



Leading European Nephrology

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European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association

Opening of the 54th Congress of the ERA- EDTA in Madrid

“We were the first discipline that could replace organ function for a period of many years –and I am optimistic that we will be the first to regenerate organ function completely”

June 2, 2017

The 54th Congress of the ERA-EDTA (European Renal Association and European Dialysis and Transplant Association) will be held in the IFEMA Congress center from June 3–6, 2017. More than 8,000 nephrologists (specialist physicians for kidney disease and hypertensive disorders) are expected to attend. The world’s second-biggest nephrology congress covers the full range of topics in this specialty, with discussions focusing not only on developments in the field of renal replacement therapy (dialysis and transplantation), but also on the latest findings on the causes, development and treatment of different kidney diseases, as well as on the management of various concomitant diseases in patients with chronic renal failure.

The main overarching theme of the Congress is “Moving forwards”. Being asked why he chose this theme, Professor Jorge B. Cannata-Andía, Oviedo, Spain, Congress President of the 54th Congress of the ERA-EDTA, explains: “Nephrology is still mainly perceived of as an organ-centered specialty focusing on the kidneys only. But we need to understand our discipline as a more general one, dealing with a kind of systemic disease, because kidney diseases affect many other organ systems and cause many comorbidities.”

Besides, nephrology is a highly innovative specialty and, as such, continuously moving forward. “There is so much thrilling basic research going on that will be presented at the congress from tomorrow until Tuesday. I am sure that in 30 to 40 years’ time we will no longer be talking about renal replacement therapy, but might even be able to regenerate kidney function or ‘grow’ kidneys. We were the first discipline that could replace organ function for a period of many years – which is still not possible with the lungs or the heart – and I am optimistic that we will be the first to regenerate organ function so that our patients will not have to rely on the support of machines.”



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About ERA-EDTA

With almost 7,000 members, the ERA-EDTA ("European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association") is one of the biggest nephrology associations worldwide and one of the most important and prestigious European Medical Associations. It supports basic and clinical research in the fields of clinical nephrology, dialysis, renal transplantation and related subjects. It also supports a number of studies as well as research groups and has founded a special "Fellowship Programme" for young investigators as well as grant programmes. In order to involve young nephrologists in all activities ERA-EDTA has the Young Nephrologists' Platform (YNP), a very active committee whose board includes members who are 40 years old or younger. Besides, it has established various working groups to promote the collaboration of nephrologists with other medical disciplines (e.g. cardiology, immunology). Furthermore, a "European Renal Best Practice" (ERBP) advisory board was established by the ERA-EDTA to draw up and publish guidelines and position statements. Another important goal of the ERA-EDTA is education: several series of CME-courses as well as the annual congress offer an attractive scientific programme to cover the need of continuous medical education for doctors working in the fields of nephrology, dialysis and transplantation. The association's journals, NDT (Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation) and ckj (Clinical Kidney Journal), are currently the leading nephrology journals in Europe; furthermore NDT-Educational is the online educational journal, open for free to all uses, of the Society as well as the very important and useful feature of NDT-Educational "Literature Review". The ERA-EDTA Registry is a large epidemiologic database comparing countries by assessing nephrology practice throughout Europe. ENP, the European Nephrology Portal, is the latest new initiative of ERA-EDTA: here all those interested in the activities of the Society can find everything that is done, all in one place! Finally, ERA-EDTA is member of the European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA), a consortium of patients, nurses, foundations all related to renal issues that actively interacts with the European Parliament. For more information please visit www.era-edta.org