

FOREWORD

ERA-EDTA CME Course in Skopje, R. Macedonia, 16 September 2006

The European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplantation Association (ERA-EDTA), in cooperation with the Macedonian Society of Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation and Artificial Organs (MSNDTAO), together with the International Society of Nephrology (ISN), organized a CME Course entitled "Actualities in Dialysis and Transplantation" on September 16, 2006 in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. This was the second CME course organised by ERA-EDTA and MSNDTAO after the successful one which was held during the VIIth BANTAO Congress in Ohrid in 2005.

This full-day course was attended by 105 nephrologists and nephrology research fellows from Albania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania and Russia. Their active participation with fruitful discussions of each of the lectures contributed to the complete success of the course.

Nine prominent speakers (2 from R. Macedonia) presented their expert opinion and latest achievements in specific fields of nephrology, especially in dialysis and transplantation. The topics were selected according to the general problem of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) as a worldwide public health threat, with its clinical, socio-economic and financial burden. The clinical consequences and available treatment options for uraemic toxicity, renal bone disease and vascular calcifications in CKD patients (Vanholder, Spasovski, Hutchison) were discussed since there was a great interest among the majority of participants who are linked to the work done at dialysis units. Recent news about erythropoiesis-stimulating factors and the still permanent problem of the region with hepatitis C in dialysis patients was presented by Wiecek and Polenakovic. The factors that might influence the frequency of peritoneal dialysis application and loss of peritoneal function were ascertained by Van Biesen and Jorres. At the end of the day, it was well worthwhile introducing the topic of management of the waiting list and kidney allocation system (Mayer) in order to promote the still unsatisfactorily developed cadaveric transplantation programme in the region itself. In addition, the risk factors associated with the deterioration of renal function after kidney transplantation and the possible benefit from the protocol biopsies were discussed (Seron).

The number of those attending and their willingness to gain a better insight into their common medical problems once again confirmed the universality of science, recognising the absence of any political or geographical boundaries. Therefore, it is reasonable to say that an ongoing up-date in clinical knowledge and improvement in everyday clinical practice might in turn bring an appropriate benefit for CKD patients, nephrologists and the medical society itself.

In order to maintain an "official proof" of this international event for Macedonian nephrology we have prepared the lectures from the course for publication in the cited Macedonian Medline journal *Prilozi* by courtesy of all our eminent international speakers. We extend our warmest regards to them, as well as to all participants on the Course, with the hope they will remember it as a memorable scientific event in Skopje.

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President of the MSNDTAO
and Local Course Coordinator**

**Goce Spasovski,
Secretary of the MSNDTAO, ERA-EDTA
Ordinary Council Member and Course Coordinator**