Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to announce that we have just appointed the next Clinical Vice President of the Renal Association - congratulations to Paul Cockwell, Consultant Nephrologist at QE Hospital Birmingham, Honorary Professor of Nephrology and Associate Director of Research at the University of Birmingham. I'm even more delighted to announce that my successor as Honorary Secretary has also just been appointed - congratulations to Indranil Dasgupta, Consultant Nephrologist at the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust and Honorary Reader at the University of Birmingham. I'm really delighted that we have two such exceptional individuals to help take the RA forward as the renal community faces ever more difficult times. Paul will take over as CVP from Graham Lipkin at the next RA AGM at UKKW 2017, and Indy will take over from me as Hon Sec at the same time.

The handovers will take place during UKKW 2017, which is taking place from the 19th -21st June 2017 in the ACC, Liverpool- please read all about this from AVP Phil Kalra below and make sure these dates are in your diary! And of course I hope you are already at work on your abstracts as abstract submission is NOW OPEN!! The deadline for abstract submission is 12 January 2017. Please click the link here to get straight to abstract submission: http://www.ukkidneyweek.org/abstracts/abstracts-introduction and sign up to follow #UKKW2017 to receive regular programme updates.

Graham will continue to lead KQUIP after standing down as CVP next year - please read his update on KQUIP below and see what is planned in your own region - extra important now the regional networks have gone.

We are very grateful to have an update from Richard Baker, Chair of the new Renal Services CRG, who will give a regular update in RA news to keep us informed - please read the full update from Richard below to find out how the new CRG will work. Here is the list of the CRG members -

Clinical Chair: Richard Baker
Lead Commissioner: Jon Gulliver
Patient and Public Voice: Fiona Loud, Tracey Rose and Phil Willan
North: Sandip Mitra (Dialysis) Will McKane (Transplantation)
Midlands: Clara Day (Dialysis) Nick Torpey (Transplantation)
London: Neil Ashman (Dialysis) Nizam Mamode
The RA and the BAPN would like to thank Richard Baker for inviting Carol Inward, Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist and Chair of the BAPN Clinical Services Committee, to join the Renal Dialysis and Transplant CRG meetings as the BAPN observer, to ensure that the BAPN is kept up to date with developments across the wider adult renal transplant and dialysis community.

I hope you all enjoyed the bonfires and fireworks at the weekend!!

with best wishes

Alison Brown
Honorary Secretary

General Announcements

UKKW 2017
It is with great pleasure that we invite you, on behalf of the Renal Association, to join us at UK Kidney Week 2017.

The 2017 UK Kidney Week will be a high level educational meeting that will enable the multi-professional attendees to keep abreast of developments in clinical practice and cutting edge scientific development. It will be held at the Arena and Convention Centre Liverpool (ACC Liverpool) from the 19 - 21 June 2017.

The scientific programme consists of 25 symposia, generally organised in 3 parallel sessions throughout the 3 days of the conference. We have balanced the 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. We are anticipating that between 800 - 1000 delegates will attend UK Kidney Week 2017.

There will be plenty of opportunity for you to present your own work both in the form of selected oral presentations and moderated poster sessions. Details of the abstract submission process will be announced on our conference website www.ukkidneyweek.org on Friday 7 October.

We are delighted that the conference will be held in association with the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the British Transplant Society (BTS), both organisations bringing expertise, renowned speakers and attendees to the meeting.
We very much look forward to welcoming you to Liverpool in 2017.

With warm regards,

Phil Kalra
Professor of Nephrology
Academic Vice President of UK Renal Association and Conference Chair

Learning from Northern Ireland

It was a great pleasure to be invited to Northern Ireland in mid-October to participate in a strategic review of renal services in the province. I was struck by the passion and morale of the staff I met in all of the kidney units a result, I believe, of the excellent distributed leadership and strong clinical cooperation and collaboration between units. Although the renal system in Northern Ireland isn't formally established as a strategic clinical network in the same way that the renal networks in England were until earlier this year, the units work together for the benefit of the whole kidney population served. Some years ago a single renal information technology platform was established and this this enables clinical details about individual patients to be in the right place at the right time, speeds up regional audit and facilitates strategic planning despite the remaining challenges of interoperability with other IT systems.

