**Announcements**

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For more information please contact: ERA–EDTA Congress Office, Tel: +39 521 290 343; Fax: +39 521 291 777; E-mail: eraedta@ipruni.cce.unipr.it.

### The Renal Divisions of the Medical Faculties of Gent and Heidelberg, with the support of Fresenius Medical Care, announce a new initiative

The academy organizes a post-graduate course on: ‘Non-dialytic and dialytic management of endstage renal disease patients’. The three-day course will be organized twice a year, alternating between Gent and Heidelberg. Lectures in Gent will be in English, in Heidelberg in English and German.

The target audience are first year trainees in nephrology. The total number of participants is limited to 40 per course. They will be selected, based on their curriculum vitae, by an international jury. In the first year, priority will be given to participants from Austria, Benelux, Germany and Switzerland. Registration and accommodation are free. Support for travel costs will be provided.

The first course will take place in Gent from April 23–25, 1999. The second course will take place in Heidelberg from October 1–3, 1999.

Applications for the first course, including CV and potential list of publications should be sent, before January 31, 1999 to: Prof. Dr. Norbert Lameire, Renal Division, University Hospital Gent, De Pintelaan 185, B-9000 Gent, Belgium.

### Vascular Access Society

The multidisciplinary VASCULAR ACCESS SOCIETY (VAS) was inaugurated during the International Congress on Access for Dialysis in October 1997 in Maastricht, The Netherlands, by a group of experts in vascular surgery, diagnostic/interventional radiology and nephrology from four European countries. The main objective of the new society is to join all the physicians with the same interest: the creation and the maintenance of the vascular access for haemodialysis. Furthermore, multicentre clinical studies will be initiated, basic research concerning haemodynamic flow characteristics and intimal proliferation will be supported. Recent clinical developments in vascular access (arteriovenous fistulas, grafts, central venous catheters) and results of research will be presented during a biannual scientific congress. In addition, the VAS will organize every year a basic multidisciplinary course on basic surgical, nephrological and radiologic techniques in access creation and intervention. The purpose of this course is to educate and train young physicians and staff members.

For membership, please contact the secretary of the VAS: Dr J. H. M. TORDOIR, Department of Surgery, University Hospital Maastricht, PO Box 5800, NL-6202 AZ Maastricht, The Netherlands. Tel: +31-43-38 75 491. Fax: +31-43-38 75 473. E-mail: YDA@SHEE.AZM.NL.

Additional information is also available by the homepage of the VAS on internet: http://www.tip.nl/users/vas.access.The total number of participants is limited to 40 per course. They will be selected, based on their curriculum vitae, by an international jury. In the first year, priority will be given to participants from Austria, Benelux, Germany and Switzerland. Registration and accommodation are free. Support for travel costs will be provided.

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Additional information is also available by the homepage of the VAS on internet: http://www.tip.nl/users/vas.access. The purpose of the meeting is to review for the practising nephrologist, cardiologist and hypertensiologist the patho-physiologic, clinical and therapeutic advances in the major areas of cardionephrology.

The first course will take place in Gent from April 23–25, 1999. The second course will take place in Heidelberg from October 1–3, 1999.

Applications for the first course, including CV and potential list of publications should be sent, before January 31, 1999 to: Prof. Dr. Norbert Lameire, Renal Division, University Hospital Gent, De Pintelaan 185, B-9000 Gent, Belgium.

### Seventh European Meeting on Cardionephrology

**15–17 April 1999, Assisi, Italy**

The purpose of the meeting is to review for the practising nephrologist, cardiologist and hypertensiologist the patho-physiologic, clinical and therapeutic advances in the major areas of cardionephrology.

The principal topics are: the heart in glomerulonephritis; cardiorenal disease in women; cardiovascular disorders in pre-eclampsia; ischaemic renal disease, hypervolemia in haemodialysis patients, shock syndrome in the lung and kidney antiphospholipid antibodies syndrome and renal disease, oedema syndromes. For further information contact: Prof. Mario Timio, Dept of Internal Medicine and Nephrology, Teaching Hospital of Foligno, via dell'Ospedale, 06034 Foligna, Italy. Tel: +39-0742-339760; Fax: +39-0742-339310; E-mail: timma@maildex-net.com

### 4th Scientific Meeting of the Hypertension in Diabetes (HID) EASD (European Association for the Study of Diabetes) Study Group

**23–24 April 1999, Katowice, Poland**

The 4th Scientific Meeting of the Hypertension in Diabetes (HID) EASD Study Group (HID) will take place in Katowice, Poland on the 23rd and 24th April 1999. The deadline for submission of abstracts is the 31st December 1998. The meeting is open to all members who present an abstract.

