



*European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses
Association/European Renal Care Association*

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

www.edtnaerca.org

Introduction / President's Message

Last year, 2020 was full of challenges for EDTNA/ERCA. The global health crisis and the fight against the coronavirus disease also influenced our Association's activities. However, I can proudly say that it has become a stimulus for change and development, and resulted in the creation of new solutions in communication with members and new educational opportunities. My special thanks to all people involved in the activities of the Association, for their outstanding support during this strange and unprecedented year. I am grateful for all the hard work and support of all our Volunteers in ensuring so many projects and were performed and finalized. Thanks to them EDTNA/ERCA continues to be at the forefront of care delivery in a variety of settings and this is highly valued by other healthcare professionals, industry partners and other professional and patients' associations.

Looking back to our key strategies, I am pleased to report progress on a number of points. First of all, we have simplified the membership application and renewal system, changed the design of our website to make it easier to use. To meet our members expectations, EDTNA/ERCA has launched an official free mobile application for Android and IOS.

Keeping in mind our mission: "achieving the best level of education, standards and research for all renal care professionals caring and supporting their patients and families around the world", we focused on the development and commitment of our members. A member engagement strategy is an ongoing initiative. This needs consistent effort on the part of our organization to deliver ongoing value to our members regardless of the global situation. The EDTNA/ERCA educational programme is characterized by a mixture of lectures, case study work in Groups/Research Group, discussion in seminars, courses and conferences. Last year, due to the pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions, we were forced to postpone our annual conference. These circumstances contributed to the search for new solutions to foster international exchange of knowledge and experience. One of them was the proposal to participate in our webinars. We invited excellent speakers to cooperate and create this new education form, which was appreciated by the participants.

The EDTNA/ERCA volunteers were working hard throughout the year, often in interdisciplinary teams, resulting in new publications and projects. Particularly noteworthy is the project focused on minimising the environmental impact of dialysis therapy. We worked on this project together with our industry partner and other associations. The focus on the environmental impact has resulted in the implementation of the sustainability strategy as a priority in many aspects of our Association's organizational work.

We strive to ensure that the outcome of our educational programmes and projects in collaboration with our members, volunteers and partners show that excellence in education is our pursuit. The key to reach this aim is continuity and consistency. We have built up a professional and sustainable collaboration with industry partners, universities, other professional and patient associations, to enhance the sharing of knowledge and expertise, and to raise awareness about chronic kidney disease among patients and providers.

Finally, but certainly not least, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of the Executive Committee members for their unwavering commitment and motivation during this challenging year.



Edita Noruišienė
EDTNA/ERCA President

New Volunteers or changing roles in 2020

EDTNA/ERCA is very proud of having a pool of more than 50 Volunteers who cover the wide multidisciplinary focus of our Association. New Volunteers or those in new positions, were appointed during the EDTNA/ERCA Virtual Annual General Meeting held on 13th September 2020:

- Ana Luisa Grilo (Qatar) - Paediatric Nephrology Consultant
- Afra Afra Masià Plana (Spain) - Scientific Board Member
- Claire Carswell (UK) - Scientific Board Member
- Ditte Pulm Olsen (Denmark) - Brand Ambassador
- Juby Susan Thomas (Ireland) - Brand Ambassador
- Silvia Corti (Italy) - Brand Ambassador
- Chava Kurtz (Israel) - RenalPro Moderator
- Sabine Nipshagen (Germany) - RenalPro Moderator
- Nicola Thomas (UK) - Accreditation Team Member
- Margaret McCann (Ireland) – Accreditation Team Member
- Maria Saraiva (Portugal) - Accreditation Team Member
- Theodora Kafkia (Greece)- Accreditation Team Member
- Angela Drähne (Germany) - CKD Consultant
- Chrysanthi Avrami (Greece) - Project Leader
- Marc Boogaert (France) – DOPPS CRA
- Anastasia Liossatou (Greece) – Publications Coordinator

Welcome to all and many thanks to those who have resigned.

We gratefully acknowledge Maria Cruz Casal who handed over Publications Coordinator's role after 10 years of dedication and hard work.

Publications

In everything we do, our Association is committed to excellence. The results of our educational programmes and initiatives, in cooperation with our partners, are demonstrated by our skills and expertise. Many programmes were consolidated with great success in 2020, despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was accomplished thanks to the dedication, ingenuity, innovation, and enthusiastic participation of our volunteers as well as the support from our industry partners. It is important to use all of these connections to achieve our annual goals.

