GS: Mike Kelly (Psychological Care Consultant, Ireland) and Maria Teresa Parisotto (Germany)

Redsense Medical
Safety going Digital - Increasing the Awareness of Venous Needle Dislodgement.
The launch of the Venous Needle Dislodgement App translation into German.
GS: Patrik Byhmer (Sweden) and Angela Drähne (Brand Ambassador for Germany)

NxStage
Home Haemodialysis - A Nurses Guide to Implementing Best Practice in Home Haemodialysis Book and App were launched.
GS: Siobhan Gladding (UK) and Debbie Fortnum (Brand Ambassador from Australia and New Zealand)

Diaverum
“Dialysis without Barriers” Holiday Dialysis - is a relevant topic which may have an impact in the patients and families quality of life.
GS: Ms Irmina Vaicekauskyte - EDTNA/ERCA Brand Ambassador for Lithuania and Mrs Mari Paz Sorribes, Spanish Nursing Manager of Diaverum Clinics presented all the facilities the patients can find to enjoy their holidays in Spain.
Important Decisions Were Agreed at the 46th EDTNA/ERCA International Conference Annual General Meeting (AGM)

EDTNA/ERCA President ad interim, Marianna Eleftheroudi, opened the EDTNA/ERCA Annual General Meeting on September the 10th 2017, and while many Members attended the AGM and didn’t miss the chance to make a difference the here is a chance to catch up the decisions that were made for EDTNA/ERCA.

EDTNA/ERCA Motions 2017

This year we have two motions which has been defined and supported by the Executive Committee to improve services and reacting on input from Members.

MOTION 1 - REMOVAL OF THE POSITION OF A SUPERVISORY BOARD MEMBER FROM THE CONSTITUTION
MOTION 2 - IMPLEMENTATION OF A POSITION OF A “GENERAL DIRECTOR” IN THE CONSTITUTION.

Full documentation Motion2017 at www.edtnaerca.org. Both were approved.

EDTNA/ERCA Planting a Tree in Krakow

Mrs Edita Noruisiene in her role as new President has had the honour of planting a tree in the green area of the ICE Krakow Congress Centre. The name of the EDTNA/ERCA will remain with it as a reference of our 46th Conference in this wonderful city.

Nominations

Those Members with Voting rights have received the Executive Committee nominees to be voted:

- Mrs. Edita Noruisiene as EDTNA/ERCA President
- Mrs. Evgenia Golland as EDTNA/ERCA Treasurer
- Ms. Maria Teresa Parisotto as EDTNA/ERCA Secretary
New Volunteers Who Joined the Team in 2017 & New Positions

New Volunteers and Volunteers in new positions were officially appointed:

Mrs Edita Noruisiene
from Lithuania
EDTNA/ERCA President

Anastasia Liossatou
Scientific Programme Committee Member

Mrs Evgenia Golland
EDTNA/ERCA Treasurer

Angela Drähne
Brand Ambassador - Germany

Ms Maria Teresa Parisotto
EDTNA/ERCA Secretary

Hanadi Mezher
Brand Ambassador - Lebanon

Ms Maria Arminda Tavares
Peritoneal Dialysis Consultant

Galia Rusakov Barbalat
Brand Ambassador - Israel

Berislav Poje
Scientific Programme Committee Chair

The leaving Volunteers acknowledged were:

Mrs Marianna Eleftheroudi
President ad Interim for 2 years

Mrs Aase Riemann
Peritoneal Dialysis Consultant for 6 years

Mrs Sophie Halldin
Brand Ambassador from Sweden for 3 years

THANKS TO ALL OF THEM FOR A GREAT CONTRIBUTION WITH OUR ASSOCIATION!
EDTNA/ERCA Active Participation in Several Collaborations

EDTNA/ERCA Active at European Kidney Health Allianz (EKHA)

The European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA) is embarking on a Multi-Country Survey to build a Snapshot of Renal Patient Choice in Europe.

The 2017 European Kidney Forum took place on the 11th of April in Brussels, hosted by the MEP Group for Kidney Health. This year’s edition focused on the second cluster of EKHA recommendations on sustainable kidney care: Patient Choice of Treatment.

