Dear all,

I look forward to seeing many of you in sunny Harrogate for the Annual BTS Congress this week! But if you can’t get to Harrogate, remember that the BTS are joining us for one day at UKKW 2017 in Liverpool in June and don’t forget the Early Bird Deadline for UK Kidney Week 2017 is 21st March 2017 - don’t miss it!! - click here to register!

I hope everyone has seen the call for expressions of interest for the Chair of the Education and Training Committee, to replace retiring Chair Jeremy Levy - please do consider applying, and please submit your application by March 6th.

Training the next generation of nephrologists is vital for all of us! Fewer people are choosing hospital medicine today and we need to do all we can to promote renal medicine as a career. As part of this, the Renal Association awards 8 or 9 bursaries of £250 each year to support renal themed electives. The students are asked to submit a report within 3 months of their return, which is posted on the RA website, under “Prizes and Awards” - this is currently quite hard to find and we are creating a “Medical Student” page to make this more visible. This year Bursaries are awarded to:

Anna Fairclough Oxford
Emma Carter Glasgow
Grace Pearson Bristol
Holly Gillott Birmingham
Jake Tobin Cambridge
Jennifer Ng Cambridge
Kevin Joyce Cambridge
Martin Lee Sheffield
Roisin McCormack Glasgow

Andy Lewington, current Chair of the CG Committee, reports here on a Leeds initiative to support local medical students which may be a model for us all for the future:

“This year the Acute Kidney Injury Frontiers conference to be held at the Royal Society of Medicine on 31 March 2017 has opened its doors to medical students in an effort to foster their interest in Renal Medicine at an early stage. The newly formed Nephrology Society Leeds has taken up the opportunity of a number of student bursaries and will be sending a delegation of students down to the conference in London. It is hoped that they will enjoy what they hear and an opportunity to meet a range of healthcare professionals specialising in Renal Medicine from across the UK and further afield. It will be interesting to see how they share their experiences more widely through social media”.

Next - keep Thinking Kidneys! Read the update below from the Think Kidneys
team - from the end of March the Think Kidneys AKI section of the website will be maintained by the UK Renal Registry. If you would like to receive updates, sign up on the website at [www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk](http://www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk)

And the Think Kidneys AKI App was launched on Feb 23rd - you can download it to your smart phone or ipad now, it’s really good!

![Think Kidneys AKI App](image)

Yesterday’s 3rd Renal Association joint meeting with the Association of British Clinical Diabetologists organised by our incoming honorary secretary Indy Dasgupta and Peter Winocour successfully attracted over 200 delegates who had a preview of our forthcoming guidelines on lipids, blood pressure and glycaemic control in diabetic CKD along with a range of oral and poster presentations - so a great success!

Next, I mentioned last month that Bhavna Pandya, the new Chair of the Equal Opportunities in Nephrology (EON) Committee, is hoping to improve communication by increasing the use of the EON Facebook link: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/RenalEON/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/RenalEON/) and to contact Bhavna or Jim Moriarty if you would like to join this Facebook group. Many people contacted Bhavna to ask what the EON committee is! This committee works to develop equal opportunities for all, women and men, especially those working LTFT who can struggle to get to meetings and networking events and for whom social media can provide an important link to colleagues in other areas - so please get in touch!

Next, many thanks to Jill Norman, Chair of the Research Committee for her update below - do contact Jill with your suggestions.

And finally - I hope you are ready for World Kidney Day on 9th March!

Best wishes
Alison Brown
UK Kidney Week 2017 - Early Bird Deadline

The Early Bird Deadline for UK Kidney Week 2017 is 21st March 2017. To register your attendance click here.

We have put together a balanced programme to ensure that 'something for everyone' is included and we have been particularly keen to make the meeting attractive to renal trainees, non-career grade staff, the practising clinician, members of the multi-disciplinary team as well as academic clinicians and scientists and the transplant community. Many sessions will integrate both the basic science and clinical aspects of topics so that scientists and clinicians will be able to obtain relevant CME of the full translational spectrum.

Particular highlights within the conference include:
* Quality improvement session with talks on KQuIP, Home Therapies and access to transplantation
* 21st Century Communication session, highlighting the power of social media in communicating unmet patient needs, education and research
* Fascinating talks in partnerships with ISN regarding global differences in access to renal replacement therapies and treatments for acute kidney injury
* Regenerative medicine, with discussion of the latest fascinating developments in stem cell research in the kidney

To view the latest Scientific Programme click here. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter!