Below is a concise overview of our best achievements:

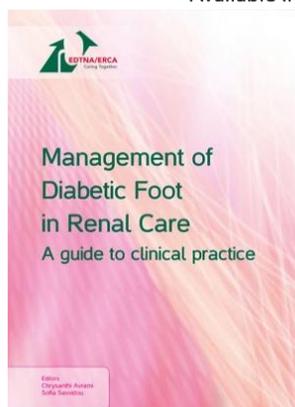
New Books

Management of Diabetic Foot Care – A Guide to Clinical Practice

Editors: Chrysanthi Avrami & Sofia Savvidou

The key principle of this Diabetic Foot Guideline is to ensure that diabetic foot health assessment forms an integral part of the care plan for each patient with chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end stage renal disease (ESRD).

Available in English



Contents:

- Diabetic Foot Disease in population with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)
- Risk Factors for Diabetic Foot Disease in Individuals with CKD and ESRD
- Prevention of Diabetic Foot Disease in Individuals with CKD and ESRD
- Management of Diabetic Foot Disease in Individuals with CKD and ESRD
- Recommendations for nursing intervention.
- Diabetic Foot assessment: monthly checklist programme in patients with diabetic CKD and ESRD
- Education of patients with CKD and ESRD
- Psychosocial impact/burden of diabetic foot disease on patients with CKD and ESRD.

Translated into Spanish & Lithuanian



Case Management for patients with advanced kidney disease. A Guide for Nurses

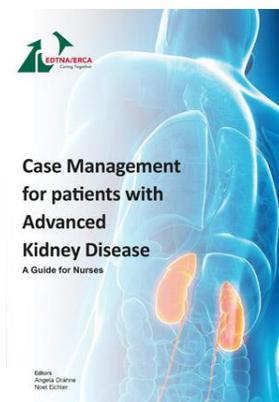
Editors: Angela Drähne & Noël Eichler

Reviewer: Maria Saraiva

This booklet is an initiative of the EDTNA/ERCA CKD Consultant, Angela Drähne, Germany. The guide aims to explain Case Management to nurses caring for patients with advanced kidney disease and high-risk groups with diabetes and hypertension. The guide provides practical information on the development, role and working methods of a Case Manager and it describes the implementation in daily practice. Case management has been established in various nursing and caring settings with an individual concept corresponding to these fields.

The main learning objectives are:

- To gain knowledge about different approaches of Case Management programmes
- To understand the five practice functions of Case Managers
- To be able to identify the factors creating the need for Case Management
- To learn about the work of a Case Manager with patients
- To be aware of the objectives and goals of Case Management
- To be aware that Case Management is a quality management-controlled process



Contents:

- Case Management for patients with advanced kidney disease and high-risk groups
- The importance of Case Management in renal care
- The aims and tasks of Case Management with practice examples – Strategies to achieve optimum care outcomes from the nursing perspective
- The professionals involved in the renal care and control mechanisms – Role of the nurse in a multidisciplinary Case Management Team
- Examples from outpatient care

Available in English

Translations

Oral Care Guidelines for Adult Patients with CKD

Translated into Dutch

Printed into Greek



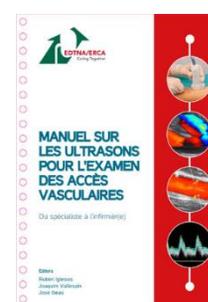
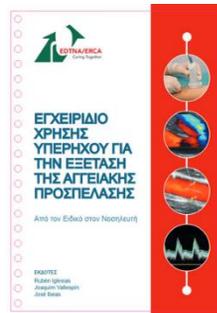
Art of Communication- A Nurse’s Guide to Implementing Best Practice in Communication

Translated & printed into
Greek & Croatian



Ultrasound for Vascular Access Examination – From the specialist to the nurse

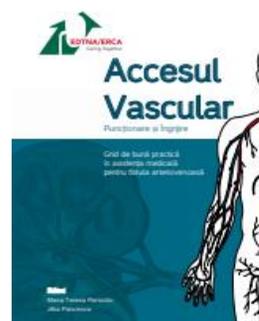
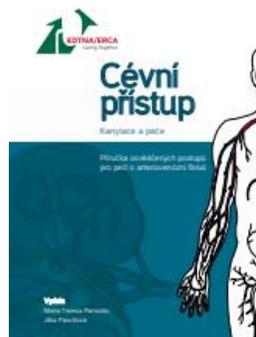
Translated into
Greek
French
Dutch



Vascular Access Trilogy-Update

AVF booklet: Vascular Access, Cannulation and Care: A Nursing Best Practice Guide for Arteriovenous Fistula

Translated into
Romanian, Czech



EDTNA/ERCA Nephrology Nurse Specialist Position Statement in Europe

In 2020 we developed the *EDTNA/ERCA Nephrology Nurse Specialist Position Statement in Europe* document. With this Position Statement EDTNA/ERCA intends to shape the renal nurse specialist's future role and establish the Association as a key leader in nephrology nursing. The aim is to promote equal recognition of the Nephrology Nurse Specialists and homogeneity in Nephrology Nurse Specialist training programmes across Europe.