It was the occasion to present the results of EKHA survey on renal patients’ choice of treatment in Europe and discuss the importance of patient-centred decision-making, the health economic factors behind treatment choice; and how to address health inequalities across Europe and improve access to care. We greatly appreciate the cooperation of those who completed the Questionnaire!

Thank you so much to Mr. Alois Gorke for representing EDTNA/ERCA at this important Forum.
ESNO promotes and contributes to the health and wellbeing of Europeans by facilitating and enabling the political voice of specialist nurses. Through the collaboration with key stakeholders, the professional status and evidence based practice of nursing specialties are strengthened. ESNO aims to secure the recognition of specialist nursing in the EU and greater Europe through:

1. Promoting the recognition of and the professional status of the specialist nurse at the European level.

2. Networking for collaboration and communication between European Specialist Nurses Organisations and specialist interest groups in Europe.

3. Representing the interests of the member organizations.


5. Promoting the development of specialist nursing education, practices and research.

6. Providing expert advice, consultation to ministries of health, national healthcare systems and patient organizations.

EDTNA/ERCA Participates in the American Nephrology Nurses Symposium

During the meeting some agreements were made:

- Sign the new draft of “Collaboration Agreement”
- Appoint an EDTNA/ERCA International Link
- Implement the EDTNA/ERCA Link in their web
- Actively participate in the electronic Library papers
- Participate in the Project on Nursing/Patient ratio
- Support the distribution of the Nutrition Questionnaire

The current President 2017-18, Alice Hellebrand, was very positive about having closer collaboration. In conclusion, the participation to ANNA’s Symposium gave our Association the opportunity for a great international recognition with fruitful meetings.

EDTNA/ERCA Active Participation at European Specialist Nurses Organization (ESNO)
EDTNA/ERCA at ERA-EDTA in Madrid, Spain June 3-6, 2017

As a mutual collaboration agreement, this year we participated at the 54th ERA-EDTA Congress, Madrid, Spain, June 3-6, 2017 with a booth. The Exhibition started on Saturday, June 3rd. Our booth location was very good and placed ‘right in the middle of the flow’ and the flow of delegates was excellent to us during the entire Exhibition. Mrs. Anki Davidson as Marketing Director and Mrs Maria Cruz Casal representing the Executive Committee managed the booth.

The objectives of our participation at the ERA-EDTA Conference were:

- To strengthen the Brand of our Association
- To show our Professionalism which our Association, and all of you, deserves
- To increase the awareness about the importance of all of you - our Nurses and the extensive experience and knowledge you have
- To promote our Conference in Krakow
- To increase and manage, in a professional way, our relationship with our Industry Partners
- To communicate our fantastic Collaboration Programme to our Industry Partners and what it will bring to them and the ROI of their investments

EDTNA/ERCA is represented by Maria Teresa Parisotto and we are very proud for her appointment as “Governance Committee Member”. Maria Teresa in her ESNO role attended the meeting to EU Parliament related to Skin Antisepsis.

ESNO office and postal address is in the heart of Brussels, at the venue of the EHMA - European Health Management Association. ESNO has its location close to the European Parliament and, above all, close to partners and stakeholders, thereby optimizing co-operation with the wider European Union to achieve their mission and goals.
Another Successful Fresenius Medical Care & EDTNA/ERCA Middle East and Africa Renal Nurse Education Program.

The 11th EDTNA/ERCA & FMC Renal Nurse Education Program was successfully delivered in the beautiful city of Prague. The theme chosen for the 11th Fresenius Medical Care & EDTNA/ERCA Renal Nurse Education Program, 12 - 14 November 2017 is Safe Practice, the Essence of Renal Care. This program is a collaborative venture between EDTNA/ERCA & Fresenius Medical Care. Originally launched in Madrid in 2008 with 40 delegates the program, has now become a highlight in the collaborative calendars between both partners. The program brings together renal nurses from across the Middle East and Africa to learn and share best practices in renal care. This highly interactive program combined a variety of learning opportunities from lectures, group work, seminars, and quizzes.

