

World Congress of Nephrology – Melbourne, Australia (12th April to 15th April) – Samuel Chan

I am very grateful to ANZSN for the award of a travel grant in 2019 to attend the World Congress of Nephrology in Melbourne. This gave me an opportunity to attend a largescale conference and present the work, as a poster, on 'haemodialysis withdrawal in Australia and New Zealand – a binational registry study', which I completed as an advanced trainee at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

A wide range of sessions and topics were covered during the week. In addition to the excellent plenary talks, I found the talks on the 'gut microbiome in kidney disease' and the 'infectious challenges in kidney transplantation' very worthwhile as this has direct relevance to my PhD studies on 'infectious complications in kidney transplantation'. I got the opportunity to communicate with likeminded researchers in this field, and received valuable feedback from them which was helped to advance my research work.

One of the highlights of the Congress was the Clinical Trials session, particularly learning about the CREDENCE trial. The goal of the trial was to assess the effect of canagliflozin versus placebo on renal outcomes in patients with CKD and Type II diabetes mellitus. There were a total of 4,401 participants over a duration of 2.62 years. The results indicated that canagliflozin was superior to placebo in improving glycaemic control and reducing adverse renal events, suggesting that SGLT2 inhibitors may need to be considered routinely among similar patients who are already on renin-angiotensin system inhibitors.

In addition to the many informative and inspirational sessions during the conference, the other highlight of the conference was the opportunity to interact with nephrologists around the globe. The Young Nephrologist Committee organised social functions and opportunities to interact with each other and senior members of the society. We discussed about issues such as how to provide better support to young nephrologists/ trainees in the region and improve collaboration.

Overall, it was an excellent week, enriched with stimulating presentations and conversations with like-minded professionals which have inspired me to advance my PhD studies further. I am humbled and grateful to the ANZSN for granting me this award. Thank you so much.