

# AFRAN NEWSLETTER

**SAVE THE DATE: 2027 AFRAN CONFERENCE, 22<sup>D</sup> -25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA**



**AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEPHROLOGY**  
Leading Nephrology in Africa

## AFRAN NEWSLETTER: Sharing African Nephrology development to Africans and abroad

BY FAIÇAL JARRAYA, NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Members,  
**Welcome to the Second Issue of the African Association of Nephrology Newsletter!**

We are delighted to welcome you to the second issue of the African Association of Nephrology (AFRAN) Newsletter! The editorial board members join me to wish you a happy new year 2026. **Sharing with you the most of African nephrology activities is our objective** in this issue, we focus on news from our association, including message from our president announcing our next AFRAN 2027 meeting in Tanzania, the invitation expressions of interest for hosting 2029 AFRAN congress. A brief from the successful 2025 Congress, AFRAN-ISGD MOU, report from the 1<sup>st</sup> Forum on Organ Donation and transplantation. We celebrate in this issue Prof Charles Swanepoel, our former president and the first African chair of a WCN.

We add in this issue 3 new chapters, a report on AFRAN webinars organized during last trimester 2025, a presentation of 5 African researches published during last trimester 2025 in high impact factor journals. Please do not hesitate to send us your research publications to share them when possible. We have a country/national society activity presentation in each issue, and in the current one, we share DR of Congo data.

This issue include also an invited report from Prof Mohamed Salah Zaki, chair of ISN Africa board briefing the projects of this board and collaboration with AFRAN. A report also from Prof Nicola Wearne, Chair of WIN-Africa, presenting this AFRAN affiliated group and collaboration with AFRAN.

As the voice of nephrology in Africa, AFRAN is committed to fostering a collaborative environment where knowledge is shared freely, and partnerships are strengthened. This newsletter is just one of the many initiatives we are undertaking to support our members in their work and to promote excellence in nephrology across the continent. We encourage you to actively participate by renewing your membership, sharing your experiences, insights, and contributes to help in the progress of nephrology in Africa as the testimonial presented by the chair of YNC.

Thank you for being a part of this exciting new chapter. We hope you enjoy this first issue and find it both informative and inspiring. Warm regards,



AFRICAN CONGRESS TUNIS 2025, over 600 delegates and a historic moment in building a strong African nephrology community



Dar Es Salaam: city host of 2027 AFRAN CONGRESS

## 2027 AFRAN CONGRESS: Expecting a landmark African Nephrology event

BY ABDOU NIANG, AFRAN PRESIDENT

Dear AFRAN Members and Colleagues

The 2027 AFRAN Congress marks a pivotal chapter in the advancement of African nephrology. At a time when the continent is facing a rapidly escalating burden of kidney disease, this Congress is envisioned not simply as a scientific gathering, but as a strategic forum to consolidate African leadership, drive innovation, and strengthen solidarity in kidney health.

Following a competitive and transparent bidding process, the African Renal Association (AFRAN) is proud to announce Dar es Salaam, Tanzania as the host of the 2027 Congress. This selection recognizes Tanzania's growing leadership in nephrology, its sustained commitment to expanding and strengthening renal services, and its strategic role within the East African region and across the continent. Hosting the Congress in Dar es Salaam reflects AFRAN's dedication to inclusivity, regional balance, and the systematic strengthening of nephrology capacity throughout Africa.

The 2027 AFRAN Congress will convene clinicians, researchers, nurses, allied health professionals, policymakers, patient advocates, and industry partners from across Africa and beyond. Scientific excellence will remain at the core of the program, with focused attention on chronic kidney disease prevention, acute kidney injury, dialysis, transplantation, hypertension, diabetes, and the integration of kidney care within broader non-communicable disease strategies. Equally central will be implementation science, health systems strengthening, workforce development, and context-appropriate innovations tailored to low- and middle-income settings.

Beyond its scientific agenda, the Congress will serve as a high-level platform for policy dialogue and advocacy, aligned with the growing global recognition of kidney disease as a critical public health priority. It will actively foster South-South collaboration, facilitate skills transfer, support mentorship of early-career nephrologists, and ensure meaningful engagement of nurses and multidisciplinary teams.

