

WCN 2019 – Travel Grant Report (Dr. Justin Chua)

The 2019 International Society of Nephrology's World Congress of Nephrology in Melbourne demonstrated the collaborative nature of nephrologists around the world to share knowledge, expertise and thoughts to further the specialty of renal medicine and to improve the care of our patients. Given the global nature of the meeting, there was strong emphasis on discussing renal issues from diverse and sometimes incredibly different clinical settings.

The Nephrology Biennial Review Course, which preceded the conference, provided a great overview of evidence-based medicine in Nephrology in the past two years that will impact upon my day-to-day clinical practice. As a first-year advanced trainee, the course highlighted areas for which there is a dearth of evidence, even though they were common scenarios in my routine work.

It was a positive experience getting to present my research via a moderated poster session to an international crowd. The task of speaking to an audience provided added clarity about my own work, and fielding questions allowed my thoughts to be challenged. Additionally, listening to other presenters speak about their own work gave me exposure to clinical issues which at times were relatable and other times very different from practice in Australia.

Particular highlights of the meeting include hearing the CREDENCE trial results for the first time, which demonstrated in a large randomised control trial the significant benefits of canagliflozin in diabetic nephropathy patients, which is a population that they specifically looked at and makes up a significant proportion of the patients that are managed by nephrologists. Other highlights included an opening plenary talk from Professor Tim Flannery which focused on climate change. The talk concentrated on the challenges that we as a global society face from global warming, and elaborated on approaches to try to fix the problem.

The World Congress of Nephrology provided a great opportunity to gain further knowledge about my chosen specialty, and allowed me to engage with the wider nephrology community, not only just from Australia and New Zealand, but also around the world.