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The XV International Congress of Nephrology, Acute Renal Failure Satellite Meeting 7–8 May 1999, Santiago, Chile

The ISN and Chilean Society of Nephrology are very pleased to announce the forthcoming ISN Satellite Symposium on Acute Renal Failure that will be held in Santiago, Chile on 7–8 May 1999. This in-depth review on Acute Renal Failure (ARF) will include the most important topics in basic and clinical renal medicine: pathophysiology, epidemiology and prevention, major advances in cellular and molecular biology, gene therapy, nephrotoxicity, ARF in transplantation, ARF in the Intensive Care Unit and tropical ARF. The deadline for abstracts is February 1st, 1999.

For further information, please contact the Chilean Society of Nephrology, Bernarda Morin 488, Santiago, Chile. Tel: +56 2 341 3439; Fax: +56 2 341 9457; E-mail: schenef@ctcreuna.cl http://www.ctcinternet/nefrologia

Official Satellite Symposium to the XVth ICN 7–9 May 1999, Iguazu Falls

After the XVth International Congress of Nephrology in Buenos Aires, Argentina, a satellite meeting on ‘Advances in the Pathogenesis and Treatment of Renal Osteodystrophy’ will be held at Iguazu Falls (the spectacular water falls are located between Argentina and Brazil). The participants will fly from Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls (Argentinian side) on May 7 and travel by bus to the Brazilian side where the meeting will be held (May 7, registration and evening reception). The organizing committee members are Drs Eduardo Slatopolsky (USA) and Jorge Cannata (Spain).

American citizens will require a visa to enter Brazil. Participants from other countries should check with their Brazilian consulate.

For further information send a fax or e-mail to: Bayfem Organization, Fax: 54-1 812-1021 E-Mail: hayfem@ibm.net

Nordic Conference on Renal Diseases ‘Nordiska NJurdagar’, 50th Anniversary Congress 16–19 May 1999, Tampere, Finland

Organised by the Finnish Society of Nephrology, Tampere University Hospital and University of Tampere. Deadline for abstracts submission is January 31, 1999.

For further information contact: ‘Nordiska NJurdagar’ Tampere Conference Service Ltd. Box 630, FIN-33101 Tampere, Finland. Tel: +358 3 3664400; Fax: +358 3 2226440; E-mail: registration@tampereconference.fi Web: http://www.uta.fi/~kljof/nefro99.htm
1999 Necker Seminars in Nephrology
17–19 May 1999, Paris, France

For further information and programme, contact Doreen Bronner, Département de Néphrologie, Hôpital Necker, 161 Rue de Sèvres, 75743 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: +33 (0)1 44 49 54 13; Fax: +33 (0)1 44 49 54 50; E-mail: doreen.bronner@nck.ap-hop-paris.fr

Angioaccess for haemodialysis, 2nd International Multidisciplinary Symposium
31 May, 1–2 June 1999, Tours, Val de Loire, France

Technical organization: CR2 Conseil, 60 rue du Dessous des Berges, F-75013 Paris, France. Tel: +33-1-53 79 05 05. Fax: +33-1-53 79 26 88. E-mail: caro@cr2conseil.com.

31st International Conference on Transplantation and Clinical Immunology
Immunosuppression under Trial
3–4 June 1999, Lyon, France

A 2-day international meeting with transplant physicians, pharmacologists, immunologists and methodologists, towards critical appraisal of immunosuppression. Invited lectures, interactive round tables and original experiences.

For further information contact: Secretariat, CITIC, Fondation Marcel Mérieux, 17 rue Bourgelat, F-69227 Lyon 2, France. Tel: 33 4 72 73 79 20, Fax: 33 4 72 73 79 93. E-mail: citic99@asi.fr. Web: http://www.fond-merieux.org

Renal Bone Symposium
5–6 July 1999, Manchester

Nephrology '99 — ‘International Conference on Renal Bone Disease’ — 5–6 July 1999, at Whitworth Art Gallery (Manchester Royal Infirmary), Manchester, England. Leading speakers from the USA, Japan and Europe. The meeting comprises invited lectures only. The meeting is aimed at clinicians with an interest in renal osteodystrophy and divalent ion metabolism. Topics will include: parathyroid hormone, Vitamin D and phosphate metabolism, cellular mechanisms and histological aspects of renal bone disease. For further information please contact: Mrs D. Comer, Nephrology '99, Dept of Renal Medicine, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9WL. Fax: +44 161 276 8022; E-mail: dcomer@renal.cmht.nwest.nhs.uk

Training Course in Nephrology
4–5 September 1999, Madrid, Spain
Co-ordinator: Prof. Jorge B. Cannata-Andia

For the third consecutive year, the Annual ERA-EDTA Congress will be preceded by a Training Course in Nephrology. The purpose of the course is to give updated reviews in the field of nephrology, trying to link the most basic, recent research, with clinical practice. The course will include a variety of topics with the aim of covering the spectrum from molecular biology to patient care. Experts in different fields have been selected as speakers.