AFRAN envisions the 2027 Congress as a catalyst for sustainable, long-term impact—strengthening national kidney health strategies, expanding research networks, and accelerating progress toward equitable access to quality kidney care across Africa. In close partnership with Tanzanian stakeholders and the broader nephrology community, we are committed to delivering a landmark event that advances the future of African nephrology.

### 2029 AFRAN CONGRESS

AFRAN is inviting expressions of interest for hosting its biennial congress of 2029.

This invitation is addressed to all non-Anglophone countries, as the 2027 congress is to be hosted by the Nephrology Society of Tanzania. Further information and requirements will be furnished on request to interested entities.

Please forward your letters of interest to Lethisha Harilall, Turners Secretariat at: lethisha@tsec.org.za.

We look forward to receiving your expressions of interest.

**AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEPHROLOGY**  
Leading Nephrology in Africa

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**AFRAN ACTIVITIES**

## 2025 AFRAN CONFERENCE: An African Nephrology Milestone Achieved

**BY EZZEDDINE ABDERRAHIM  
& MOHAMED HANY HAFEZ  
CONGRESS CO-CHAIR**

On April 15th to 18th, 2025, Tunis, Tunisia hosted the 18th Congress of the African Association of Nephrology (AFRAN). Around 600 people from over 30 countries, including 90 distinguished speakers, attended the event.

The organizing committee (afran2025.com) and many local and international partners put in months of diligent effort and collaboration to make this event a success.. Pr. Marcello Tonelli, the president of the ISN, gave the keynote conference on the burden of CKD and other NCDs during the official inaugural session in the presence of the Tunisian Ministry of Health, reflecting the prominence of this issue for health systems in our countries.

The scientific program (afran2025.com/program.php) began with a pre-congress program organized with the support of several international and regional scientific societies. On the first day, we learned a lot about topics that are relevant to our daily practice, like the latest recommendations on living kidney donation, managing glomerulonephritis, and standards and quality in hemodialysis. More than 90 plenary lectures and focused thematic talks were given over the next three days covering diabetic kidney disease, hypertension, kidney transplantation, dialysis modalities, histopathology, onco-nephrology, nephrolithiasis, nephro-pediatrics, nephro-geriatrics, familial and hereditary kidney diseases and reproductive health. The lectures also dealt with the current hot topics such as using data science, new tools and technologies (such as simulation, AI, social media), green nephrology, and brain drain among nephrologists.

More than 800 abstracts were submitted by young nephrologists who attended this meeting with a great enthusiasm. 47 oral presentations were chosen to be presented during 6 parallel sessions, and the 3 most outstanding presentations were granted free registration for first authors to attend the upcoming AFRAN congress. Nine industry symposia took place during this event and the ISN have organized a breakfast session to discuss the opportunities for both trainees and senior nephrologists. A special session was dedicated to AFRAN Committees to report their activities and to present their projects for the coming years. The social program offered an opportunity to discover and enjoy the rich history and picturesque nature of Tunis.

We are thankful to the STNDT, AFRAN, industry partners, logistic companies, and the Tunisian Ministry of Health for their contributions to the success of this event showing the African Nephrology community's commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and enhancing cooperation and exchange with the regional and international community.

For more information on the congress program, abstract book, videos and photos: please visit [www.afran2025.com](http://www.afran2025.com)



**INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION**

## ISGD –AFRAN MOU: evolving renal pathology in Africa

**BY RASHA DARWISH, AFRAN  
TREASURER**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN  
ISPD & AFRAN

The African Association of Nephrology (AFRAN) and the International Society of Glomerular Disease (ISGD) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration in glomerular disease care, education, and diagnostics across Africa. The agreement was signed by Professor Tobias Huber, President of ISGD, and Professor Rasha Darwish, representing AFRAN. A central focus of the partnership is expanding access to renal biopsy training for African nephrologists, including skills in biopsy performance, staining techniques, and basic light microscopy interpretation. The initiative will explore dedicated training grants, opportunities for training in international centers, and support for regional capacity building through the ISGD-affiliated center in Ghana. Given the critical shortage of renal pathologists in many African countries, the collaboration will also promote innovative approaches such as digital slide scanning and remote interpretation by international experts. Through joint webinars, shared educational resources, and potential research collaborations, AFRAN and ISGD aim to strengthen diagnostic capacity and improve access to high-quality care for patients with glomerular diseases across the continent.