Research Committee (Chair: Jill Norman; Deputy Chair: Claire Sharpe);

Last June, Jill Norman took over from Moin Saleem as Chair of the Research Committee with Claire Sharpe as Deputy Chair. Having both a Chair and Deputy Chair ensures that the Committee is well represented at all meetings. The committee is made up of representatives from across the research spectrum including - Rare Diseases, BAPN, BRS, Renal Registry, Trainees and Renal Scientists Working Party; it is hoped this will increase further to include allied health care professionals. The overall goal of the committee is to encourage and promote research. Specific objectives include:

- Implement relevant recommendations of the UKRRS and ensure these are integrated into future strategic planning
- Provide scientific expertise to CSGs and the UKKRC. Greater engagement of non-clinical scientists in CSGs was tabled at the autumn UKKRC meeting and received unanimous support.
- Enhance the profile of renal science within the Association
- Inform a strong research theme and the scientific program for UKKW
- Develop training to enhance research skills
- Raise the profile of renal research in the UK
- Build external links with other research communities and with industry

One exciting project is the Renal Researchers Network which it is hoped would promote interactions and exchange between those involved in renal research as well as academic-industry partnerships. This has been under discussion for quite some time. A specification has been developed and currently potential uptake and use is being assessed to build a compelling case for financial investment. Please complete the survey when it is circulated. In addition the website is being updated.

Any questions, comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me by email j.norman@ucl.ac.uk

The Complement UK Research and Training Network

The Complement UK research and training network is pleased to announce that registration is now open for 'Complement for Practitioners: Managing Renal Disease', at King's College London, Guy's Campus, on the 6th & 7th April 2017.

About the meeting

The goal of the meeting is to develop an understanding of the impact of the Complement system on patient needs and healthcare practice, and provide a foundation in complement biology for both clinicians and non-clinical practitioners and researchers, trainees from a non-Complement background, and members of industry.
The meeting will highlight new developments in Complement biology and how these can be linked to patient needs.

Registration link [here](#)
For further details please contact david.hardy@kcl.ac.uk
[http://complement.org.uk/events.php](http://complement.org.uk/events.php)

**The 5th Nottingham Acute Kidney Injury Course**
Acute kidney injury (AKI) is common, harmful and costly. However it is often preventable through a greater awareness of risk factors and reversible from early detection, recognition and prompt management. With a greater knowledge and understanding of AKI, significant improvements in patient care and outcomes can be achieved.

This course aims to give the clinician a comprehensive and up to date overview of the prevention, early detection and management of AKI. Including an overview of current staging systems, optimal fluid management, management of complications of AKI and AKI in special circumstances. The course combines didactic teaching sessions with case based discussion all of which are delivered by specialists with experience in acute medicine, nephrology, intensive care and radiology.

The course is aimed at trainees and consultants in acute and general medicine, all acute medical specialties, nephrology and intensive care who wish to undertake a comprehensive overview on the subject. Further information on the programme and registration can be found [here](#)

**AKI programme commences the wind down**
With only one month left for the formal Think Kidneys AKI programme it's been a busy few weeks. Recent activity has included delivery of the following:

- A risk matrix for AKI in secondary care, accessible [here](#)
- A guide to managing children with AKI in primary care, click [here](#)
- Young people and parents’ / carers' information leaflets on the risks of AKI and how to stay healthy

**A fitting end...**
A full review and evaluation of the think Kidneys AKI programme was published on 23 February at an event to celebrate the work and impact of the programme. At the day-long conference Health Minister, Philip Dunne congratulated the team for what he described as “a world leading and extraordinary programme for change and improvement that has achieved so much and will have a direct impact on patient care and experience.”

Dr Mike Durkin, NHS National Director of Patient Safety, also attended the event saying “The programme has been successful in raising awareness of this costly condition and getting to grips with how data can drive improvement. It is important that we evaluate our work so I am very pleased to see this review which brings together all the outputs from the campaign. The NHS is the first national healthcare organisation in the world to attempt to tackle AKI with a system-wide approach, and this programme clearly shows the benefits of working across all sectors. The NHS now needs to grab the lessons learned from this excellent work and share it relentlessly.”

Patients and clinicians, managers and commissioners attended the event and were thanked for their contribution.

The Think Kidneys App was also launched on the day. The app can be uploaded from your app store onto your smartphone or tablet and was developed in response to clinicians’ requests to have the information and guidance which is on the website, accessible when they are at the patient’s bedside or not near a computer.

