

Alignment and Synergy in Long-Term Vision: A Memorandum of Understanding between the European Renal Association and the Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes

As a key body of the ERA (European Renal Association), the ERBP (European Renal Best Practice) Committee is tasked with providing Eurocentric but globally relevant and cited actionable communiques. The mission of ERA and ERBP is to improve the lives of people with kidney disease sustainably, by communicating knowledge in a format that stimulates its use in clinical practice in Europe (1).

In 2020 the ERA Council amplified the ERBP Committee's intervention arm due to the high relevance of its role within the ERA and for the scientific community, a multidisciplinary group creating digestible guidelines, position statements for nephrologists, with input from nephrologists, guideline development methodologists, epidemiologists, pediatric nephrologists, renal nurse specialists, and it is open to welcoming any other expert who can give a useful contribution with particular competencies and expertise.

The main output is drafting of consensus or controversial statements concerning best practices developed in collaboration with other ERA bodies or related to guidelines in the field produced by other bodies specialized in best practice development. Recent examples include (2–6).

To strengthen the ERBP role and develop collaborative and durable relationships, the ERA decided to open a dialogue with the most relevant bodies developing guidelines worldwide. It is therefore a milestone for ERBP to sign a long-term agreement with KDIGO (Kidney Disease:



Improving Global Outcome) a global organization developing and implementing evidence-based clinical practice guidelines in kidney disease. ERBP mission is to improve the care and outcomes of patients with kidney disease worldwide through the development and implementation of global clinical practice guidelines, KDIGO's output consists mainly of scientific conferences, translation of science into guidelines, and implementation projects for these guidelines (7).

KDIGO provides formats for all learners, including society congresses, stand-alone KDIGO focus meetings, summits, expert roundtables, speaker tours, and implementation kits. Perhaps among the most popular formats are Controversies Conferences devoted to spirited discussion amongst thought leaders for unresolved challenges facing patients with kidney disease. ERA and ERBP Committees are aligned with these missions and the partnership with KDIGO is mutually synergistic when talking about guidelines and best practices.

ERA and KDIGO representatives convened on May 21st, 2022, during the 59th Congress of the European Renal Association, to sign the first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ERA and KDIGO. The MoU outlines several projects and initiatives for the global nephrology community, including educational programs, joint presentations to international congresses and conferences, strengthening relationships with national societies in Europe, and working to encourage the involvement of the most outstanding experts and physicians in guideline development.

“For many years, there has been a productive and growing relationship between the ERA and KDIGO,” said Professor Mario Cozzolino, ERBP Chair. “The signing of this important agreement



is aimed at formalizing the ways in which we will work together in the future for the benefit of patients in Europe and around the world.”

The two organisations will work closely together on virtual educational programs such as webinars, e-seminars, and podcasts, with the aim of reaching the broadest audience possible.

Both entities will also continue facilitating opportunities by which publications and educational tools can be translated into local languages in collaboration with regional or national organizations.

Thanks to the diverse and comprehensive expertise of its members, and particularly the ERBP, ERA will not only write commentaries on KDIGO guidelines but will also actively help identify expert reviewers to participate in the public review period of the KDIGO guidelines.

In addition, the two organisations will work together on programs called “Implementation Summits,” through which attendees relate and discuss opportunities and barriers in their country or region on implementing KDIGO Guidelines and Controversies Conference Reports.

And last but not least, special visibility will be given to this collaboration, and its outputs, during the annual ERA Congress, the largest European meeting in nephrology.

“This MoU provides a foundation for a number of important collaborations between KDIGO and ERA, and we are very excited about what we can achieve for patients by working together,” said John Davis, KDIGO Chief Executive Officer.

References

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