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NEPHROLOGY

The Specialty Section in Nephrology continues to meet twice yearly under the Presidency of Professor Brian Keogh (Ireland). Currently the main aim of the Section is to establish a European Board of Nephrology. Two meetings have been held at the time of the last two European Congresses of Nephrology between the members of the Specialty Section, representatives of the European Renal Association and the Presidents of the National Societies of Nephrology in Europe.

The need for harmonisation of training in Nephrology in Europe was recognised many years ago by the Specialty Section. A curriculum and requirements for training were published in 1996 (Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation 1996; 11; 1657-1660) following collaboration with the then Presidents of the National Societies of Nephrology. The enlargement of the European Union with its requirements for mutual recognition of specialty qualifications has increased the need for a common minimum standard of training. The Specialty Section is currently carrying out a survey of the differing training requirements, standards and methods of assessment of training throughout the European Union and the UEMS countries.

The assessment and accreditation of training programmes and training centres was felt to be beyond the scope of the Specialty Section and led to the suggestion of the formation of a European Board of Nephrology. It is envisaged that the Board would be able to undertake assessment of training centres usually in collaboration with national systems of approval and accreditation. This approach has been felt by the two meetings to be the best way of achieving a common high standard of specialist training in Nephrology in Europe.

A programme for Continuing Medical Education / Continuing Professional Development in Nephrology in Europe was published by the Specialty Section in 1999 (Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation 1999;14; 2099-2100). The Specialty Section has been receiving requests for CME/CPD approval from the EACCME It is felt that this role of the Specialty Section would be better to be taken over by a sub-committee of a European Board of Nephrology comprising officials of the Specialty Section and the CME/CPD committee of the European Renal Association.

A further meeting of the Specialty Section with the Presidents of the National Societies of Nephrology in Europe and representatives of the European Renal Association is to be held in early June in Istanbul at the time of the European Renal Association / European Dialysis and Transplant Association Annual Congress to discuss these issues and establish the European Board of Nephrology.

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