The 11th Fresenius Medical Care & EDTNA/ERCA Renal Nurse Education Program integrated the importance of patient safety throughout all stages of the patient care pathway. This includes both the pre-dialysis phases, active renal management as well as palliative safety care needs of patients. The program provided an opportunity for delegates to engage in clinically focused skills workshops around vascular access, fluid management, PD, Infection control, leadership & management, Education and quality and safety in health care. Guest speakers from Ireland, Portugal, Germany and Hong Kong delivered a highly stimulating program. An important component of the program is the collaborative learning between delegates in the sharing of their own clinical practice perspectiveson patient safety in renal care and this is achieved through a range of highly creative learning approaches. A number of presentations were delivered by delegates from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and South Africa. What has impressed me over the eleven years this program has been delivered is the wonderful professional networks which develop between renal nurses attending the program from many diverse countries.

This year’s program attracted 120 delegates from 14 countries across the Middle East & Africa. This program could not be delivered if it was not for the amazing collaborative partnership between Fresenius Medical Care (Middle East & Africa) and the EDTNA/ERCA Faculty who work so hard to produce an amazing scientific program. Preparations are underway to deliver the 12th EDTNA/ERCA & FMC program which will be held in the beautiful city of Porto, Portugal from 16-20 November.
The National Congress took place in May 2017, in Riccione, where almost 400 delegates could chose to take part to one of the three offered workshops: 1) vascular access and echography, 2) transplant outpatient follow up nurses clinics 3) empathy issues among nephrology nurses. In the opening session some of the most up to date topics had been presented; the nephrology facilities national Census - an inquiry performed by the Italian Society of Nephrology (SIN) in order to collect epidemiology and organizational evidence data. SIN in 2016 produced also two core documents one in palliative care for renal patients and CKD slow down monitoring and management plans. Both documents have got a very high impact on nursing care services and renal patients care management.

A one day Regional Conference took place in Padova, in October 2017. The meeting had been organized with the collaboration of three Regional Referees (RR) from the North-East Regions. More the 100 delegates took active part to this meeting. A commemoration to Alessandra Zampieron was due, being Padova her home and work town and had been well appreciated by the local colleagues.

The 2017 will be memorable as the very last year for the ITALIAN Branch to exist. A national legal Act for health care professionals responsibility had been published in 2017. The Ministry of Health, supported by the National Nursing Board invited all specialist nurses associations for producing national guide line for their specific setting, as required by mentioned Act. Every association had to demonstrate accountability throughout the accomplishment of constitutional and association structure parameters. The legal requirements did not fit the Branch Status, but the IT Branch had been the unique association representing renal nursing and they owned the right to be on the legal table. The transformation into national Association had to be implemented in order to be considered accounted partner for guide line production. This specific panorama had been fully understood by EDTNA/ERCA Executive Committee who acknowledged the transformation process and the birth of SIAN ITALIA in January 2018. The wish to remain part of a big and international setting is still very strong, therefore the Ex Branch members, while approving the SIAN Constitution, gave mandate to their president propose to EDTNA/ERCA EC members different and new affiliation modalities for IT members. This project will be, hopefully, implemented during 2018.
The mission of the DOPPS Program is to improve the experience of patients with kidney disease by identifying links between international variations in clinical practices and outcomes.

The studies within the DOPPS Program are designed to identify best practices for treating patients. Started as a haemodialysis study in 1996, the DOPPS now tracks over 70,000 patients on haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and with chronic kidney disease, in over 20 countries. By observing patients over time, and correlating practices and outcomes in different medical settings around the world, the DOPPS helps researchers identify practices and other modifiable characteristics that improve patient lives.

The DOPPS Programme collects data in: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Being the EDTNA/ERCA, our Mission is to achieve the best standard of treatment and support for Renal patients and their families around the world, together with providing continuing education in renal care and become the most recognized multi-disciplinary renal care organization in the world. During the last 12 years it has been just “natural” and very easy to work together and to establish such a fruitful and beneficial relationship. As acknowledged in various reports EDTNA/ERCA has contributed to DOPPS development, which started as a haemodialysis study in 1996, and now tracks over 70,000 patients on haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and with chronic kidney disease, in over 23 countries as previously mentioned.