Electronic library

The E-Library is an online educational resource for healthcare professionals (HCPs) to have access to electronic articles available for download, on a variety of topics written by the EDTNA/ERCA Consultants. Each paper provides learning outcomes at the beginning and has questions at the end so that readers can check that these outcomes have been achieved. These educational papers are available at **Advanced level** (coded in yellow) and **Expert level** (coded in green).

The E-Library New article:

An Innovative and Time-Efficient Dialysis Catheter and Exit-site Electronic Surveillance (DCES) Tool in the Paediatric Dialysis Unit -
by Ana Grilo – EDTNA/ERCA Paediatric Consultant



Advanced Level

An Innovative and Time-Efficient Dialysis Catheter and Exit-site Electronic Surveillance (DCES) Tool in the Paediatric Dialysis Unit

Ana Grilo, RN^{1,2,3}, MSN, PhD(c)⁴, PGNDT, BSN, and Ibrahim Shatat, MD, MSCR^{4,5}
Paediatric Nephrology, Rheumatology, Dialysis and Transplant unit
Sidra Medicine, Doha, Qatar
agrilo86@gmail.com



The purpose of this paper is to share with the HCPs an overview of the development and implementation of a user-friendly, time-efficient, electronic catheter screening tool to be utilized by the dialysis nurses at each dialysis session to assess for catheter function, patency and signs of infection.



Maria Cruz Casal & Anastasia Lioussatou
EDTNA/ERCA Publications Coordinators

Regular Publications

Newsletter

- 4 editions/year
- One edition in 20 language versions
- Distributed in 56 countries in total
- Translations distributed also through our Brand Ambassadors



1ST EDITION | MARCH 2020

Journal of renal care

EDITORIAL TEAM

Magnus Lindberg
Journal Editor

Karen Nagalingam
Journal Co-editor

Henning Sondergaard
Patient Editor



The Journal of Renal Care (JORC) is the official publication of the European Dialysis and Transplant Nursing Association/European Renal Care Association (EDTNA/ERCA). It publishes a broad range of peer-reviewed clinical, research and educational papers for health care professionals working in kidney care.

In 2020 the ISI Web of Knowledge maintained an Impact Factor for Journal of Renal Care. Current Impact Factor is 0.961, ranked within categories:

- 'Nursing'
- 'Nursing (Social Science)'
- 'Urology & Nephrology'

During the year, 4 issues of JORC were published and each time the Patient Editor summaries were sent to 21 renal patients associations.



Anna Kliš & Maria Cruz Casal

Newsletter Editors

Scientific Board

To enhance the scientific level of EDTNA/ERCA and to promote the clinical research projects, the Executive Committee decided in 2020 to create an EDTNA/ERCA Scientific Board that will include the Scientific Programme Committee and the Clinical Research Group. This strategy would allow us to optimize the human resources dedicated to these activities, to make the independent clinical research more visible as well as to implement the scientific level of our Annual Conferences. The Scientific Board Chair is appointed to manage the preparation of the Conference Programme in co-operation with the professional conference organizer (PCO) and to coordinate the clinical research projects. The composition of the Scientific Board will be determined by the Executive Committee (EC). The post holder is also responsible for the administration of the EDTNA/ERCA Conference Scholarship Awards. This is done with Managerial Financial support of the EC.

Duties of the Scientific Board:

- Selection and proposal of the Conference theme and topics in collaboration with the Executive Committee and other volunteers.
- Collection, review and evaluation of abstracts and manuscripts with a group of Abstract and Manuscript Assessors.
- Composition of the Conference Programme, based on received and selected abstracts, the number of sessions, invitation and allocation of Guest Speakers, booking and selection of Corporate Education Sessions, workshops, roundtables, sponsored by the industry partners.



Dr Ilaria de Barbieri
(Chair & EC Link)



Dr Helen Noble



Mrs. Veronica Strini



Dr Jeannette Finderup

In April 2020 two new members joined the Scientific Board:



Dr Afra Masià Plana



Dr Claire Carswell

In 2020 the Scientific Board started some new studies: a survey on facilitators and barriers on palliative care across Europe, a mixed-methods study on experiences of renal healthcare practitioners globally during the COVID-19 pandemic, a survey on violence and aggression prevention and management strategies in European renal units and a study on the nurse perspective of plastic cannula versus metal needle cannulation in haemodialysis.

Highlights of Webinars

COVID-19 outbreak resulted in a series of lockdowns across the European continent and beyond. The 49th EDTNA/ERCA International Conference which was scheduled to be held in Ljubljana in September 2020 was postponed. EDTNA/ERCA to fulfill its mission, we are committed to providing educational materials and training tools to professionals in renal care. Therefore, many webinars, were organized by EDTNA/ERCA which created a great opportunity for our members to share knowledge and experience.