Since I last visited five or six years ago the service has truly been transformed. Often an overused word, I cannot think of a better one than 'transformed' for the changes that have been made in access to transplantation. By standing back and identifying what the pathway to transplantation should look like, our colleagues in Northern Ireland have been able to focus their time and energy on making change happen in aspects of the transplant process critical for success. As a result people with kidney failure now benefit from a transplant first approach, live and deceased kidney donor transplant rates have moved from average or below average in the UK to among the highest in the world. Transplant conversations occur early, live donation transplant workup is completed in a day and higher risk patients who previously might not have had the opportunity to discuss transplantation are now supported to have that option as well as dialysis.

The Northern Ireland transplant story is just one example of combinatorial innovation resulting in great change - it would make a great case study in the Harvard Business Review. The costs to effect the change were actually fairly modest and the fact that it's been so successful and dialysis numbers have fallen hasn't resulted in financial penalties for the dialysis program. So lessons for commissioning as well as service design. Some of the other jewels in the crown I heard and saw about included close working with primary care on CKD and AKI - such that unplanned renal replacement therapy is now approaching 5%, virtual clinics enabled by the IT and commissioning systems and formal structured teaching on AKI for all trainees in the province.

Don't be fooled it's not Utopia. Challenges remain and the Renal Association members - both consultants and trainees aren't sat on their laurels. I have no doubt that with their enthusiasm, energy and passion they will continue to make both incremental and step change improvements for the benefit of people and families affected by renal disease. Lots to learn from Northern Ireland.

Donal O'Donogue
RA President

KQuIP continues to progress with additional members. Key Updates

- RA/BRS Patient Safety Initiative-adopted by KQuIP as a Work stream (Katy Jones will take over chair end of January 2017)
- Education and Leadership workstreams amalgamated now known as Delivery.
- 3 QI Project Priorities in development
  - Transplant First
  - Home Therapies Access
  - AV Fistula access in prevalent and incident patients
- KQuIP Hub (online repository) for QI resources to open soon.

The Full KQuIP Update is attached here.

KDIGO Holds Trustees Election

(Brussels, Belgium) - - - Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) has elected five new members of its Executive Committee, referred to in Belgium as The Trustees. The election took place at its most recent Trustees Meeting in Shanghai, China on October 15, 2016.
Elected upon the recommendation of the KDIGO Nominating Committee were: Kunitoshi Iseki of Japan; John Gill of Canada; Paul Stevens of the United Kingdom; Angela Webster of Australia; and Suzanne Watnick of the United States. They will begin their three-year term on January 1, 2017.

These volunteers bring a significant addition to KDIGO’s scientific and clinical resources. They are recognized experts in chronic kidney disease and its treatments, especially transplantation and dialysis as well as guideline methodology and basic research. They add to KDIGO’s global balance of leadership reflecting diverse skills and active clinical work in their respective countries and regions.

David Wheeler, KDIGO co-chair said, “We are thrilled that our five top choices of globally recognized kidney disease experts all accepted our invitation and will join us on the Executive Committee for the coming years. They are all outstanding scientists and clinicians who will play a major role in guiding KDIGO’s future agenda and success.”

Upon the expiration of their terms, three Trustees will leave the group at the end of 2016. They are Bert Kasiske of the United States; Christoph Wanner of Germany; and Yusuke Tsukamoto of Japan. They will remain active with KDIGO, assuming various assignments as part of the KDIGO Global Network.

The 5 new members join current Trustees:

- David Wheeler, KDIGO Co-Chair
- Wolfgang Winkelmayer, KDIGO Co-Chair
- Ali Abu-Alfa
- Olivier Devuyst
- Jürgen Floege
- Andrew Levey
- Zhi-Hong Liu
- Ziad Massy
- Roberto Pecolts-Filho
- Brian Pereira
- Angela Wang

KDIGO co-chair Wolfgang Winkelmayer added, “These are very productive and creative individuals. They are just what KDIGO needs as we pursue a robust program of new and updated guidelines, global controversies conferences as well as implementation conferences and activities all over the world.”

“KDIGO is known for the its extremely qualified and expert leadership. Adding these five new members continues and strengthens our position as a global leader in nephrology. We are sad to see such capable people as Bert, Christoph and Yusuke leave the formal group. But, we have many jobs for them and know they will continue their valuable contributions to our success.”

KDIGO’s agenda for 2017 includes publishing one new guideline, three guideline updates, launching two new guidelines and holding four major Controversies Conferences. The Executive Committee is the governing body of KDIGO and works actively all year to lead its efforts.

