

The Renal Association

MINUTES OF MEETING THE RENAL ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday 21st April 2009

July's Inn Hotel Keel Wharf Liverpool

Present:

Dwomoa Adu, Chairman
Neil Turner
Caroline Savage
John Feehally
Paul Harden
John Eastwood
Magdi Yaqoob
Ibrahim Fahal
Peter Mathieson.

Apologies:

Prof. Terry Cook
Prof. M. El-Nahas
Prof. S. Sacks
Mr. Ali Bakran
Professor R. Unwin

1. Minutes of previous meeting approved subject to minor amendments.
2. Dr Adu reported that the Renal Association sponsored CME at the African Renal Association meeting in Abuja in February had been well received. AFRAN had requested that the Renal Association continue their support with the CME's. It was agreed to ask the Executive Committee of the Renal Association to provide ongoing support for a CME for AFRAN meetings on a two yearly basis. This would take the form of help with organisation of the CME and providing a speaker.

It was suggested that we consider taking Renal Association Advanced Nephrology to Ghana for the AFRAN meeting in 2013. Agreed to explore this.

3. An attempt to develop a sister centre link to the renal unit in Sudan could not be supported by the ISN.
4. **Potential links with Anglophone countries of West Africa**

John Eastwood drew attention to the relative isolation of the nephrologists in the 3 of the 5 English-speaking countries of West Africa (Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia), and to some extent Ghana. Data on numbers of nephrologists in the countries concerned was circulated. The 4 countries mentioned have a combined population of 33 million but no more than 5 nephrologists in total (cf. Nigeria 133 million pop., 52 units, 108 nephrologists).

The contrast between these nephrologists and those in Francophone West Africa was obvious at the November meeting in November of SN – SFD (Société de Néphrologie – Société Francophone de Dialyse)

attended by John Eastwood. The two societies have amalgamated with the result that some 20-25 nephrologists from Senegal, Mali, Cameroon and other Francophone countries are full members of the French Renal Association (Société de Néphrologie).

It was suggested that there could be an Overseas category of membership of the Renal Association, and that the Renal Association might consider taking some responsibility for these countries as there was no other obvious partner for their nephrologists.

Agreed that the responsibility to help develop nephrology in West Africa should be undertaken with the International Society of Nephrology. We have agreed that we would ask Dr Omar Abboud who is Chairman of the ISN Africa Committee, to put on the agenda for COMGAN meeting.

5. **Asia**

Dr Yacoob has developed extensive links with India and Pakistan and will give some thought as to how the Renal Association might support this activity.

6. **Europe**

Dr Paul Harden has links with Belarus and with Lithuania and organised a transplant course in Minsk during the past year. Dr Harden is the new chair of the ISN Sister Centre Scheme.

7. Prof. Unwin asked for a paper to be tabled on possible links at the SpR level with the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney. There was support for this proposal.