Please find below a list of the webinars held during 2020:

- **JUNE:** Mindfulness and COVID Stress: Managing Stress and Wellbeing Mindfully During COVID-19 – *Dr Helen Noble*
- **JULY:** A shared vision for the COVID-19 experience in renal units across Europe – **Round Table** - *Reem Alhameedi, Gascuena, Faith Lynch, Fiona Donnelly*
- **OCTOBER:** The Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study (DOPPS) Symposium (In collaboration with Arbor Research)
- **NOVEMBER:** Nurse hospital staffing: Lessons from COVID-19 – *Prof. Walter Sermeus*



Dr Ilaria de Barbieri
Scientific Board Chair

THE EUROPEAN SPECIALIST NURSES ORGANIZATION (ESNO)

In February 2020 EDTNA/ERCA was invited to the ESNO congress to represent the renal nurse in Europe. The presentation focused on the role of the nephrology nurse and showed the importance of a position statement that underlined the need of recognition of the Nephrology Specialist Nurse. In fact, many healthcare systems do not offer 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. The significant contribution of nephrology nurses to healthcare through improvements in patient wellbeing, clinical outcomes, improved services and reduced cost, is now well documented.



Dr Ilaria de Barbieri
EC Link - ESNO



Finances Report 2020

In the Finance Year 2020 the Association continued to process accurate and safe finance operations. Many EDTNA/ERCA activities were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 49th International Conference and national seminars organized by Brand Ambassadors were postponed, no physical meetings of the Executive Committee were held, but monthly virtual meetings; very few physical and needed business meetings were held during the summer, all other business meetings were held virtually.

The Executive decided to mandate a Professional Conference Organizer (PCO) to organize future International Conferences, the new Association Secretariat started the work, and for both mandates GUARANT International in Prague, Czech Republic was contracted.

Membership services and educational offerings were maintained at the best possible level. The Association worked on new projects, continued to publish Scientific and Educational publications such as the Journal of Renal Care and other highly valued publications and educational material. In order to compensate for the missing International Conference and to support members and other health care workers, EDTNA/ERCA made investments in new educational formats, organized free access online webinars and offered guidance for managing patients and staff during the COVID -19 pandemic.

Due to the absence of the International Conference, missing income from international events and investment in alternative educational offerings the Association operated an annual budget of 191'258 EUR. The result of the year 2020 shows a loss of 42'366.EUR

The official Audit and internal review of EDTNA/ERCA accounts 2020, finance processes and bookkeeping were postponed due to the Pandemic and meeting and travel restrictions. A non-audited Financial Report will be presented during the online Annual General Meeting in 2021. The members will not be asked for approval as no official report and statement from Auditors is available. The next complete Finance Report is planned for the AGM 2022.

EDTNA/ERCA is fully registered in the Commercial Register of the Canton of Nidwalden, Switzerland. The Non-for-Profit Status is annually assessed according to the regulation of Switzerland.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a great burden and challenge for EDTNA/ERCA as well; a year with no physical educational events and meetings was hard to foresee and difficult to manage. The process to safeguard the financial viability and independent legal and fiscal status of the Association remain an unchanged challenge for the future. Proper finance management under the influence of the Pandemic will be the main goal for the Finance Team 2021.

As the Treasurer I would like to thank all my colleagues in the Executive Committee, Edita Noruišienė, EDTNA/ERCA President, Alois Gorke, the Finance Coordinator, and other professional providers for their work and support during the year 2020.



Jane Golland
EDTNA/ERCA Treasurer

Website, applications and social media activities

The website of the EDTNA/ERCA represents the vision and mission of the Association and various activities and projects running in the EDTNA/ERCA.

An update of the layout of the EDTNA/ERCA website was carried out during 2020, to a more modern and user-friendly style. The educational section was updated with new publications, e-library articles, webinars and RenalPro discussions. The collaboration section was also improved and information about EDTNA/ERCA partners in Europe and around the globe can be found there.

Throughout the year we updated the home page of the website on a regular basis by providing news from the world of renal care and information about volunteer activities and educational events organized by the EDTNA/ERCA and our partners. During the year 2020 no physical conference took place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All educational activities were organized and carried out virtually. The webinars were recorded and may be found under the Education/Webinars section. The webinars are open for all users.

Several new and translated EDTNA/ERCA publications were uploaded to the education section of the webpage and are available to the EDTNA/ERCA members only. On the home page of the publication section there is a summary of all new publications available and open for all users. To get access to the full text of the EDTNA/ERCA publication the users must have a current EDTNA/ERCA membership.

The number of visitors to the site averages 900 to 1000 per month. You are welcome to visit our website: <https://www.edtnerca.org>

Social media channels are linked with the website to increase traffic to the website and improve its visibility. The most popular and used social media is Facebook. Our posts reach more than 1000 people. Our Instagram page is also very active and the number of followers continues to increase. Likewise, activities on Twitter and LinkedIn are continuing.

