1. Annual Meeting in Vancouver

During ERA EDTA in Prague, June 23 – 26 there will be a meeting of the WKD Steering Committee about the program. The WKD team coordinators for ISN and IFKF will again be Sara Martin and Jan Lantink respectively. The Vancouver presentation with the highlights from WKD 2011 can be downloaded as PDF from our IFKF website.

Laszlo Rosivall is working hard to develop a financially feasible plan to allow us to hold the Annual Meeting in Vancouver in 2013. If you have ideas or possible sponsors, we would love to hear from you.

We are about to sign a contract with Fresenius Medical Care where Fresenius and IFKF will work together. Miguel Riella has asked Dr Marcus Bastos from Brazil to chair the program. Dr Bastos is at present the Editor-in-Chief of Nephrol Dial Transplantation. Joel Kopple has agreed to be the Co-chair. The Program Committee will convene for the first time at the end of June and I will keep you informed of the progress.

As you will see from the WCN in Vancouver reports on this page, the major focus of this year's WCN was on “improving kidney health worldwide”. The WCN program has always been about reaching out to as many people as possible and increasing awareness. We are now planning to continue this trend. A complete plan has been written by KFOC, and – after review – will be put on the website to promote the WCN 2012.

We are very pleased to report that our membership of foundations and organisations around the world is growing, step by step. In the short term we plan to launch a program to increase the number of Associate Partners. The most important reason for this was to introduce a fairer segmenting of our membership into 4 categories, from large, more established to small and pioneering. We are now discussing the idea offi merging the membership with the help of Fresenius Medical Care.

The first photo shows the attendance of 72 delegates and speakers from 23 countries proves the importance and the geographical diversity of our kidney community.

Many members have already paid the revised fees that are related to their specific category. However, we are about to launch a program to improve it. Upgrading and updating the website is an ongoing process, we are planning to invest a lot of time and effort in trying to make the IFKF website more accessible. Any suggestions you may have are welcome. We have already committed to support them in launching a new initiative during the WCN in Vancouver.

2. Joel D. Kopple Award

This logo, designed in Turkey, has been introduced to give KFPP a better brand identity. The initiative was launched during WCN in Vancouver. Ayse Onat who is coordinating the KFPP together with Joel Kopple has told the audience more about this initiative.

More of you who attended WCN participated in the game “Are you a Kidney Foundation?” and many of you who attended WCN participated in the game. The winner was a member of a kidney foundation in Guatemala for his and his teams outstanding work for children with kidney disease. The game was supported by Pfizer and is another initiative of IFKF.

The COMMITMENT Long Term Mission of the IFKF is to foster creation, growth, and international collaboration between local kidney foundations and to enable and help empower member organisations to achieve the needs of people with, or at risk of kidney disease. Our worldwide community of kidney foundations constitutes a unique and diverse partnership. In 2011, our IFKF flag will be used as a key feature to draw people’s attention. When people visit the stand/booth, the IFKF will show the value that IFKF brings to them and being prepared to pay their fair share of the contribution to funding our activities. The patients who visit the stand are always surprised at the number of foundation and organisations that support the awareness of kidney disease.

We are now working on a special edition of our newsletter to be launched in the presence of the IFKF flag. It is a stepping stone towards the 2012 Annual Meeting in Budapest.

6. SeeKD® and KFPP

The second photo shows the start of the SeeKD® program and the Kidney Foundations Partnership Program. The SeeKD program includes motivational speakers from 23 countries proves the diversity of our kidney community. The value of our Kidney Foundations’ Partnership Program KFPP has once again financially supported our Annual Meeting and Regional Meeting.

For more information and feedback please send your ideas to:info@ifkf.org

3. IFKF Attendance at Major Conferences and Conferences

4. Website

It is clear that our focus must be on increasing awareness and the number of people participating in our activities. Our goal is to promote and expose IFKF as the leading voice of renal health promotion. This is a new website, there are still a lot of updates and changes to be made. We are happy to receive feedback from you. However, we must remember that the website is a living organism. It is not an end in itself, but a tool to support our mission. The most important things for our people is the quality of the content and the value they derive from using the website.

5. Membership Categories and Membership Fees

The new membership system has been launched and the membership fees have been revised. It is still a work in progress uploading the new membership system. The fee structure is designed to reward the values of our community of kidney foundations. In the past, budgeted marketing expenditure, which in the past was allocated between renal conferences, will be redirected to supporting charities. This is our way of ensuring the sustainability of our organisation.