KDIGO is a Belgian foundation committed to developing and implementing nephrology guidelines that improve patient outcomes on a global basis.

For further information please contact KDIGO at KDIGOcommunications@kdigo.org

Renal Association guidelines survey
We would appreciate it if you could spend a few minutes completing a short survey on the Renal Association's Clinical Practice Guidelines. Feedback will be used to inform future Guideline development. The survey can be accessed at:

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RA-Guidelines

Survey closes Friday 11 November 2016.

Thank you for your help.

Andrew Lewington
Renal Association Guidelines Chair
Nice Quality Standard Topic Engagement Exercise- Chronic Kidney Disease (Update)

You may be aware that a NICE quality standard on chronic kidney disease (update) is currently being developed. A NICE quality standard is a concise set of prioritised statements designed to drive measurable quality improvements within a particular area of health or care.

Today we have published the topic overview for this quality standard, describing core elements of the standard, on the NICE website for information and are inviting submissions from stakeholders on which areas for quality improvement would be considered to have the greatest potential to improve the quality of care for this area.

In support of suggestions for quality improvement, registered stakeholders, respondents and individuals are asked to provide any evidence or information that care in the suggested key areas for quality improvement is poor or variable and requires improvement. This information will be considered by the Quality Standards Advisory Committee (QSAC) who will agree which areas should be developed for the quality standard. Please note this is not a consultation on the draft quality standard; there will be a consultation on the draft quality standard on 1st-28th March 2016.

Please visit the following page to view the topic overview for chronic kidney disease (update) and download a comments pro-forma:

Chronic kidney disease: topic engagement page

This engagement exercise will run from 24th October until 7th November at 5pm. Please note if you are submitting comments as an individual there is no need to register. Responses must be submitted to QStopicengagement@nice.org.uk by 5pm on 7th November 2016.

Kind regards,
The Quality Standards Team

Message from the Renal Services CRG

Under the restructuring of specialist services the two previous Clinical Reference Groups (CRGs) for renal transplantation and dialysis have been amalgamated into a new Renal Services CRG (https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/spec-services/npc-crg/group-a/a06/). The role of the CRG is to be the primary source of clinical advice to NHS England. We are tasked with creating a work programme and to engage with our key stakeholders to drive improvements in the quality, equity, experience, efficiency and outcomes of renal services. Clearly this is a very broad assignment and over the next few months we will be deciding upon the areas that we wish focus.

After recruitment the membership of the new CRG is as follows:

Clinical Chair
Richard Baker

Lead Commissioner
Jon Gulliver

Patient and Public Voice
Fiona Loud, Tracey Rose and Phil Willan

North
Sandip Mitra (Dialysis) Will McKane (Transplantation)

Midlands
Clara Day (Dialysis) Nick Torpey (Transplantation)

London
Neil Ashman (Dialysis) Nizam Mamode (Transplantation)

South
Phil Mason (Dialysis) Peter Rowe (Transplantation)

Public Health
Ayesha Ali

Specialist Pharmacy
Liz Lammerton (Dialysis) Andrea Devaney (Transplantation)

Affiliated Societies
It is very important that we represent the views of our constituency and I would strongly encourage you to contribute to the business of the CRG. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to share any thoughts or feel that there is an issue that we should get involved in (richard-j.baker@nhs.net). Alternatively contact your local representatives as above. In a further effort to promote dialogue we intend to rotate the CRG meetings around the regions of England. I hope that there will be a chance at these meetings to meet local clinical directors in dialysis and transplantation as well as patient groups. We are also keen to look at collaborative commissioning particularly with the evolving roles of STPs in developing local services. As a result, we are very keen to hear about local engagement and any ongoing local initiatives. Again I would urge you to get involved and let us know what is going on. The Renal Association have very kindly offered me the space to continue with this communication in the RA news and at regular intervals I will endeavour to keep you updated with the issues that cross the desk of the CRG. Please don't hesitate to get back to me with anything that you feel we should be looking at.

Best wishes

Richard
Chair Renal Services CRG

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

Bioimpedance Spectroscopy To maintain Renal Output (BISTRO)

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 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!

