

New Joint Membership Program

The International National Society of Nephrology (ISN) has developed a Joint Membership Program to attract new members from the developing world. The annual ISN individual membership fee of \$120 which includes \$75 for *Kidney International (KI)* can be a substantial portion of a young nephrologist's salary in the developing world. Thus, there are many nephrologists in the developing world who have indicated their desire to join the ISN if reduced rates were made available. The ISN Joint Membership Program will allow from 2 to 10 individuals to have full ISN membership and to share a single *KI* issue for \$100/year. This offer is only for *new members from the developing world* [see country exclusion list based on World Bank annual proportional purchasing power (PPP) greater than \$10,000] and will be available until the next ISN Congress to be held in Sydney, Australia in May 25–29, 1997.

There may be as many as 30,000 physicians and Ph.D.'s interested in kidney disease in the world and currently there are only 6,500 ISN members. For example, of 2,000 nephrologists in China there are only 15 ISN members. There are 3,600 members of the Latin American Society of Nephrology and only 522 are ISN members. The ISN goal with the Joint Membership Program is to add 2,000 new members by the Sydney meeting in 1997. The ISN Council, the National and Regional Societies, and the ISN Commission for Developing Countries are being asked to help the ISN reach this goal. The applications for the Joint Membership are available from the ISN Treasurer's office: Craig Tisher, M.D., University of Florida, PO Box 100224, Gainesville, Florida 32610-0224. Each individual participating in a single Joint Membership must sign the application and commit to facilitate a sharing arrangement for the monthly issue of *KI*.

Kidney International (KI) Editorship

ISN Vice President Tom Andreoli has decided to complete his tenure as Editor of *KI* at the Sydney meeting. A search committee chaired by President-elect Kiyoshi Kurokawa and including Craig Tisher and Pierre Ronco has been formed to consider recommendations for the next *KI* editor. The ISN membership is asked to send recommendations to Dr. Kurokawa, First Department Internal Medicine, University of Tokyo, Faculty of Medicine, 7-3-1 Hongo-Bunkyo-Ku, 113 Tokyo, Japan.

ISN Renal Sister Centers

ISN Secretary General Jan Weening is Chair of a committee to develop a world-wide ISN Registry of Renal Centers. Gavin Becker (Asia), Jan Weening (Europe), Jaime Herrera-Acousta (Latin America) and Daniel Bichet (North America) are now gathering information for this Registry. The Registry will be used initially to develop Sister Renal Center relationships between renal centers in developed countries and developing countries. Such ISN Sister Renal Centers can optimally be built on existing or previous relationships (that is, former fellows, visiting professorships, friendships, etc.). Directors of renal centers in developing and developed countries (see World Bank list) are asked to

communicate potential ISN Sister Center relationships to The ISN Secretary General, Dr. Weening, Department of Pathology, Academic Medical Center, Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

ISN Forefront Meetings

Drs. Heini Murer (Zurich) and Robert Alpern (Dallas) have succeeded Dr. Gerhard Giebisch as the Co-Chairman of the Forefront meetings which have the goal of bringing the latest science to nephrology. The 1996 meetings will be (1) "Oxygen Sensing on the Cellular and Molecular Level", June 23–26, 1996, Directors Armin Kurtz and C. Bauer (Regensburg, Germany); and (2) "Cytokines and Adhesion Molecules", September 12–15, 1996, Directors Wayne Border and E. Ruoslahti (Utah). In 1997, "Genetics and Genes in Hypertension" will be held in Krakow, Poland, Directors Detlev Ganten, Friedrich Luft and H. Haller. In the early months of 1998, there will be a Forefront on "Cell Cycling."

Computerized Informatics Committee

An ISN Computerized Information Committee is co-chaired by Drs. Kim Solez (Edmonton) and Zal Agus (Philadelphia). There is an ISN Home Page on the World Wide Webb of the Internet which describes ISN programs, list of officers, councilors and members of the Commission for Developing Countries. This committee is working closely with the publishers of *KI*, Blackwell Science, Inc. World Wide Web addresses are: North America—<http://synapse.uah.ualberta.ca/synapse/000p0035.htm>. Europe—<http://fester.bis.path.cam.ac.uk/big/synapse/000p0035.htm>.

The Committee has been active in planning ways to provide used computer equipment, CD-ROM based educational material, and Internet connections to nephrologists in the developing world. Innovative and creative ways of using computer resources at international meetings to enhance communication are also being considered.

Ethics Committee

The ISN now funds approximately \$1 million/year in international nephrology programs—including the ISN Fellowship Program, Forefront Program, Travel Grants for Young Nephrologists to Congresses, Visiting Scholars, Continuing Medical Education courses and Educational materials for developing countries. An Ethics Committee will be formed to ensure that ISN funds are used for ethically acceptable programs. The Committee will be chaired by Past President Stewart Cameron and members include Peter Little (New Zealand), Terry Strom (Boston, USA), and Leishi Li (China). Recent questions raised which the committee will consider include the sale of kidneys and the use of kidneys from executed prisoners for transplantation.