**Keep Thinking Kidneys**
The next few months will see work completed on the following:

- A new board has been established to oversee continuing work on AKI and Think Kidneys. This will be managed by the UK Renal Registry but maintain links with NHS England and NHS Improvement together with other stakeholders
- The developing master patient index of AKI data will continue and analysis will be published on a regular basis by UKRR
- The Think Kidneys team will continue working with NICE and the Patient Safety Collaborative. A map linking Think Kidneys AKI resources to NICE Quality Standards is imminent.
- Other guidance is currently being finalised. For example, there will be a quick guide to AKI for health
and care professionals working in the community, including ambulance staff. Lesson plans on AKI for undergraduate nursing schools for years 1, 2 and 3 are being designed.

- Regular communications with pathology laboratories regarding the measurement and reporting of AKI results has commenced.

From the end of March the Think Kidneys AKI section of the website will be managed and maintained by the UK Renal Registry. This will ensure that all resources are regularly updated so they remain a valuable resource for AKI related management and education. If you would like to receive brief and infrequent emails about developments and changes to existing resources in the future then sign up on the website at www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk

KQuIP

- The first KQuIP / UK Renal Registry regional day has been confirmed for the 23rd March in the West Midlands. The next two Regions will be Yorks and Humberside and East Midlands later in the year
- KQuIP Hub - An online repository of learning & QI resources is almost ready
- KQuIP is appointing two Regional Project managers to support QI (funded by the BKPA)
- Getting it Right First Time - Appointments in progress.

Sign up for regular programme updates on the KQuIP website here.

Kidney Research UK

Professor David Kerr Clinician Scientist Fellowship - now open for applications
This Fellowship award supports clinicians who have already attained a higher degree and who wish to further their research into kidney disease. Successful applicants will be jointly funded by the MRC and Kidney Research UK through the MRC Clinician Scientist Round. Full details are on the MRC website
Closing date 05 April 2017

Fellows Day 11-12 September 2017 - Registration now OPEN
This annual conference is a central event in the research calendar, and in this 17th anniversary year, takes place at Swansea University, Wales. Fellows Day provides a great opportunity to gain knowledge, forge new collaborations and connections that move science forwards and ultimately help patients. Booking is by registration only and priority will be given to our previous and existing alumni and researchers. The draft programme is available and registration is now open.
Click here for more details

Women in Science Celebration
Following the launch of the UK Renal Research Strategy last year, the charity has put the spotlight on recommendations aimed at ensuring equal opportunities for female scientists, creating and assisting the next generation of researchers focused on kidney disease. In the light of the UN’s International Day for Women and Girls in Science last month, we are celebrating the female researchers we fund and their achievements, as well as drawing attention to the challenging circumstances that some will have faced as they developed their careers. We have also achieved good coverage of their stories in the media.
See more here

Patient Research Information Days Grant Scheme
Kidney Research UK is dedicated to helping patients engage with research. Funding of up to £1000 is available to any group interested in organising meetings with a high level of patient participation, to share information about research, how patients can be involved at all stages, and engage patients in debate about research and share their experiences and views.
Click here for more details

Applications invited from medical students who wish to undertake an intercalated degree.

- Grants of £5,000 to UK medical students undertaking research relevant to the kidney and kidney disease as part of an intercalated degree.
- Awards should start by October 2017 (Academic Year 2017/18).

Apply now - Closing date 5pm on Friday 31 March 2017.

World Kidney Day - 09 March 2017
Just a week or so to go. We have had requests from renal units and patient groups all over the UK who are running various events and have sent out over 250 copies of the 2017 Support Pack to help them raise awareness about the importance of looking after your kidneys and the risks of kidney disease. There are a few packs remaining but everything is also available to download from the UK website - www.worldkidneyday.co.uk. Contact info@worldkidneyday.co.uk and let us know how you will be supporting the day or post details on the UK Facebook page or Twitter feed. Look out too for our kidney facts which will be released daily through social media from 1-9 March. Together we can make a difference.

PEDAL

PEDAL (PrEscription of Intra-Dialytic Exercise to Improve quAlity of Life in Patients With Chronic Kidney Disease) is a four-year study looking to determine whether intra-dialytic exercise training improves health related quality of life in kidney patients receiving maintenance haemodialysis therapy. Led by Professor Iain Macdougall (King’s College Hospital, London), this unique and innovative trial aims to recruit 380 patients across 6-10 renal units in the UK. The trial started enrolling patients in January 2015 and, to date, 226 patients have been recruited. Although the study was awarded a £2.1 million NIHR-HTA grant, there have been ongoing problems with securing the required Excess Treatment Costs which has resulted in significant problems with site set-up and patient recruitment.

