

Melbourne WCN 2019 delivered an exciting conference experience with excellent organization, great food, and a centrally located picturesque waterfront location. As my first international renal conference WCN set itself apart from previous ANZSN conferences with the global themes and community involvement.

I also attended Pre-conference educational update course. Personal highlights from the update course included the update on vasculitis which was delivered by an engaging and humorous speaker from Canberra who presented convincing data on the role of mycophenolate in both induction and maintenance therapy. Also with vasculitis, Rituximab data was compelling for maintenance vs. azathioprine and tailored rituximab dosing is inferior. On the second day of the update course HIF-1a stabilizers were highlighted in the first of many talks over the course of the weekend. This talk was nicely balanced sighting many potential adverse effects of these new agents that must be explored before they achieve widespread clinical use in human subjects.

The Plenary sessions on day one focused on bioengineering and tissue regeneration, and the drivers of appetite and what truly constitutes a healthy diet. The plenary sessions on day 2 addressed the global increase in dialysis demand in aging populations and highlighted the shift to assessment of dialysis adequacy by improvement in patient symptoms, with the second session presenting the fundamentals of the immunological efforts to facilitate graft tolerance with research on CD25 expressing FOXP3 +ve Treg cells.

Other highlights for me included; discussions on SGLT2 inhibitors, recommendations to target ferritin of 600-700 with tsats of 40% in dialysis patients, serum phosphate levels are associated with poor cardiovascular outcomes unless magnesium levels are optimised, and FGF-23 is an independent poor prognostic factor related to cardiomyopathy... but in the EVOLVE study reduction in FGF-23 reduction had no impact on outcomes. The use of precision medicine in transplantation was interesting but still has to prove its clinical utility. My conference concluded with my poster presentation on Australia rural dialysis outcomes where I engaged others on the topic and met with colleagues and mentors.

I thank the organizers of the WCN 2019 for supporting my attendance.

Dr. Brian Doucet