The Association's application was launched during 2020. It is available for download on both the app and google store. Quick and easy access to all EDTNA/ERCA activities are now possible also via mobile phone. Users may register to webinars, get access to the recorded materials and other educational materials.



Jane Golland

EC Link -Website & Social Media Link

Collaboration & Networking

The key to success is continuity and consistency! We have built up professional and sustainable relationship and collaboration with industry partners, universities and sister associations

Partners and Projects

European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association (ERA-EDTA)

Green Nephrology project

Arbor Research (AR)

Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study (DOPPS) project



Queen's University, Belfast (UK) – upcoming joint research

Violence and aggression prevention and management strategies in European renal units: a survey after ten years.

Experiences of renal healthcare practitioners globally during the COVID-19 pandemic: a mixed-methods study.

Brand Ambassadors Programme

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

The year 2020 was challenging to the BA team. The COVID-19 pandemic changed plans, the daily work in units and changed everything about life. Through this difficult and not predictable reality, the BA team stayed united and supported each other. When the first wave of the pandemic was behind us, the BA team members produced a supportive video. They had a chance to forward a thank you message to the nurses in their countries from EDTNA/ERCA, in their own language. The video was published on EDTNA/ERCA Social Media Channels and the EDTNA/ERCA website and got very positive feedback from members in different countries. You can find the video here: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3185511838165824>

The BA team stayed together through the whole year. Communication via e-mails and a WhatsApp group provided the opportunity to share experiences on how to care for nephrology patients infected with COVID-19, precaution methods and strategies, and finally vaccination programmes and strategies in various countries.

During the year 2020 no physical meetings were possible and the BA team have had ongoing communication with members and promoted the Association through various virtual channels: Zoom meetings, Webinars, Virtual seminars and Conferences. Three BA WebEx virtual meetings in an online format took place during 2020 and BA team members were updated with Association activities and projects.

Despite of the very difficult year we are proud to highlight various activities of the BA team on the national level, such as promotion of the Association through virtual channels, translation of educational materials, books, news, and translation and participation in surveys on behalf of the EDTNA/ERCA.

Our objective for the next year is to further expansion and development of the BA programme through encouragement and support in organizing virtual and physical 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 the nephrology community in Europe and worldwide.

We would like to thank our Brand Ambassadors for their hard work in the field of promoting activities, creating awareness of the EDTNA and bringing knowledge and education on the international level through the very challenging year.

To be inspired by BA activities and to see COVID-19 highlights from the countries please visit our BA web page on the EDTNA/ERCA website: <https://www.edtnerca.org/about-us/brand-ambassadors>

Australia and New Zealand– Lynn Brown

Belgium - Michel Roden

Croatia –Danijel Pripeljas

Cyprus- Despo Theodorou

Czech Republic – Jitka Pancirova

Denmark – Ditte Plum Olsen

Germany – Sabine Nipshagen

Greece - Stavroula Vovlianou

Ireland – Juby Susan Thomas

Italy- Silvia Corti

Israel – Galia Rusakov Barbalat

Lebanon -Hanadi Mezher

Lithuania – Irmina Vaicekauskyte

Poland –Aneta Trzcińska

Portugal – Carlos Goncalves

Romania- Paul Vasile

Saudi Arabia -Reem Saeed Mohammed Alhameedi

Serbia – Bozica Stupar

Slovenia – Sonja Pecolar

Netherlands – Aase Riemann

Turkey – Mukkadder - Mollaoğlu

United Kingdom – Alírio Belchior



Jane Golland

EC Member & BA Link

Consultants Activities-Projects

CKD Consultant

In 2019 I started writing on a publication – “Case management for patients with Advanced Kidney Disease – A Guide for Nurses”. The work on this book was finalised in spring 2020. The Co-Author was Noël Eichler, Case Manager Instructor, M.A. Public Health and Education Management and CEO of PeCa Institute – Germany. The booklet was produced in close cooperation with the EC Member and Publications Coordinator Anastasia Liossatou. It was published and promoted in September 2020, initially to be launched at the 49th EDTNA/ERCA International Conference in Ljubljana.



Angela Drähne
CKD Consultant

Education Consultant

Accreditation Project

Throughout 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic the accreditation committee has been very busy. The beginning of the year saw initial enquiries from potential new applicants wishing to apply for accreditations. These new applicants were mainly from Nipro in Belgium, University of Nicosia as well as Gulf Dialysis Company based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. A number of video conferences were held with these applicants to provide further information regarding the accreditation process. A number of existing EDTNA/ERCA Accreditation holders re-submitted applications for re-accreditation which further testifies to the inherent value of the EDTNA/ERCA Accreditation Programme. At the end of 2020, **a total of 8 applications were received for 10 programmes** seeking accreditation. The overall quality of applications was high although new applications needed additional extensive supported in preparing their applications. **A total income revenue generation for 2020 was Euro 52,500**. Celebrating the success of the applicants was essential during 2020 as there was no opportunity for the awards being presented during our annual conference. All applicants received a video conference call from myself as Accreditation Committee Chair as well as Edita Noruišienė in her role as President of EDTNA/ERCA. It was a wonderful opportunity share the successful award news with applicants from Hong Kong, Middle East, and across Europe. The applicants thoroughly enjoyed the video calls, and it was great to see not only the renal educators and teams receiving their awards but also the presence of Chief Executive Officers also on the calls.

