

In November 2006, the CSN approved the formation of an ad hoc International Health Committee, aimed at increasing awareness of the worldwide burden of CKD and improving global kidney health. The Committee's long-term objectives are broad and can be reviewed in the Terms of Reference as posted on the CSN website. However, the Committee's immediate focus is on four key objectives.

First, to promote the ISN renal sister programs initiative and recruit additional Canadian centers to participate (see http://www.nature.com/isn/society/programs/full/isn_051027_11.html).

Second, to develop a Canadian registry for opportunities for foreign learners in renal medicine.

Third, to recruit Canadian centers to participate in the ISN Fellowship Matching Initiative, which will pair foreign learners with a center offering nephrology training in a developed country (see http://www.nature.com/isn/society/programs/full/isn_051027_6.html) This initiative does not guarantee funding or a training position for the applicants but is intended to serve as a starting point for young nephrologists in low or middle- income countries who do not have contacts in developed nations.

Fourth, to help Canadian nephrology trainees to obtain international health experience by providing information and connecting them with preceptors, where possible. The Committee also administers and awards the CSN international travel grants, awarded annually to eligible Canadian nephrology trainees. For 2007, the recipients of the grants are Dr. Paul Raju from McGill University (Mysore, India), Dr. Adam Cohn from the University of Ottawa (Mumbai, India) and Dr. Naomi Glick from the University of Alberta (Soweto, South Africa).

For more information about the Committee's activities, please contact Dr. Marcello Tonelli at mtonelli@ualberta.ca or 780 407 8520.