Meet our new IPNA Councilors

Since IPNA Councilors have six-year terms (see below), a portion of IPNA council rotates every three years, with the rotation occurring at the time of the triennial IPNA Congresses. Thus, during the upcoming IPNA Congress in Venice this October, the Council will meet twice – the first meeting consisting of current council members, and the second meeting will be the introductory meeting for new councilors. We are very pleased to introduce five of the new Councilors to you in this newsletter issue. With their enthusiasm and new ideas, we are sure they will make valuable contributions to IPNA Governance.

All of the incoming Councilors were asked the same series of questions:

1. Why did you choose to become a pediatric nephrologist?
2. What do you consider to be the most challenging issue when improving the care for little kidneys?
3. What will be your main focus/goal as IPNA councilor? Where do you see yourself contributing to IPNA’s programs and mission?

**Nilzete Bresolin (Brazil, ALANEPE)**

1. By affinity with specialty
2. Many of the kidney diseases have nonspecific signs and symptoms and a high degree of suspicion is required to diagnose them. Also, they tend to have long-term consequences.
3. I believe that my main focus as IPNA Councilor will be to improve and disseminate up-to-date knowledge in pediatric nephrology, especially in places with greater difficulty in accessing information. I think I can contribute to the teaching mission in pediatric nephrology.

**Don Batisky (USA, ASPN)**

1. There were three reasons that I chose to become a pediatric nephrologist. First, I enjoyed the types of patients and the clinical problems that they had. It is a field in which you sometimes meet patients in an acute setting, and yet you also get to follow them in a more chronic setting. That variety was appealing. Second, I knew that I wanted an academic career, so being able to continue to not only learn but also to teach was quite attractive in a specialty. Third, excellent role models and mentors showed me how gratifying the life of a pediatric nephrologist could be, and that aspect of the field has never failed to be the case.
2. The most challenging issue that I see is to try to balance the latest and most advanced techniques and treatments with the idea that some children will never even have access to the most basic care that is available.
3. My primary focus will be to meet people from other places and cultures to understand how the world and our specialty fit together. I have longstanding interests in medical education, so I hope that I can put my experiences and skills to work in this role. I also strongly feel that we must be staunch advocates for our patients, as children (and especially sick children) do not always have a voice.

Adrian Catalin Lungu (Romania, ESPN)

1. I had the opportunity to work with a great Pediatric Nephrologists, he inspired me the love for little kidneys.
2. - Socioeconomic disparities in developing nations - Insufficient number of qualified medical stuff to take care of kidney disease in children - Incomplete medical teams to manage difficult cases - In some parts of the world, the children are disadvantaged in the health system. We need better political regulations.
3. My main focus as IPNA councilor will be to improve communication between IPNA and European National Societies, especially the ones in Central and Eastern Europe. Also, I would like to promote teaching activities in this part of Europe and to be involved in collaborative research projects. I would like to promote events linked to World Kidney Day, and also to be a link with local patient associations. I am an active member in Young Nephrologists Platform (YNP) of the ERA-EDTA, as a representative for my country, involved in the teaching webinars. I can do this kind of work in IPNA I think I can contribute to IPNA’s programs and mission, by promoting teaching and research. I can be part of the activities linked with Young Pediatric Nephrologists around the world. I can promote IPNA registry. I would also like to be involved in promoting IPNA standards of care for kidney disease in children in underdeveloped countries I am determined to raise awareness among health care decision makers about the special needs of these children.

Florencio McCarthy Waith (Panama, ALANEPE)

1. I decided to be a Pediatrician early in my teen years because I wanted to provide healthcare for children. When I was at the Medical School and I learned about renal physiology and pathophysiology, I knew that I would become a Pediatric Nephrologist.
2. As it was the theme of this year WORLD KIDNEY DAY campaign, the most challenging issue is to improve access for prevention, early diagnosis and treatment (including renal transplant) of kidney disease to children in all countries.
3. My main goal will be to improve continual medical education in our region and to promote formal Nephrology training to our Pediatricians with the help of IPNA Fellowships programs.
Ali Düzova (Turkey, ESPN)

1. Diversity of the topic, a fertile area of research, ability to specialize in a well-known center with experienced academic staff.
2. Globally: limited resources, education, inequality.
3. I am especially motivated to work in the fields of “AKI&0by25”, “Disaster Action”, “Registry”, “Teaching Courses”, “Specific Priorities in Low Resourced Countries”, or other fields that the Association would require.

About IPNA Council

The Council is responsible for managing and controlling the property and affairs of IPNA. The members of the Council consist of the Executive Committee members (IPNA President, Treasurer, seven regional secretaries, the president-elect and the past president) and twenty-six Councilors at large, who are selected by their Regional Societies. There are also ex-officio members, including the Pediatric Nephrology journal editors, and the President of the upcoming IPNA Congress.

Councilors serve six-year terms and cannot be re-elected except the representative of the Junior Working Group who serve a three-year term and cannot be re-elected.

For more information about the IPNA governance, you can preview IPNA Constitution or please contact office@ipna-online.org