Nominating Committee for Sydney Congress Elections

Michael Dunn (Milwaukee) chairs the Nominating Committee for the 1997 ISN elections in Sydney. According to the revised ISN

Constitution each continent has a representative on the Nominating Committee: Michael Dunn (North America), Nestor Schorr (Latin America), Michele Goldman (Europe), Rashad Barsoum (Africa) and Hai-Yan Wang (Asia). The Committee will recommend to the ISN Council and membership names for the President-elect, Vice President, Treasurer, four departing European Councilors, one departing North American Councilor and two departing Asian Councilors. No Councilors from Latin America are leaving the Council in Sydney. Councilors, the Treasurer, and the Secretary General serve three two-year terms; other officers serve one two-year term. The membership is asked to submit names to Dr. Dunn, University Hospitals, 2074 Abington Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44106 for consideration for these positions.

Clinical Trials Task Force

The need for prevention of the progression of renal diseases to end-stage renal disease (ESRD) is a major challenge for nephrology. The establishment of therapies to achieve this goal will necessitate proof by prospective randomized clinical trials. The availability of large numbers of patients is important to facilitate such trials, and this perhaps could be more easily obtained on an international rather than national basis. An ISN task force will be formed to investigate whether an international network of renal centers can be established to facilitate such trials.

ISN Congresses

Sydney Program Committee

The Program Committee for Sydney is hard at work developing a premier scientific program for the XIVth International Congress of Nephrology. This is the first time that the ISN will hold a joint Congress meeting with a regional nephrology society, namely, the Asian-Pacific Nephrology Society. Robert Atkins, M.D. (Melbourne) will be President of the Asian-Pacific Society at the time of the Congress and he will also be President of the Congress. Dr. Atkins has appointed David Harris as the Chairman of the local Program Committee and I have appointed Saulo Klahr, M.D. (St. Louis) as Chairman of the ISN Program Committee for the Sydney Congress. Drs. Harris and Klahr and their committee members are forging an outstanding program and ISN members are asked to forward suggestions to them. The program will again be built around themes, an approach which was very successful at Jerusalem and Madrid Congresses. The Sydney themes include: (1) Tubule development, function and disorder; (2) Acute renal failure and environmental kidney disease; (3) Inflammatory renal disease; (4) Progressive chronic renal disease; (5) Hypertension and vascular disease; (6) Dialysis; and (7) Transplantation.

Future ISN Congresses

In 1999, the ISN will join the Latin American Society of Nephrology in holding the XVth Congress in Rio de Janeiro, and in 2001 the ISN will join the American Society of Nephrology in holding the XVIth Congress in San Francisco.

ISN Fellowship Program

The ISN Fellowship Program continues to flourish with over 100 fellows having been funded. The program is now being

directed by Jan Weening, ISN Secretary-General; Dr. Weening is in the process of reviewing the post-fellowship activities of former ISN Fellows. The ISN is generally able to fund approximately 20% of the candidates. There are, however, other acceptable candidates who are not funded because of fiscal constraints. National Societies and renal centers in the developed world are, therefore, being asked to provide a stipend (\$22,500/year) so that additional ISN fellows can be funded. If a national society or renal center provides funds, the candidate would be assigned to that country or renal center. The candidate has to have a committed position to return to his/her developing country on completion of the ISN fellowship. The American Society of Nephrology and the British Renal Association are already providing funds to support ISN fellows, and Emory University (Director, Bill Mitch) will be providing funds for an ISN fellow. Applications for ISN fellowships are available from Jan Weening, M.D., Department of Pathology, Academic Medical Center, Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ, Amsterdam.

ISN Commission for Global Enhancement of Nephrology

This Commission, which is Co-chaired by Drs. Barry Brenner and John Dirks, has been extremely active in holding educational programs throughout the developing world. The following individuals are Chairs of the Subcommittees of this Commission: *Asia*—Kiyoshi Kurokawa (Japan), *Latin America*—Jaime Herrera-Acosta (Mexico), *Africa*—Pierre Grunfeld (France), *Central and Eastern Europe*—Eberhard Ritz (Germany), and *Commonwealth of Independent States*—Barry Brenner (United States).

In closing, it is clear that the nephrology world is getting much smaller from a scientific and educational vantage point. Many members of the ISN are now participating in a variety of ISN programs which have the global goal of enhancing the quality of care, education and research in nephrology worldwide. The new Joint Membership and the Sister Renal Centers Program should complement the existing ISN programs such as the Fellowship and Visiting Scholars Programs, Commission for Developing Countries, Forefronts program and CME courses in developing countries to contribute to that goal.

ROBERT W. SCHRIER
President, ISN

Table 1. Developed countries based on World Bank PPP.

Australia	Japan
Austria	Kuwait
Belgium	Luxembourg
Canada	Netherlands
Cyprus	New Zealand
Denmark	Norway
Finland	Qatar
France	Singapore
Germany	Spain
Hong Kong	Sweden
Iceland	Switzerland
Ireland	Taiwan
Israel	United Arab Emirates
Italy	United Kingdom
	United States