Patients who join the study are randomly allocated to one of two treatment groups - (1) Usual care maintenance renal replacement therapy, and (2) Usual care with intra-dialytic exercise. Patients in the exercise group receive an exercise programme of thrice weekly aerobic cycle exercise for a period of 9 months, as well as twice-weekly muscle conditioning exercise. The delivery of the aerobic exercise uses an ergometer that has been specially modified for use whilst patients are seated on their dialysis chair or couch. The aim is to test whether this additional treatment option benefits haemodialysis patients in terms of their general well-being and quality-of-life and also if it benefits physical function and ability to participate in daily activities, such as walking and rising from a chair. The study also hopes to examine what effects an intradialytic exercise programme may have on other aspects that may be important to the health of HD patients (for example blood pressure), as well as to determine whether this type of additional treatment option is cost effective within the health service setting.

Professor Iain Macdougall says:

“Although PEDAL is an interesting study which is highly relevant to patients and, in particular, their quality-of-life on dialysis, it has suffered greatly as a result of the new AcoRD arrangements for research funding in the NHS. AcoRD was fairly new when the research funding bid was submitted, and at that time it was not clear which were research costs and which were NHS treatment costs. It subsequently became clear that, of the £2.1 million funding applied for, £700k of it was Excess Treatment Costs. Despite this major hurdle, the researchers remain committed to delivering and completing this study which seeks to answer an important research question”.

For further information, please contact Claire White, Clinical Trial Manager clairewhite4@nhs.net

UK Renal Trials Network

The next meeting of the UKRTN will take place at the London Royal College of Physicians on the 21st of March. If you would like to submit a trial proposal for discussion, please email Thomas Hiemstra (tfh24@cam.ac.uk). The UKRTN provides the opportunity to discuss trial proposals with leading UK trialists, an experienced trials statistician, health economist, and patient experts. Early discussion is encouraged. Projects submitted to the UKRTN may be formally endorsed in support of funding applications. Informal enquiries are welcome.

The deadline for submission for the next UKRTN meeting is the 14th of March.

Transforming participation in CKD - TP-CKD

As the TP-CKD programme moves into the final year of the programme it will be building on the great effort that has been made by the units in cohort 1 to implement Patient Activation Measures and Patient Reported Outcome Measures. Over 2000 surveys have been successfully completed and analysed by the UKRR and results returned to patients and clinical teams. The focus for the year will be on re-surveying patients whilst spreading the implementation of the PAM/PROM within haemodialysis populations. In addition four further units have begun implementation of PAM/PROM as
part of cohort 2.
The Intervention Workstream has recommended a package of interventions that units can introduce to patients and staff to support and develop self-management skills. These are now available on the Think Kidneys website.
Workshops will be offered to individual units to support and facilitate them in testing the feasibility of the toolkit and introducing interventions in a structured way as part of the wider plan to resurvey.

The analysis of the recently completed Patient Reported Experience Measure (PREM) survey has been available for the Clinical Directors to view via a closed private forum on the UK Renal Registry since December 2016. As agreed previously the data will shortly be de-anonymised and available for viewing through the forum.

Validation of the PREM tool is making good progress and an update regarding this will be made available spring 2017.

A full PREM report will shortly be published on the Think Kidneys and BKPA websites. This report will be available for anyone to view.

Update from the STOP-ACEi team

Whether or not to continue ACEi and ARB use into advanced pre-dialysis CKD remains a point of debate for nephrologists. There remains no good evidence for this patient group, which is reflected in the inconsistent practise across UK renal units and internationally. Many of you are already involved with the STOP-ACEi trial which aims to resolve this important question and give an evidence base to our clinical decision-making. Nephrologists are keen to practise evidence based medicine and this study will be of huge value. Whichever way the results go, it can lead to large savings - so a win win for all, including patients.

We have made great progress so far with 34 renal units open UK-wide (including sites in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) and 284 patients recruited to date (69%) - the largest study in this field. Patients with non-dialysis stage 4/5 CKD are not often the focus of large research projects. Recruiting and following up these patients has its difficulties and we are currently behind our projected recruitment targets. But we are rising to the challenge and need just 126 more patients to complete the trial. That's just 4 more from each open centre.

