

“Universal” Lexicon for Terminology Regarding Efforts Between and Among the Societies

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN), the European Renal Association–European Dialysis and Transplant Association (ERA-EDTA), and the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) recognize that their efforts are much more effective when aligned or coordinated. By working together, the three global kidney organizations can have a greater impact on kidney diseases worldwide.

ASN, ERA-EDTA, and ISN have adopted a common lexicon for terminology regarding efforts between and among the societies. Organized in three parts, this policy statement is intended to frame all future discussions the societies have about:

1. Collaborating.
2. Endorsing.
3. Seeking Confluences and Managing Conflicts.

On at least an annual basis, leaders and staff from ASN, ERA-EDTA, and ISN will review this policy statement.

Part 1: Collaborating

- **Collaborate:** To work jointly with another person, group, or agency in order to achieve a specific goal or endeavor. Example: ASN, ERA-EDTA, and ISN work together to create a charter of principles.
 - **Co-develop:** To develop and decide on a new action plan and arrange it in advance as a collaborative effort. Example: ERA-EDTA and ISN decide to create a new charitable initiative to expand access to kidney transplants and must determine how to reach this goal and what resources will be required.
 - **Co-manage:** To manage jointly and at the same level. Example: ERA-EDTA and ISN continue to administer and implement the charitable initiative, rather than making it the responsibility of one society.
 - **Co-sign:** To sign a document at the same time to vouch for its authenticity. Example: ERA-EDTA and ISN agree to cosign the hotel contract to hold a meeting for the committee overseeing the charitable initiative.

Part 2: Endorsing

- **Endorse:** To declare public approval or support of, or to recommend a product or service. Example: ASN provides information about the 53rd ERA-EDTA Congress on its website.
 - **Facilitate:** To involve more than one society in a specific activity or service, but only one society is responsible for that activity. Example: At ASN Kidney

Week, ASN and ERA-EDTA co-facilitate the International Forum of Kidney Organizations, which was organized by ASN.

- **Countersign:** To sign a previously signed document to vouch for its authenticity; or to provide a second confirming signature on a previously signed document. Example: ASN agrees to counter-sign a contract for a co-facilitated activity with ISN at the World Congress of Nephrology.
- **Brand:** To designate a product or service of another society with your society's brand. Example: ERA-EDTA agrees to have its logo included on the website for the World Congress of Nephrology, which it endorses.
- **Support:** To provide assistance, enable to function or act. Example: ASN agrees to help ERA-EDTA start a foundation by outlining the necessary steps.

Part 3: Seeking Confluences and Managing Conflicts

Seeking confluences and managing potential conflicts will help ASN, ERA-EDTA, and ISN safeguard objectivity and independence; foster an authoritative, independent voice in science and medicine; and maintain credibility on issues of patient care. Additionally, these commitments allow each society to preserve its role as an objective leader and advisor on policy, establish transparent relationships, ensure integrity and impartiality of peer review, and promote fair distribution of grant support.

ASN, ERA-EDTA, and ISN are committed to managing potential conflicts of interest or commitment. Each society will seek, encourage, and proclaim opportunities for confluences of commitment. These commitments demonstrate a focus on the unique vision and mission of each society, diversify opportunities for emerging leaders, and make the kidney community more inclusive. As a result, more nephrologists and other health professionals can contribute to, and help advance the missions of, ASN, ERA-EDTA, and ISN.

- **Confluence of commitment:** A situation where a member (usually not a leader as defined under conflict of commitment) has an interest outside of the society that may be beneficial to both the society and the outside interest. Example: An individual involved in planning activities related to World Kidney Day for both ISN and ASN.
- **Conflict of interest:** A material interest, often financial, outside the society that could influence or could be perceived as influencing the decisions by an elected, appointed, or volunteer position on behalf of the society. Example: An individual has an opportunity to affect a society's continuing medical education (CME) content about products or services of a commercial interest with which he/she has a financial relationship.
- **Conflict of commitment:** A situation where a leader (such as a councilor, committee chair, or editor) has an interest outside of the society that may compromise his/her ability to act in the best interest of the society. These interests

may include, but are not limited to, the following situations: leadership position (voluntary or compensated) in another organization in nephrology, consultancy or advisory role, leadership position in foundations/fundraising organizations in nephrology, and others. Example: An individual is the chair of the grants review committees for more than one of the societies at the same time.

30 March 2016