BAME patients
Patients from the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) community are prevalent on the deceased-donor kidney waiting list but wait approximately a year longer due to a shortage of deceased-donors from the BAME community. While living kidney donor rates are better among the BAME community, there has been a slow decline in the number of living kidney donors nationally. While efforts continue to increase organ donor rates among the BAME community, these primarily focus on donation after death. The purpose of this initiative is to support projects targeting specific communities and locations from the BAME population, with the measurable outcome being an increase of living kidney donor rates.

http://www.nbta-uk.org.uk/2016/10/invitation-to-make-submissions-for-the-living-transplant-initiative-lti/
**Free 'multi-skills' training for renal researchers**

Kidney Research UK's Researcher Development Days are a unique opportunity for our alumni to develop their career potential. If your work is or has been funded by the charity, register now to meet experienced researchers Professor Fred Tam, Dr Claire Sharp and Professor David Wheeler at the Royal Free Hospital at the next development day on Wednesday 30 November. Our speakers will discuss their career paths and how to get your work published.

**Renal regenerative medicine - a new step forward**

Kidney Research UK brought together researchers, clinicians, scientists and patients at a special meeting in October, marking the beginning of a new collaborative journey in the field of renal regenerative medicine. The attendees discussed opportunities for mutual working and partnership in areas including stem cell therapies, preclinical and clinical applications, funding and patient engagement. Click here to read more.

**Current grant calls**

Remember, remember, the 25 November 2016 is the deadline for applications for the next round of Kidney Research UK Fellowships (Senior, Post-Doctoral, Training and Allied Health Professional). More information available here: https://www.kidneyresearchuk.org/research/current-calls-for-applications

**World Kidney Day 9 March 2017**

Please put the date in your diary. We are encouraging renal units to get together with their KPAs and local patients to raise awareness of kidney health and the risks of kidney disease. The 2017 theme is kidney disease and obesity. If you want to register for a UK Support Pack if you are planning an event or activity, contact info@worldkidneyday.co.uk. Further information in due course at www.worldkidneyday.co.uk

**Think Kidneys Update**

**Keeping the Pressure Up to Raise Awareness of AKI**

The Think Kidneys programme for AKI formally comes to an end in March 2017, however there are a few important initiatives we are still working on. These include:

- resources for care homes for raising awareness of the risks of AKI. The resources have been piloted by 40 care homes over the summer and will be refined and published in the next couple of months
- a pilot using credit card sized STOP cards which can be handed by GPs and pharmacists to patients who are at risk of AKI
- AKI guides for ambulance teams and community nurses
- Publication of a paediatric leaflet about AKI
- Publication of undergraduate guides on AKI for doctors, nurses and pharmacists

The campaign to raise awareness among the general public of the importance of kidneys is still gathering momentum and has had coverage on Sky News, Radio Two's Jeremy Vine show and many others. GP surgeries, hospital clinics, pharmacies and waiting areas are displaying our eye-catching and thought provoking posters in 10,000 places. The free posters carry important messages encouraging people to spare a thought for their kidneys and can be ordered free from www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk/campaign

**Kidney Quality Improvement Partnership (KQuIP) - Co-ordinating Quality Improvement in Kidney Services Across the UK**

KQuIP launched in June during UK Kidney Week to a packed house of enthusiasts looking to learn more about how the renal community can work together to share their quality improvement activities. The website is now up and running at www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk/kquip and the six workstreams - leadership, supporting networks, measurement, projects, education and communications are working to develop resources to further develop quality improvement capacity and capability.

**Transforming Participation in Chronic Kidney Disease (TP-CKD)**
We are at a very exciting stage of the TP-CKD Programme as we come to the end of phase 1 which has been all about embedding measurement, and move onto phase 2 which is about spread and sustainability. We will be working closely with the 10 units in Cohort 1 and the potential 12 units in Cohort 2 to move the programme into the next phase.

Each team from cohort 1 has now received CS-PAM, PAM and PROM results and we will be facilitating the teams to determine ways to use this data to begin changes in conversations and behaviours. We will support unit teams to develop an action plan in response to their data and look at new ways of working at individual, team and system level to address any issues that they feel are pertinent. We plan to use a workshop format and provide peer review to support the units to build a quality improvement trajectory.

A Learning and Sharing event is planned for Cohort 2 on the 8 November in Birmingham. The aim of the event is for cohort 1 teams to share their learning and experiences directly with the cohort 2 teams and to provide support to develop their plans for implementing PAM and PROM, using this learning. We are inviting each unit in cohort 2 to bring 6 representatives with them; 3 patients and 3 healthcare professionals. The programme for the day is being developed with help from representatives from cohort 1.