The Accreditation Committee were unable to meet physically during 2020 due to the global pandemic and the planned 2 meetings scheduled for UK and Belgium were cancelled. Whilst the above output of the committee in terms of applications assessed is very positive, the significant amount of time the committee spent on reviewing applications was a challenge. With such a large volume of applications the necessity for the physical meetings of the accreditation committee is essential to support the committee in its work. The committee have some new plans to further improve and enhance the accreditation project in 2021 which will look at reviewing the accreditation standards and documents to improve the application process for future applicants. Additionally, further work is needed to review the marketing and branding of the project as well as reviewing how the current EDTNA/ERCA website can be further enhanced to support the project.

FMC & EDTNA/ERCA Renal Education Programme

The **FMC & EDTNA/ERCA Renal Nurses Education Programme** was last delivered in 2019 but due to COVID-19 the 2020 programme was cancelled. The close partnership EDTNA/ERCA has developed with Fresenius Medical Care has continued to be strengthened throughout 2020. FMC Dubai have appointed a new Education and Training Lead, Mr Ahmed Mahmeed, following the retirement of Maria Bautista. As Education Consultant I have continued to strengthen my partnership working with the new

appointee and have held a number of video calls to discuss the future ongoing development of the FMC & EDTNA/ERCA Renal Nurse Programme.

Two members of the EDTNA/ERCA education faculty stepped down from their roles due to personal reasons. Therefore, 2020 was used to recruit new faculty members to help deliver future programmes. A great response was received to the available positions which were advertised through the EDTNA/ERCA home page. Thirty-five applicants sent in CV's to be considered. Following an extensive and rigorous recruitment process, three new applicants were selected including applicants from UK, France and Qatar.

I look forward to working with faculty on development of the 14th FMC & EDTNA/ERCA programme in Istanbul in October 2021 subject to COVID-19 and travel restrictions being safer.

Revision of EDTNA/ERCA Post Basic Core Nephrology Nursing Curriculum

As the Education Consultant for EDTNA/ERCA I have the pleasure to report that work has commenced on revising the current 2nd Edition of the **Post Basic Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing**. As the lead for this project, I am working alongside Professor Nicola Thomas and Dr Margaret McCann in moving the project forward. A series of virtual meetings have been held to map out the scope of the work. This has resulted in gaining feedback from those members and colleagues within EDTNA/ERCA who may have used the curriculum. The project group will be welcoming a small group of volunteers to work alongside the project team on content development as well as other aspects of the revision of the 2nd edition. I look forward to the realisation of projects in 2021 and the continued working alongside volunteers inside and outside of EDTNA/ERCA on future projects.



*Dr John Sedgewick
EDTNA/ERCA Education Consultant (Middle East & Africa) Chair
EDTNA/ERCA Accreditation Committee*

Haemodialysis Consultant

As it is known, 2020 has been a difficult year for all of us. Our activities as consultants have decreased due the COVID-19 pandemic.

I represented EDTNA/ERCA as a guest speaker in GEMAV 2020 Virtual Congress thanks to the Collaboration Agreement signed between these two Associations last year. It was a new and very good experience. The talk was successful.

I hope that for the New Year we can restart all the activities and go on with the ones planned for the Conference, even if it is in a virtual format.



*Mr Ruben Iglesias
EDTNA/ERCA Haemodialysis Consultant*

Nutrition Consultant

2020 was a unique year for all. We all had to adjust to a new reality and change the way we interact with each other, work and collaborate.

My activities for EDTNA/ERCA include the following actions:

1. The project of Project of EDTA/ERA on the nutritional advice and the cooking manual is finally finalized. It is due to be on the internet in May 2021.
2. The manuscript based on the data of the Nutrition Project of EDTNA/ERCA with BBraun is in its final proof reading from the authors and it is due in May 2021 (Delays due to maternity leave of one of the authors). The project is challenging given the fact that we still did not manage to get the raw data from BBraun.
3. Participation in the refurbishment of the booklet CKD 1-3 by EDTNA/ERCA. The chapter on Nutrition in CKD1-3 chapter is already prepared (1st revision done. Expecting the 2nd revision).
4. I was a reviewer for the Abstracts for the Virtual Conference in 2021
5. According to my plans for the future activities I have to report the following:
 - Project 1: Trivia on CKD: Communication with the rest of the team. Slight delay due to COVID-19.
 - Project Booklet with algorithms: Progressing. Due in 2022



Dr Kalliopi Anna (Liana) Pouli
EDTNA/ERCA Nutrition Consultant

Paediatric Nephrology Consultant

During this year, I planned to work on 2 main projects: to write an e-article for the EDTNA/ERCA e-library and to prepare a workshop for the 49th Conference, both took place in a paediatric hospital in Qatar.