The DOPPS is overseen by the DOPPS Steering Committee and investigators representing each of the DOPPS countries, and coordinated by the Arbor Research Collaborative for Health (Arbor Research). Research is guided by these investigators, as well as Task Forces of experts in different study areas, EDTNA/ERCA participates in the Steering Committee.

During 2017 and as in previous years apart from all the data collecting coordinating activities in United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Sweden and Spain, we have participated in the DOPPS Steering Committee activities and meetings. During the Krakow EDTNA/ERCA Conference a DOPPS Symposium was also organized.

DOPPS encourages the use of study results to support the dialysis community. Slides for public use and more detailed information about DOPPS may be downloaded from www.dopps.org, where a complete DOPPS Annual Report also includes the description of patients’ populations and analytical methods.

For EDTNA/ERCA working together with ARBOR Research and being part of DOPPS is a great experience.

## DOPPS Programs Worldwide

Consultants Activities

The EDTNA/ERCA Consultants are renal practitioners with immense expertise who have become very actively involved with the Association to address renal treatment trends.

Consultants develop as a result of a genuine interest shared by community members to learn and work together to solve similar problems.
**Anaemia & CKD Consultants**

Electronic Library - ONLINE educational resource for Health Care Professionals (HCP) - Project lead by Karen Jenkins, CKD Consultant and Lesley Bennett, Anaemia Consultant.

14 Electronic Library papers were translated and are very active in the development of new papers.

Lesley was very active in the Fresenius Education Programme and both have play an important role in the UK EDTNA/ERCA Seminar.

**Psychological Care Consultant**

The main achievement of this year was the consolidation of the book: The Art of Communication - A Nurses Guide to Implementing Best Practice in Communication. Why this project? Because there are evidences that:

* Communication or lack of it is an issue between health care professionals and patients and vice versa.
* Failure to communicate adequately or appropriately leads to misunderstanding and unnecessary emotional trauma.
* Workshop offers a guide to help participants to (a) reflect on their communication skills, (b) explore the different ways we communicate, (c) understand some of the pitfalls in communication, (d) develop or enhance skills in communication.

**Peritoneal Dialysis Consultant ad Interim**

Continuous Education on Peritoneal Dialysis was her main objective by reviewing PD papers and organizing a PD Session at Krakow Conference being Speaker and Chairing several sessions. Her support in the handover to the new appointed Peritoneal Dialysis Consultant has been very important. Thank you Aase!

**Haemodialysis Consultant**

Ruben Iglesias, has lead a new important topic by organizing an Ultrasound Vascular Workshop including Theory and Practices. The interest showed by the attendees has encouraged him to produce some nursing guidelines on this cannulation technique. The Guidelines book will be launched in 2018.

**Nutrition Consultant**

Anna Poulia Kalliopi, initiated a project by distributing a questionnaire at the Conference on exploring nutrition practices among renal nurses. The Project Aim is: Screening Nutritional Status in Patients with End Stage Renal Disease because there is evidence that Malnutrition increases the risk of illness and death in renal patients. Consequently, reliable estimations of nutritional status are essential for improved clinical outcomes in this population group. A second survey was performed and the results were presented at Krakow Conference. The App will be launched in 2018.
Brand Ambassadors Program Going Forward

The Brand Ambassadors (BA) programme has been running very successfully since 2013. We are proud to cover not only European countries such as Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands and Turkey, but also have representatives on the Global level from Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, Australia and New Zealand.

The main objective of the BA Programme is to implement training and education for the BA and support them during promotional activities on a national level. Enhancing the relationships and links between EDTNA/ERCA and National Associations and having a strong local presence in each country is the key for successful collaboration and one of the primary goals of the BA activities. To achieve these goals, a number of trainings sessions took place throughout the year: 4 WebEx meetings via computer, physical meetings and joint meetings with National Presidents during the Annual Conference in Krakow. BAs had an opportunity to talk to each other and continue the discussions and training and share experience on a more personal level. New BAs had an opportunity to meet their more experienced colleagues from different countries and to get new ideas and exchange knowledge. In addition, the BA Facebook forum continues its activities and helps BAs share in real time their thoughts and ideas, and of course publish photos of their various activities.

