The officers of the European Renal Association (ERA), Christoph Wanner, President; Ivan Rychlik, Secretary-Treasurer; Danilo Fliser, Renal Science Chair; Alberto Ortiz, Clinical Nephrology Governance Chair, together with the entire ERA Council are honoured to present this report on the activities of our Society of the year 2021. We are very pleased to confirm that during the last year, notwithstanding the worldwide pandemic, the ERA activities have been very successful and active. Furthermore, 2021 was yet another good year also for the financial consolidation of the Association.

This report must begin with a crucial change instituted this year at the General Assembly, which took place on June 7th, 2021. The acronym and name change of the Society from ERA-EDTA to ERA (European Renal Association). This initiative was supported by a vast majority of the membership, reflecting the drift toward modern-era communications. The new name is short, practical, easy to spell, and highlights the organ lying in the very foundation of the nephrology practice and science without forgetting our very important history. Another significant change introduced following the 2021 General Assembly is granting more independence to the NDT Editor in Chief by removing him from the Council. Still linked to our Journals, in this case CKJ, the Council elected Maria Soler Romeo (Spain) as the new CKJ Editor in Chief, the first woman Editor of an ERA Journal. Maria Soler Romeo shall start her term in June 2022.

At the Council meeting on December 10, 2021, the new and revised Mission, Vision, and Values, written by Albert Ong, Serhan Tuglular, Roser Torra and Alexander Rosenkranz, were approved. The Mission of the ERA shall be to lead European nephrology by promoting kidney health for all, improving kidney care for patients, and strengthening the kidney community. ERA envisions Europe in which kidney health is prioritized and accessible, and the kidney community is thriving. Other important goals set for the future include: promoting public awareness of kidney diseases and developing a global outlook to kidney health; facilitating the equity of access to kidney health, diagnosis, and treatment, especially in the neglected regions and populations; respecting and enhancing patient voice and choice; stimulating innovative research related to kidney health and care; fostering a stronger sense of identity and community among the association members; harmonizing and standardizing good nephrology practice across Europe through educational programs; inspiring the future generations by reimagining the role of a modern kidney specialist, and addressing the pressing issues of nephrology workforce recruitment and retention. Finally, to achieve complete transparency, the ERA Council has made major changes this year (Council meeting held in Berlin at the end of June 2021) in the evaluation procedure of all the output and projects of all ERA bodies that, from now on, must go through the evaluation of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). Very importantly, from now on no current Council member can be part of the SAB to avoid any potential conflict of interest in this new evaluation procedure.

Due to the aggravated epidemiological situation, the 2021 Congress was held virtually again, but we did introduce an important novelty: we offered an opportunity for all participants with an accepted abstract to gain more visibility by presenting their work as a mini oral presentation instead of the “traditional” e-poster. There were 4 plenary lectures, 33 free communications sessions, 31 industry symposia, 8 CEPD courses, 4 mini-orphals, and 2 hands-on courses held. This year selected Congress lectures and industry symposia were covered by summary reports published as a Special Edition on the Nephrology Education Portal (NEP) e-journal in July 2021.

ERA also continued its other activities focused on providing its members opportunities to learn, teach, perform research and publish their publications. Most of these, such as the 7th CT day and the EUROD Winter meeting, continued in virtual format. The e-seminars focusing on hot topics in the field of nephrology and related subjects, including the nephrology-related aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic, also continued this year. In 2021, a joint e-seminar was held between the YNP and the Japanese Society of Nephrology for the first time, featuring talks by eminent lecturers from Europe and Japan. Last but not least, the Erasmus + funded N-Path initiative, of which ERA is a full partner, was launched in 2021. It contains a series of training courses in diagnostic and interventional nephrology, aiming to bring certain skills back and closer to nephrologists.

The program is projected to last till 2023 through four practical training
courses dedicated to biopsy and histopathology, vascular access management, ultrasound techniques, and surgical techniques for correct peritoneal catheter placement. Another novelty launched in 2021 was the European Kidney Health Awareness days meant to create awareness among the general public for the essential issues linked to the kidney and its function. This initiative is being implemented with the close collaboration with the National Societies of Nephrology.

The members of this Council must stress that current achievements are built on the accomplishments of previous officers and Council members, without whom it would not be possible to stand where we are right now. We will strive to continue their good work and continue to promote important initiatives for the nephrology society.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome you to Paris for the next ERA Congress, which is planned to take up a hybrid form, both live in Paris and virtually, from May 19-22. If anything about the many initiatives mentioned in this report is unclear, more details can be found at our website.

Christoph Wanner (President)
Ivan Rychlik (Secretary-Treasurer)
Danilo Fliser (Renal Science Chair)
Alberto Ortiz (Clinical Nephrology Governance Chair)
ERA Endorsements

EKHA
(European Kidney Health Alliance)

Collaboration with National Societies of Nephrology

Collaboration with National Societies of Nephrology

Institutional

Collaboration with other Societies

Collaboration with other Societies

ERA Membership

Electronic Communication Committee

ERA Membership

ECC
(Electronic Communication Committee)

Nephrology News Flash

Press Activity

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