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Time To Act And Shift The Focus Toward Building Better Access To Medication For Equitable Kidney Care!

World Kidney Day 2024: Advancing equitable access to care and optimal medication practice.

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In 2019, chronic kidney disease (CKD) was responsible for over **3.1 million deaths**, ranking it the **7th leading cause of death worldwide**. The global mortality attributed to all kidney diseases is estimated to range between **5 and 11 million** annually, particularly impacting low and middle-income countries (LMICs), disproportionately affected by acute kidney injury and facing challenges related to insufficient access to kidney replacement therapy, including transplantation and dialysis.

Masomi Nangaku, president of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN), and Latha Kumaraswami, president of the International Federation of Kidney Foundations – World Kidney Alliance (IFKF-WKA), the two organizations that lead the World Kidney Day (WKD) campaign, jointly emphasize that “Overcoming barriers to optimal medication practice poses multifaceted challenges, including economic burdens, limited access to affordable treatments, gaps in disease knowledge, inadequate focus on prevention and early diagnosis, challenges in medication adherence, global policy gaps, a shortage of primary care professionals, and the harmful impact of patient misinformation.” Further, they urge that “Addressing these issues is essential to ensure fair access and promote a culture of well-informed and effective medication management.”

On March 14, 2024, the World Kidney Day call to action is “[Kidney Health for All: Advancing equitable access to care and optimal medication practice](#)” to improve the quality of life and delay disease progression for people living with kidney disease.

“Over the past three decades, medications have offered kidney protection. However, in practice, these medications remain underutilized due to high costs, lack of patient education, polypharmacy, side effects, and limited availability—particularly evident in LMICs,” states Alessandro Balducci, co-chair WKD Joint Steering Committee for IFKF-WKA, based at the Italian Kidney Foundation in Italy.

Vassilios Liakopoulos, co-chair of the WKD Joint Steering Committee for ISN, based at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece, suggests “to overcome these barriers and shift the focus toward a global approach, the implementation of multisectoral policies is crucial. These policies should prioritize quality of care, embrace innovative strategies that involve and support healthcare workers, and ensure affordable kidney care globally for people living with kidney disease.”

As people connect worldwide on World Kidney Day 2024, emphasizing equal access to care is essential. This focus ensures access to treatment and fosters efficient, informed, and effective kidney health management on a global scale. The journey ahead involves navigating these obstacles with a commitment to making optimal kidney care accessible and affordable for the well-being of people living with kidney disease everywhere.



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About World Kidney Day:

How is World Kidney Day celebrated?

Kidney associations, organizations, kidney health stakeholders, healthcare professionals, and authorities organize local, regional, national, and international events to help reduce incidences of kidney disease.

Awareness is raised through workshops, lectures, health checks, and displays and distribution of educational posters and other material in hospitals, colleges, community centers, public places, workplaces, and other relevant locations. Physical activity events, such as walking, cycling, jogging, and dancing, are organized. Information is published on websites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to highlight kidney diseases and related issues.

[Visit the World Kidney Day website here](#)

About World Kidney Day organizers:

World Kidney Day is a joint initiative of the ISN and the IFKF-WKA.

Founded in 1960, the ISN is a global not-for-profit society dedicated to improving kidney care and reducing the incidence and impact of kidney disease worldwide. Through its international network and programs, the ISN brings together the developing and developed world in a collaborative effort to fight and treat kidney diseases. Find out more [here](#).

The IFKF-WKA is a not-for-profit federation founded in 1999. The IFKF advocates worldwide to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life of people with kidney disease. It disseminates standards of best practices in treatment and care, assists with establishing kidney foundations in countries where they do not yet exist, facilitates educational programs for its members, and promotes kidney disease research. Find out more [here](#).

Press contacts:



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Alice Poidevin, WKD campaign manager, based at the International Society of Nephrology, Brussels, Belgium. T) +32 2 808 04 20 E) alice@worldkidneyday.org.

References:

Alessandro Balducci, co-chair of the WKD Joint Steering Committee for IFKF-WKA, Italian Kidney Foundation, based in Rome, Italy E) abalducci01@gmail.com

Vassilios Liakopoulos, co-chair of the WKD Joint Steering Committee for the ISN, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, based in Thessaloniki, Greece E): liakopul@otenet.gr

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