

Newsletter

Editorial. O. Bonny

Incredible Swiss nephrology! Two major randomized controlled interventional trials performed entirely in Switzerland and published in the best medical journals (The Lancet and the New England Journal of Medicine) early this year! Congratulations to Nilufar Mohebbi, Rudolf W thrich and their team on one side and Daniel Fuster, Beat Roth, Sven Trelle and their teams on the other side for these exceptional achievements. This momentum illustrates the strength of collaboration. Indeed, Switzerland is too small and too fragmented for single centers to recruit patients in such large studies. Only large collaborative networks are able to lead successful trials. We hope that other large national initiatives will follow now that the movement has started, that the expertise is present and that the support of the Swiss National Science Foundation is still active (program IICT, next deadline May 26, 2023).

Regarding clinical collaborative networks, the SSN, through its Working Group on Rare and Inherited Kidney Disorders led by Uyen Huynh-Do submitted the **RARE-Kidney network** to the KOSEK. This national committee is in charge of organizing the management of rare disorders in Switzerland. The SSN is proposing a collaborative network made of 7 reference centers and numerous associated centers in order to manage patients with rare and inherited kidney disorders in Switzerland. We will know during the year if our network and the reference centers will be recognized by this important committee.

On the same line, Andreas Kistler is launching a national registry on glomerulonephritis, which will fill an important gap in Switzerland. During the preparation of the application to the KOSEK, we noticed that all centers of nephrology have a few patients with glomerulonephritis, but no real national count is available. In order to prepare for future research in this area, the first step is to go over the loco-regional reflex and launch a national registry.

Swiss basic research in the renal field was supported for 12 years by the NCCR program of the Swiss National Science Foundation. Collaborations and excellent research have resulted. The SSN would like now to entertain this productive network. A virtual lab meeting is launched and a basic research day will take place on January 2024.

You will find other news from your Society in the next lines.

Happy Spring!

News:

- Fruitful congress 2022: thanks to Thomas Fehr, Pietro Cipp  , the organizing committee and our partner Meeting.com, our meeting was not only a scientific and dynamic success, but provided also a great financial result. Our Cashier Fabien Stucker is harboring a large smile on his face!
- The Board decided to launch a working group on green nephrology. More to come, but if you have interest on this topic, contact Menno Pruijm.
- The Board decided that it is too early to recommend a specific eGFR formula. The debate between CKD-EPI-2021 and other formula, including the gender and race-free formula developed in Europe recently (EKFC eGFRcystatine) is still too active to decide now.
- Tolvaptan license has been prolonged up to 2026 in Switzerland. The FOPH (BAG/OFSP) threatened to suspend the reimbursement of this established ADPKD treatment. SSN was active in writing to the FOPH and in defending the >400 patients treated in Switzerland together with the patient association AIRG-Suisse.

- Actilyse Flowcath is still under shortage, up to the end of 2023. We will keep you informed if arrival of vials could be expected before.
- The SSN was active in refining the indication for finerenone in collaboration with Vifor and the FOPH. We hope that this drug will be available and reimbursed soon.
- Medical nomenclature is sometimes difficult and wording might have dramatic effect on patients. Following the KDIGO initiative that defined the English nomenclature to be used during medical interviews with patients, in patient charts, or in scientific reports, a German and a Spanish version were also prepared. The SSN has decided to launch an international group for a French version of the renal medical nomenclature together with the French Society (SFNDT) and other French-speaking societies (Canada, Belgium, Algeria,...). Patient organizations are part of the committee. The first meeting was organized on March 2 and the work has started.
- The next written exam for the ISFM title in nephrology (ESENeph) will take place on September 13, 2023 (registration May 24 to June 21). The next oral exam session will take place in January 2024. The YSN have organized dedicated training sessions covering all topics. The Board has endorsed this training program.
- Accreditation of our post-graduate formation is ongoing. Andreas Fischer and his committee have to make an pre-specified auto-evaluation
- The SSN quitted the collective membership to ISN on January 1st 2023, but we encourage you to pursue individual membership.
- The SSN will join the ERA collective membership on January 1st 2024. All SSN members will be affiliated to ERA. Please, let us know if you could qualify as senior ERA member, defined as:
 - o ERA active member for >15 consecutive years
 - o Age > 60
 - o Retired from practice

EPA's: Gregoire Wuerzner, Andreas Fischer and the post-graduate and continuous formation committee of the SSN continue to develop new EPA's. The Board has decided to support the development of an app that will make the post-graduate formation of our fellows easier in the daily clinical life. Formation centers will hear more soon.

As mentioned in the editorial, the SSN launches now a virtual lab meeting for basic research in the renal field. Led by Sören Lienkamp, professor at the University of Zurich, the lab meetings will take place once a month by zoom. Registration is mandatory and will be made online. Please, contact Sören (soeren.lienkamp@anatomy.uzh.ch) if you are interested. A basic research day will be organized in presence on January 25, 2024 in Berne: prepare your abstract!

Agenda (all events to be found on our website, but please announce all your events to our office!):

April 28-29: Ultrasound of the kidney, Course organized by the Working group for Ultrasound, St-Gallen

May 10, 2023, do not miss the SSN sessions organized during the SGAIM-SSMIG in Basel:

- Dr. Nicolas Faller of Fribourg (10.5.23 09:00 – 09:30): Persistance de la protéinurie sous IECA/ARA: prochaine étape? Finérénone, SGLT2i, les deux?
- Dr. Urs Odermatt, Luzern (10.5.23, 09:30 – 10:00): The CGA staging system to characterize CKD: a refreshment
- Dr. Davide Giunzoni, Lugano (10.5.23 13:30 – 14:30): Workshop: symptoms of CKD: nausea, pruritus, fatigue.....: how to manage?
- Dr. Hans-Ruedi Rätz, Baden: (10.5.23, 1715 – 18:00 Uhr: Kreatinin-Anstieg: was tun?

September 8-9, 2023. Nephrology Update Refresher course in Zurich– Hybrid (Technopark Zürich). SSN members have a special discount and pay only CHF 380.- for the 2 days.