The e-article's title is **"An Innovative and Time-Efficient Dialysis Catheter and Exit-site Electronic Surveillance (DCES) Tool in the Paediatric Dialysis Unit"** and was written in collaboration with a Paediatric Nephrologist in the only paediatric dialysis unit in Qatar, the country where I work. The article's goal is to share with the HCPs, an overview of the development and the implementation of a user-friendly, time-efficient, electronic catheter screening tool to be utilized by the dialysis nurses at each dialysis session to assess for catheter function, patency and signs of infection.

The second project, "Paediatric Dialysis Workshop", was unfortunately put on hold due to the 49th Conference being postponed to 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of the workshop is to provide an overview of Haemodialysis, Peritoneal Dialysis and Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy in the paediatric population.



Ana Luisa Grilo
Paediatric Nephrology Consultant

Peritoneal Dialysis Consultant

During the first months of 2020, all the activities were developed preparing for the EDTNA/ERCA annual Conference. After April to December all efforts were prioritized to prevent SARS_COV2 infection and treat patients with COVID19.

Evaluated **33** abstracts for the annual Conference as Abstract Assessor and Chief Abstract Assessor

Attended a meeting on **Collaboration between Baxter & EDTNA/ERCA**

Preparing the workshop and PD session for the annual Conference: **Workshop - "Step by step – Building evidence in PD nursing care**

- We will continue with last year workshop theme, and analyse the proposal grid (evaluation form) to evaluate PD patient training education.
- Team – Aase Reiman, Susan Rogers, Maria Arminda Tavares



Maria Arminda Silva Tavares
EDTNA/ERCA Peritoneal Dialysis Consultant

Psychological Care Consultant

- **Guidelines for nurses – supporting patients who opt not to have dialysis or stop dialysis.**

The central focus of my work this year has been on the writing and editing the book entitled 'Guidelines for nurses – supporting patients who opt not to have dialysis or stop dialysis'. Work on this project was suspended with the outbreak of the coronavirus and the demands this made on all nurses, including the contributors. The project got back on track earlier in the year. Since then, there has been frequent communication between me and the contributors. Over the course of the past few months, drafts were received, read and sent back with suggestions or for clarification. All chapters, except one, have been received, edited and sent back to the author for approval. Once the one outstanding chapter has been received, reviewed and changes made if necessary, all chapters will be sent to Dr Siobhan MacHale, Consultant Psychiatrist in Beaumont Hospital, Dublin, who has agreed to write the Introduction. The timeline is as follows; all chapters plus Introduction will be sent to the EDTNA/ERCA Publications Coordinator by the end of January 2021. The book is due for publication by Conference 2021.

- **Audio Therapy**

A second project, with its focus on audio therapy, is at an early stage. Presently, there is a lot of discussion about how this project will evolve. I have been asked by the EC to lead this project



Mr Mike Kelly
EDTNA/ERCA Psychological Care Consultant

The Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns (DOPPS) Programme

The mission of the DOPPS Programme is to improve the experience of patients with kidney disease by identifying links between international variations in clinical practices and outcomes and the studies within the DOPPS Programme are designed to identify best practices for treating patients.

Started as a hemodialysis study in 1996, the DOPPS has tracked over 120,000 patients on hemodialysis, 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.

[Haemodialysis: DOPPS](#) is the main part of the DOPPS Programme but not the only one, also there are: [Peritoneal Dialysis: PDOPPS](#), designed to advance the understanding of optimal practices for peritoneal dialysis patients worldwide, the [Chronic Kidney Disease: CKDopps](#) studies chronic kidney disease (CKD) treatment variation and aims to identify practices associated with the best outcomes for patients with advanced CKD, [DOPPS Practice Monitor](#) (DPM) reports representative data in the form of more than 1,500 regularly updated charts, figures, and data tables, based on a sample of over 11,000 patients in more than 200 hemodialysis facilities, and also [Ancillary Studies](#). The DOPPS has a long history of successful collaborations with investigators around the world, including EURO DOPPS, the UK Catheter Study, and more.

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 EDTNA/ERCA, Mission to Achieve the best standard of treatment and support for Renal patients and families around the world, together with to provide continuing education in renal care and become the most recognized multi-disciplinary renal care organization in the world, was just “natural” and very easy to work together and to establish such a fruitful and beneficial relationship during the last 15 years, and as acknowledged in various reports EDTNA/ERCA has contributed to DOPPS development.