In spite of the difficult economic situation and tough sponsorship regulations within Europe, there has been an increase in BA activates at the national level in most counties during 2017. An EDTNA/ERCA slides presentation was prepared and distributed to BAs in order to help them with promotion and brand identity activities.

We are proud to highlight various activities of the BA team on a national level such as organization of educational events/seminars, presentations and booths during the National conferences and events, and of course translation of educational materials, books, applications, news, and participation in surveys and research on behalf of the EDTNA/ERCA. Six country meetings for Germany, Israel, Spain, Portugal, Poland and Lithuania were held during the Krakow Conference. It was an opportunity for the BA’s to meet their colleagues, and members of EDTNA/ERCA from their country, to promote the Association, and also encourage and compliment nurses for their participation in the Annual Conference and presentations.

Generally, the goal of all activities is to make the EDTNA/ERCA more visible on the National level, and to represent the nephrology community, while having the tremendous advantage of being a member of the EDTNA/ERCA.

Our objective for the next year is further expansion and development of the BA Programme through encouragement and support in organizing national educational events and increasing awareness among professionals within the nephrology community on the benefits of EDTNA/ERCA membership. We will support participation in research and surveys within EDTNA/ERCA in order to enhance and strengthen the position of the nephrology nurse within nephrology community in Europe and worldwide.

We would like to thank our Brand Ambassadors for their hard work in the field of promoting activates, creating Brand awareness and bringing knowledge and education on the International level.

To be inspired by various BA activities within the countries, please visit our BA web page on the EDTNA/ERCA website: https://www.edtnaerca.org/about-us/brand-ambassadors

Jane Golland
Executive Committee Link
Volunteers Functions and Representing Countries

Executive Committee (EC)

Mariana Eleftheroudi  
Greece, President Ad Interim

Edita Noruišiene  
Lithuania, Treasurer and Ad Interim Secretary

Jane Golland  
Israel, Member

Ilaria de Barbieri  
Italy, Member

Maria Teresa Parisotto  
Germany, Member

Maria Cruz Casal  
Spain, Co-opted Member

Finance Coordinator

Alois Gorke  
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Brand Ambassadors

Michel Roden  
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Natasa Graho  
Croatia

Jitka Pancirova  
Czech Republic

Jeanette Finderup  
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Stavroula Vovlianou  
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Francesca Presenti  
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Ana Klis  
Poland

Raquel Ribeiro  
Portugal

Bozica Stupar  
Serbia

Sonja Pečolar  
Slovenia

Anna Junque  
Spain

Aase Riemann  
The Netherlands

Mukadder Mollaoglu  
Turkey

Linsey Worsey  
United Kingdom
**International Brand Ambassadors**

Debbie Fortnum  
Australia and New Zealand  

Marie Richards  
United Arab Emirates  

Hanadi Mezher  
Lebanon  

**Consultants**

Lesley Bennett  
United Kingdom, Anaemia Consultant  

Karen Jenkins  
United Kingdom, CKD Consultant  

John Sedgewick  
United Kingdom, Education Middle East and Africa Consultant  

Kalliopi Anna Poulia  
Greece, Nutrition Consultant  

Aase Riemann  
The Netherlands, Peritoneal Dialysis Consultant ad Interim  

Mike Kelly  
Ireland, Psychological Care Consultant  

Ruben Iglesias  
Spain, Haemodialysis Consultant  

**Conference Scientific Programme Committee**

Anastasia Liossatou  
Greece, Scientific Programme Chair  

Berislav Poje  
Scientific Programme Co Chair  

Helen Noble  
United Kingdom, Scientific Programme Member  

Ilaria de Barbieri  
Italy, Executive Committee Link  

**Publications**

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United Kingdom, Journal of Renal Care Editor  

Magnus Lindberg  
Sweden, Journal of Renal Care Co-Editor  

Maria Cruz Casal  
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Giovanni Carbone  
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CRA lead UK

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**Italian Branch**

Marisa Pegoraro  
Chair

Maria Pia Zito  
Treasurer