

# The International Society of Nephrology (ISN) Committee on Kidney Health in Disadvantaged Populations: 18 years of work

## El Comité de Salud Renal en Poblaciones en Desventaja de la Sociedad Internacional de Nefrología a 18 años de su fundación

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The renal health committee in disadvantaged populations of the International Society of Nephrology (CKHDP) was established in 1997 under the leadership of Dr. David Pugsley. Initially it was denominated as the “Committee of Renal Disease in Indigenous and Minority Populations”, with the mission of improving renal health in vulnerable groups, both in emerging countries and in developed nations, which suffer disproportionately from a higher incidence of renal diseases.

In the beginning the groups included were ethnic and minority groups, such as the indigenous communities of the American continent and the Australian aborigines, as well as African and Latino individuals in the United States of America. Later, recognizing the impact that poverty had on kidney disease and limiting access to renal replacement therapies, the definition was extended to the population groups living in vulnerable situations throughout the world.

Among the objectives of the committee the following stand out: 1) Organize events with the purpose of bringing together health professionals and other professions that share the interest in the mission of the committee; 2) Advocate for access to renal health for disadvantaged populations; 3) Promote the prevention of kidney disease as well as access to renal replacement therapy at a reasonable cost; 4) Advocate for the inclusion of renal disease within the public health agenda of national ministries of health, as well as international health organizations.

Since the foundation of the committee, its most important activity has been the organization of numerous international meetings on the subject of renal health in disadvantaged populations. The first of these was held in 1997 in the Aboriginal Territory of Uluru (Ayers Rock, Australia), following the 14th ISN meeting in Melbourne, Australia. In 1999 a symposium on renal disease was organized in autochthonous and minority groups at the 15th Congress of the ISN in Buenos Aires, Argentina, followed by a similar meeting at

the American Society of Nephrology Congress, Toronto, Canada (2000). It has since then organized satellite symposia at the world congresses of nephrology held in San Francisco, CA (2001), Singapore (2005), Rio de Janeiro (2007), Milan (2009), Vancouver (2011) and Hong Kong (2013). A congress was held in Ensenada, Mexico (2003).

An important component of these meetings have been scholarships grants to health professionals from emerging countries to attend and participate, either through the presentation of free jobs or as speakers, as well as the opportunity to publish their work in Journals of international circulation. The publication of these supplements would not have been possible without the extraordinary editorial work of Dr. David Pugsley.

In addition to the congresses mentioned before, the committee has organized two regional meetings in Latin America. The first one in Antigua, Guatemala (2008), and the second in Resistencia, El Chaco, Argentina (2010). In both meetings, representatives of the Pan American Health Organization participated for the first time, initiating a management process that culminated in the inclusion of chronic kidney disease within the regional consultation "Priorities for the Cardiovascular Health in the Americas: Key Messages for Decision-Makers", of PAHO.

Reflecting its international character, several members of our committee, such as Omar Abboud (Qatar), Lawrence Agodoa (NIDDK, NIH, USA), Ebun Bamgboye (Nigeria), John Dirks (Toronto, Canada), Roland Dyck (Saskatoon, Canada), Giovanni Fogazzi (Italy), Guillermo Garcia-Garcia (Guadalajara, Mexico), Wendy Hoy (Brisbane, Australia), Randall Lou-Meda (Guatemala), Sarala Naicker (Johannesburg, South Africa), Andrew Narva (Indian Health Service, Albuquerque, USA), Keith Norris (Los Angeles, USA), K.S. Prabhakar (Singapore), David Pugsley (Adelaide, Australia), Bernardo Rodriguez-Iturbe (Venezuela), Jaime Herrera Acosta (Mexico), Jose Suassuna (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Hai Yang Wang (China) and Sidney Tang (Hong Kong).

The committee has also co-organized international scientific events with the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2009), the Brazilian Society of Nephrology (Sao Luis de Maranhao, Brazil, 2011) and the Caribbean Institute of Nephrology (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 2014).

In this way the CKHDP has contributed decisively in positioning renal health in disadvantaged populations as a public health priority in the international health agenda.

## References

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