The ERA-EDTA Pre-Congress Training Course consists of six sessions on different topics, for which outlines and slides will be provided. A voluntary multiple choice examination will be organized at the end of the course. Participants who have passed the examination will receive a certificate.

The XXXVI ERA-EDTA Madrid Congress is an excellent occasion to attract Latin American colleagues, and therefore the Training Course will include simultaneous translation into Spanish.

The maximum number of participants is 250. To receive additional information, please contact the ERA-EDTA Congress Oifice, Casella Postale 474-Parma Sud, I-43100 Parma, Italy. Fax: +39 0521 291 777. E-mail: eraedta@ipru-niv.cce.unipr.it

Fernando Valderrabano
XXXVI ERA EDTA Congress President

Scientific Programme
Introduction: J Cannata (Oviedo).


Session VI: Epidemiology of renal disease based on registry data. Chairman: R. Krediet (Amsterdam). Contribution of epidemiological studies to our knowledge of ESRD, R. Krediet (Amsterdam). Registry data on haemodialysis, D. Tsakiris (Thessaloniki). Registry data on peritoneal dialysis, R. Krediet (Amsterdam).

Sixth Budapest Nephrology School
23–28 September 1999, Under the Auspices of ISN

The sixth Budapest Nephrology School is scheduled for 23–28 September, 1999 at the Semmelweis University of Budapest, Hungary. The programme will include both tutorial and collaborative educational sessions.
Medical Sciences. Internationally known speakers will address up to date topics in nephrology, dialysis and transplantation, emphasizing on pathophysiological mechanisms and treatment modalities. Associated workshops will be organized.

For further information please write to: Laszlo Rosivall, MD, Department of Pathophysiology, International Research and Training Centre, Semmelweis Medical University, Nagyvarad ter 4, Budapest, Hungary. Tel/Fax: +36 1 2100 100; E-mail: rosasz@net.sote.hu

17th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Blood Purification
7–9 October 1999, Prague, Czech Republic

The 17th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Blood Purification will be held in Prague, Czech Republic on 7–9 October, 1999.

Planned topics for symposia include: continuous renal therapies for acute renal failure, management of hypertension in end-stage renal disease and current status and perspectives of plasma exchange. There will be also free communications and poster presentations.

For further information contact Vladimir Tesaf, M.D., Ph.D., Division of Nephrology, 1st Department of Medicine, Charles University, U nemocnice 2, 128 08 Prague 2, Czech Republic. Tel: +420 24962690; Fax: +420 297932; E-mail: tesarv@beba.cesnet.cz; Internet: http://www.ISBP.org

Cigarette Smoking and Kidney Involvement
9 October 1999, Milan, Italy

Renal impairment in chronic cigarette smokers and the renal risks of smoking have recently been focused, nevertheless these issues are still neglected by nephrologists. For these reasons we are proposing a Seminar on: ‘Cigarette Smoking and Kidney Involvement’ – Milan, October 9, 1999.

For further information contact: Adalberto Sessa, Unità Operativa di Nefrologia e Dialisi, Ospedale di Vimercate, Vimercate 20850, Italy. Tel: +39 039 6654327; Fax: +39 039 669079; E-mail: adsess@tin.it

Fifth International Conference on Geriatric Nephrology and Urology
21–23 October 1999, Salamanca, Spain

Main topics will include: glomerular diseases and vasculitis, osteopathies in the elderly, diabetic nephropathy and hypertension in the elderly, urinary incontinence, renal handling of electrolytes in the elderly, haemodialysis and the elderly, CAPD, acute renal failure in the elderly, and benign prostate hyperplasia. Free communications on geriatric nephrology and urology will be also admitted.

For further information contact: Prof. José M. López-Novoa, 5th International Conference on Geriatric Nephrology and Urology, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, University of Salamanca, Campus Unamuno, E-37007 Salamanca, Spain. Tel: 34 923 294472, Fax: 34 923 294669. E-mail: jmlnovoa@gugu.usal.es

Xth International Symposium on Urolithiasis
13–17 February 2000, Cape Town, South Africa

Topics: Supersaturation/physical chemistry; Crystallization modifiers/transport physiology; Nutrition/dietary risk factors; Metabolic evaluation/medical therapy/stone clinic nursing; Lithotripsy; Endourology; Epidemiology/economics of stone disease; Genetics/primary hyperoxaluria/pediatric stone disease; Stone disease in animals.

