Brief Description of the International Fellows Seminar Mexico 2017.

The 2017 International Fellows Seminar was held in May of this year in conjunction with the World Conference of Nephrology in Mexico. The idea and the format of the Seminar was inspired by the Fellows Conference organized by the Renal Research Institute under the Leadership of Dr. Maria Ferris.

The seminar had an interactive format to facilitate interactions between the fellows and to support potential research and clinical collaborations. Pediatric Nephrology is a small community compared with the Adult Nephrology community and we need to be in communication in order to grow and improve the outcomes of our patients based on scientific evidence. To be able to share with Mentor-expert Pediatric Nephrologists in an environment of confidence and friendship gives the fellow inspiration and self-confidence.

The ideal 2 days’ program includes: Scientific topics, case based presentations with Q&A, Board review questions and Poster presentations that allow the fellows to practice an efficient communication of their research with the opportunity to receive feedback from the experts on the field.

All the logistics in Mexico City were coordinated by Dr. Mara Medeiros. The Professors volunteered to arrive before the WCN conference to be able to share with the fellows, and some of them came to Mexico just to be part of the fellow’s seminar. Support for the seminar was provided by IPNA, the National Autonomous University of Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), The Mexican Institute of Research in Nephrology (Instituto Mexicano de Investigaciones Nefrológicas) and the research area of the Hospital Infantil de México Federico Gómez. Even the personnel from the research laboratory volunteered to work extra hours to make the seminar possible. They even cooked extra food to be able to supply lunch boxes for the fellows. Simultaneous translation was used despite its cost to allow the fellows to better interact with the foreign professors.

Overall, this conference had 76 participants, including fellows and junior faculty from all over Mexico, and also some international fellows, mainly from Latin-American countries, adult nephrology fellows, and even fellows from the PICU. To summarize, it was an amazing experience that we hope to replicate in multiple conferences to enhance the leadership and collaboration among young Pediatric Nephrologists. For example, the seminar is being replicated for one day in October 2017 at the Latin American Conference for Pediatric Nephrology in Santiago, Chile.

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