NIHR have reiterated their support for the study and their desire to see it through to completion, and indeed recognise the importance of this trial. They have given us the go-ahead to continue recruitment and will review again at the end of the year. Any STOP-ACEi investigators, please make a push for recruitment to see if we can finish ahead of the year end. Please check your clinic lists and patient databases again, and any patients relatively new to the service. Just think, one patient a month for the next 4 months and we are passed the post and will get the answer to this important question quicker.

If you are not yet taking part in the study and want to see this clinical question resolved, please contact us. We were delighted to open our first centre in Northern Ireland in January and we are working to open more centres now.

STOP-ACEi is an open-label randomised controlled trial of ACEi/ARB discontinuation in stage 4/5 CKD.
For details, see the trial website www.birmingham.ac.uk/stopacei
Or contact the Trial Coordinator, Marie Valente at stopacei@trials.bham.ac.uk.

The NIHR Renal Disorders Speciality Group announces the launch of BISTRO study

Bioimpedance Spectroscopy To maintain Renal Output (BISTRO) is an NIHR HTA funded pragmatic, multicentre randomised controlled trial to determine if incorporation of bioimpedance into the setting of the post dialytic weight reduces loss of residual kidney function in incident centre-based HD patients, with the potential to improve clinical outcomes, in particular dialysis related symptoms, hospitalisation and survival.

UK target: 516 incident haemodialysis patients
Minimum site target: 15 new haemodialysis patients recruited per site. However if a site is really interested and has an exceptional track record on delivery in renal trials, they should fill in the site feasibility form and a lower recruitment target would be considered on a case by case basis.
Study population: Incident haemodialysis patients with residual kidney function
Planned recruitment period: 03/01/2017 to 29/12/2017 (12 months)

Planned end of follow up: 31/10/2018
Primary objective: to demonstrate a clinically significant lengthening in time to anuria in those randomised to BISTRO
the BI intervention
Research grant provision to sites: Participating sites will require access to one or more Fresenius BCM
machine(s). As BISTRO is funded by the NIHR HTA Programme grant, the purchase of the Fresenius BCM
machine is considered a treatment cost. However BISTRO has agreed with Fresenius a discounted price for
these.
BISTRO will provide FREE bespoke expert led training and technical support in making bioimpedance readings
and interpretation for clinical assessments.

Sponsor: Keele University
Funder: NIHR HTA Programme
CI: Prof Simon Davies
Trials Manager: Dr Nancy Fernandes da Silva
NIHR UK Clinical Trials Gateway: CPMS ID 31766 (portfolio adopted)
HRA Approval: 4th October 2016

Site payment: App. £700 per patient completing trial

Contact us at NSTCCG.BISTRO@nhs.net to find out more!

Equal Opportunities in Nephrology (EON)
Bhavna Pandya, new Chair of the Equal Opportunities in Nephrology (EON) Committee, is hoping to improve
communication by setting up and increasing the use of the EON Facebook
link: https://www.facebook.com/groups/RenalEON/

Please contact Bhavna or Jim Moriarty if you would like to join this Facebook group.

Courses, Meetings & Events

3rd AKI Frontiers Conference
31 March, 2017
The Royal Society of Medicine

Registration is now open
Click here to view the flyer

ISN World Congress of Nephrology 2017
21st- 25th April, 2017
For the first time, an international nephrology congress focuses on diabetes and kidney disease, a worldwide
problem, but one very important to Latin America and Mexico in particular. Join the ISN World Congress of
Nephrology (WCN) in Mexico City from April 21 to 25, 2017.
Uniquely placed as a truly global meeting, WCN gives access to international medical expertise in renal
treatment, research and care, from bench to bedside. You will get a genuinely enriching and professional
exchange of knowledge with world-renowned nephrologists, and endocrinologists at this meeting.
Maintaining sustainable kidney health on a global scale through education and training is our mission for each
congress. WCN 2017 is your chance to connect with the nephrology community in a compact setting, and take
advantage of this great opportunity to interact with colleagues as well as explore and understand the critical
importance of diabetic kidney disease. Read more.

UK Kidney Week 2017

UK Kidney Week 2017 is taking place from Monday 19 June - Wednesday 21 June 2017 at ACC, Liverpool.
Further information is available here and we will send you updates on the programme and planning.

For more information about UK Kidney Week 2017, please contact the Conference Secretariat on: ukkw2017@mci-group.com

Further Events for Your Diary .........
Please click here to view the calendar of events on the RA website.

If you have any ideas or would like to include an article or event in eNews, please contact The Renal Association Secretariat on 0870 458 4155 or renal@mci-group.com.