Establishment of the UK Renal Trials Network
The UK Renal Trials Network (UKRTN) is a recently established UKKRC expert group which aims to provide methodological support, peer review and potentially endorsement to prospective investigators considering clinical trials. UKRTN membership includes a wide range of expertise including trials methodology and design (both adult and paediatric), conduct, regulation, statistics, health economics, patient involvement, the use of registries within trials, and trial set-up and coordination.

The UKRTN will meet 3 times per year, with the next meeting taking place on the 7th of November in London. Prospective investigators are encouraged to submit outline proposals as early as possible in development, using the application form or upon request by email. Proposers will be invited to attend a UKRTN meeting for a round table discussion.

Current UKRTN members include: Thomas Hiemstra, Cambridge Clinical Trials Unit (chair), Richard Haynes (Oxford CTSU), Colin Baigent (Oxford MRC Population Health Research Unit), Fergus Caskey (UKRR), Claire Corps (Leeds Teaching Hospitals), Simon Davies (Keele University), Charlie Ferro (University of Birmingham), David Jayne (University of Cambridge), Phil Kalra (Salford), Iain MacDougall (Kings College Hospitals), Paddy Mark (University of Glasgow), John McMurray (University of Glasgow), Shahid Muhammad (Exeter), Dorothea Nitsch (LSHTM), Nick Webb (University of Manchester), David Wheeler (UCL), Claire White (Kings College Hospitals), Ed Wilson (Population Health, University of Cambridge).

Inquiries may be directed to Charlotte Vogelmann (cv321@medschl.cam.ac.uk). The UKRTN website is under construction.

Renal Association Obituaries
From the Renal Association Archivist - John Feehally

I am pleased to announce a new feature on the RA website

Go to: http://www.renal.org/about-us/obituaries#sthash.IIIHnyDi.dpbs where you can find obituaries of most past RA members

Among deceased past members of the Renal Association are the leading nephrologists of their eras, as well as other 'unsung heroes' who played key roles in establishing nephrology in their own regions and institutions. We have provided as much information as we can about their roles and achievements. This resource is curated by John Feehally, Stewart Cameron, and Chris Winearls. Please go and find out more about your past friends, colleagues, mentors, or heroes.

If there is anyone on the list with no obituary posted, and you would be interested to write a piece; or if you have photographs or missing information which you would like to be posted; or if you have any other comments, please contact: John Feehally jf27@le.ac.uk

Courses, Meetings & Events

Descartes CME course
4th November 2016
Berlin
The course will cover a broad range of hot topics: from actual trends in stem cell research and basic science to latest treatment options for transplanted patients. About 100 transplant specialists from all across Europe are expected to come to the vibrant city of Berlin/Germany for this outstanding educational event with high level lectures on hot topics from European key opinion leaders in transplantation.

Please [click here](#) to view the programme.

**Frontiers in glomerulonephritis**

9th November 2016
Royal Society of Medicine, London

Details of the event can be found [here](#).

**4th International Conference on Transplantation**

25-26 November, 2016
University of Warwick

We are pleased to announce the 4th International conference on transplantation at University of Warwick. The goal of this conference is to bring together researchers, clinicians and scientists working in transplantation to look at various aspects of clinical transplantation, and in particular antibodies, complement pathways and predictive modelling of outcomes following high risk transplantation - [click here](#) to read more.

**Setting up services for young people: Perspectives, Practice and Planning**

1 December, 2016
Salford Royal Hospital

**Objectives**

To highlight, share and explore the practical aspects of improving health outcomes for renal transition and young adult patients and learn from good examples of patient centred care. This study day would be relevant to all involved in the provision of young adult and transition services, regardless of discipline.

Please [click here](#) to read more.

**Advanced Nephrology Course**

03rd - 07th January 2017
Corpus Christi College, Oxford

Details of the event can be found [here](#).

**3rd Joint Meeting of ABCD & the Renal Association 2017**

28th February 2017,
National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham

This meeting brings together internationally renowned leaders in the field of diabetes related renal disease to discuss current challenges, future potential areas for intervention, and therapeutic opportunities. We are delighted that Dr Christoph Wanner will be joining us as a lead investigator from the EMPA-REG study to focus on the renal outcomes from this and other recent cardiovascular outcome studies.

Click [here](#) to find out more and to register.

**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. Please register your interest by clicking 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.