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 participate in the Steering Committee.

During the 15 years of fruitful collaboration with Arbor Research, EDTNA/ERCA has contributed to the growing impact of the DOPPS study within the Nephrology Community, in fact we are extremely happy to share with you that during 2020 we’ve have expanded our collaboration as we’re responsible for the data collection coordination also in France, with Marc Boogaert as CRA already doing a great job.

EDTNA/ERCA DOPPS team is:

- Product Manager and CRA lead Spain: Anna Marti I Monros
- CRA Spain: Elena Caverio.
- CRA Italy: Marisa Pegoraro.
- CRA France: Marc Boogaert
- CRA Belgium: Michel Roden.
- CRA Germany: Martin Schünemann.
- CRA UK: Karen Chalmers and Jennie King
- CRA Sweden: Jeanette Wallin.

During 2020 and as in previous years apart from all the data collecting coordinating activities in: United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Sweden, France and Spain, we have participated in the DOPPS Steering Committee activities and meetings a

DOPPS Symposium is organised in every EDTNA/ERCA Conference even when it is organised online as it was the case in 2020 and will be in 2021.

Due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, DOPPS has modified its Protocol in order to incorporated COVID- 19 related questions. The 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 description of patients' populations and analytical methods.



Anna Marti I Monros.
EDTNA/ERCA DOPPS Project Manager



RenalPro Discussion Forum

This has been a strange year for us to start as RenalPro moderators. We really enjoy working together. RenalPro has always been connected to EDTNA/ERCA but since November it is officially regulated by the association with the moderators being now added to the volunteer "family". Of course, the forum is still supported by the National Kidney foundation and the University of Alberta provides the technical support. COVID-19 put a strain on all our colleagues. But they still took the time to write emails with their knowledge, experience and questions. We had a lot of interesting topics to discuss.

Beside others we talked about:

- Vascular access (photo documentation, ultrasound, plastic cannula)
- Mental health support for patients
- Vascular access for TPE
- Backfiltration, min-UF, different filters
- Haemodialysis on patients receiving radioactive iodine
- Disinfection of dialysis machines
- Organization of ICU dialysis

Additionally, we managed a survey on COVID-19 with thankfully many participants. We are looking forward to another year with more interesting talks on RenalPro with our international colleagues. It is always informative and inspiring



Sabine Nipshagen & Chava Kurtz
RenalPro Moderators

Volunteer positions and representing countries

Executive Committee (EC)

Edita Noruisiene	Lithuania, President
Jane Golland	Israel, Treasurer
Ilaria de Barbieri	Italy, Member
Tai Mooi Ho Wong	Spain, Secretary
Anna Kliś	Poland, Member
Anastasia Liossatou	Greece, Member
Sonja Pečolar	Slovenia, Member
Maria Cruz Casal	Spain, Co-opted Member

Finance Coordinator

Alois Gorke	Germany
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English Proofreading Coordinator

Susan Rogers	The Netherlands
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Brand Ambassadors

Michel Roden	Belgium
Despo Theodorou	Cyprus
Danijel Pripeljas	Croatia
Jitka Pancirova	Czech Republic
Ditte Plum Olsen	Denmark
Sabine Nipshagen	Germany
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Silvia Corti	Italy
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Aneta Trzcińska	Poland
Carlos Gonzalvez	Portugal
Bozica Stupar	Serbia
Sonja Pečolar	Slovenia
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Aase Riemann	The Netherlands
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Ana Luisa Grilo
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UK-Education Middle East and Africa Consultant
Greece - Nutrition Consultant
Portugal - Peritoneal Dialysis Consultant
Ireland - Psychological Care Consultant
Spain- Haemodialysis Consultant
Germany -CKD Consultant
Qatar- Paediatric Nephrology Consultant
Greece- Project Leader

Scientific Board

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Italy - Data Manager
Denmark - Scientific Board Member
Spain – Scientific Board Member
UK – Scientific Board Member

Publications

Magnus Lindberg
Karen Nagalingam
Henning Søndergaard
Anna Kliš
Anastasia Liossatos

Sweden - Journal of Renal Care Editor
UK - Journal of Renal Care Associated Editor
Sweden – Journal of Renal Care Patient Editor
Poland, Newsletter Editor
Greece, Publications Coordinator

Dopps Project

Anna Marti I Monros
Martin Schünemann
Marisa Pegoraro
Marc Boogaert
Elena Caverio
Jeanette Wallin
Michel Roden
Jennie King
Karen Chalmers
Rafael Casas

Spain, Project Manager CRAs
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DOPPS CRA Italy
DOPPS CRA France
DOPPS CRA Spain
DOPPS CRA Sweden
DOPPS CRA Belgium
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