For further information contact Professor Allen Rodgers, Symposium Chairman, Chemistry Department, University of Cape Town, South Africa 7701, Tel: +27 21 650 2572; Fax: +27 21 686 7647; E-mail: alleren@psipsy.uct.ac.za

Commission for the History of Nephrology
Funding Opportunities

Student scholarships
Four scholarships of $500 each are available for competition by students wishing to embark upon short studies on the history of nephrology. Applications should include the name of supervisor and a brief description of the project.

MSc in the History of Nephrology
The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine offers a one year MSc course and would consider favourably applications from students and members of the ISN.

MD degree in History of Nephrology for UK medical graduates
The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine has a support scheme for medically qualified individuals who wish to obtain a higher degree in the History of Medicine. This is usually a two year period of study culminating in the submission of a thesis. Appropriate supervisors would be suggested.

PhD studentships in the History of Nephrology
The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine would look favourably upon suitable candidates who wish to apply for 3 years of funding to support studies towards a PhD.

For further information on the above, please write with details to: Professor L. G. Fine, Chairman, Commission on the History of Nephrology, UCL Medical School, Department of Medicine, 5 University Street, London WC1E 6JJ, UK. Fax: +44 171 209 6211.

PhD studentships in the History of Nephrology
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Roche provides major new source of funding for transplantation research

Montreal, 17th World Congress of the Transplantation Society, 15 July 1998
Organ transplantation research is to be given a major boost by funds from a new non-profit making charity dedicated to improving the outcome for organ transplant patients.

The Roche Organ Transplantation Research Foundation (ROTRF) has been established by the Swiss Pharmaceuticals company F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, which has pledged 25 million Swiss Francs to the Foundation over the next 5 years.

The Chairman of the Foundation, Professor Philip Halloran, Medical Director of the Transplantation Programme at the University of Alberta Hospitals, Edmonton, Canada, said:

‘The trustees hope that the funds available through the ROTRF will permit transplantation researchers to develop
new technologies and areas of interest, and will encourage researchers in other fields to study transplantation problems. The trustees congratulate Roche for taking the bold and creative step of establishing the ROTRF as a charity with a broad mandate in research.

Announcing the launch of the ROTRF at the 17th World Congress of the Transplantation Society, Professor Halloran said that one of the priority areas for funding was research aimed at improving the long-term survival of transplanted organs. (Currently only about 50% of kidney transplants survive 10 years.) Increased long-term graft survival would reduce the need for re-transplantation and cut the waiting period for first-time transplants.

Other areas of research which will attract funding from the Foundation include: ways of improving the tissue matching of organ donor and recipient; better techniques for preserving organs awaiting transplantation; and the induction of tolerance—conditioning of the immune system to accept a transplanted organ without the need for immunosuppressive drugs. Human cloning research will not be considered.

Chief Executive Officer for F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Dr Franz Humer, said: ‘There are some areas of this difficult and innovative field of medicine that cannot be readily addressed by the pharmaceutical industry alone but need the collaboration of academia, practising physicians and industry. Such research, however, is vital to achieve our ultimate aim of improving patients’ care, treatment and quality of life.’

All grant applications will be examined by the Foundation’s Scientific Advisory Committee which will score them on scientific excellence, relevance to human solid organ transplantation and originality.

In order to encourage a wide range of grant applications, researchers are first being invited to complete a brief form via the Internet which outlines their research proposal (see web page: http://www.ROTRF.org). Those that are short-listed will be invited to submit a full application on paper.

The final decision on the number and size of the grants will be made by the ROTRF’s Board of seven Executive Trustees, who will award grants biannually at selected dates.

Roche’s Transplantation Marketing Manager Tim Waugh said: ‘The establishment of the Foundation demonstrates Roche’s commitment to transplantation over the long term and further strengthens our relationship with the transplant community.’

The members of the ROTRF Board of Trustees are: Professor Philip Halloran, Professor Pekka Häyry (President of the Transplantation Society), Professor Leslie Miller, Professor Sir Peter Morris, Professor Hans Sollinger and Dr Robert Booth.

For further information, please contact: Jim McGuigan or Brian Parsons, Colwood Communications, The Mitfords, Basingstoke Road, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 1AT, UK. Tel +44 (0) 118 988 6555; Fax +44 (0) 118 988 6505.

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**Erratum**

**Does the parathyroid ‘see’ phosphate?**

Ken-ichi Miyamoto, Sawako Tatsumi, Kyoko Morita and Eiji Takeda

*NDT (1998) 13: 2727–2729*

In this Editorial Comment the first sentence contains an error. It should read: Parathyroid hormone (PTH) regulates the serum phosphate ($P_i$) concentration through its effect on the kidney to increase $P_i$ clearance and decrease serum $P_i$. This becomes an important problem in severe renal failure.