**AFRAN COLLABORATION**

## The Women in Nephrology Africa (WIN-Africa): Strengthening Voices and Collaboration Across the Continent

**BY NICOLA WEARNE, WIN AFRICA CHAIR**

Women in Nephrology Africa (WIN-Africa) continues to grow as a dynamic network of clinicians, researchers, educators, and leaders committed to advancing kidney health across the African continent.

WIN-Africa operates as an affiliated group of the African Association of Nephrology (AFRAN). This relationship provides important continental alignment and strengthens collaboration among nephrologists across Africa. While aligned with AFRAN, WIN-Africa maintains its own identity and focus: promoting leadership, mentorship, research, and advocacy for women working in nephrology both adult and paediatric across the continent. We remain grateful to AFRAN for providing the platform within which WIN-Africa continues to grow.

**The Baobab: A Symbol for WIN-Africa**

The baobab tree (*Adansonia*), often called the Tree of Life or Tree of Wisdom, is one of Africa's most powerful natural symbols. For generations it has served as a gathering place for dialogue, learning, and decision-making within communities.

Its symbolism reflects the values and vision of WIN-Africa.

Roots – African identity and shared purpose  
Trunk – Strong leadership of women in nephrology  
Branches – Expanding continental and global collaborations

Fruit – Research, education, mentorship, and advocacy outcomes

Like the baobab, WIN-Africa seeks to provide a space where knowledge is shared, leadership grows, and collaboration flourishes across the continent.

**Educational Activities**

Over the past year, WIN-Africa has expanded its collaboration flourishes across the continent.

educational, research, and collaborative activities. A series of well-attended international webinars have brought together experts from across the nephrology community.

Recent highlights include:

• Joint WIN-A / WIN-India Lupus Nephritis: the Wolf at the door – presented by Prof Jürgen Floege, Dr Sowrabha Rajanna and Dr Sudakshina Ghosh; moderated by Prof Gloria Ashuntantang and Prof Anupama, providing important updates on evolving therapies and global perspectives in lupus nephritis management.

Collaborative Leadership in Healthcare – presentations by Prof Joel Dave and Prof Sarala Naicker, focusing on leadership development, interdisciplinary collaboration, and strengthening health systems in resource-constrained settings. This webinar was moderated by Prof Ifeoma Ulasi and Dr Victorine B. Nzana. These sessions attracted participants from across Africa and beyond, reflecting the growing reach of WIN-Africa's educational initiatives.

**International Collaboration**

WIN-Africa has also strengthened international engagement. During the World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) in India, members of WIN-Africa had the opportunity to meet with colleagues from Women in Nephrology India (WIN-India). This interaction strengthened the preexisting bond from the time of WIN-A creation and also explore future collaborations aimed at supporting women in nephrology globally.

WIN-A represented by Dr Victorine Nzana, participated at the 19<sup>th</sup> IFKF -WKA conference in Rome in June 2025. Prof Mignon McCulloch has taken over the chair of the Saing Young Lives (first woman to chair the committee). Ongoing research collaboration with other WIN groups such as FEMKY and WIN-I

**Research and Future Directions**

In addition to education and networking, WIN-Africa is committed to strengthening research collaboration across the continent. Members of the network, led by Prof Rasha Samir Shemies, the research lead of WIN-A, continue to contribute to important research initiatives addressing kidney disease in Africa, including studies on chronic kidney disease, dialysis access, transplantation, and maternal kidney health.

Looking ahead, WIN-Africa aims to expand its activities through:

- Strengthening continental research collaborations among women nephrologists
- Supporting early-career researchers and trainees through mentorship and research opportunities
- Expanding educational webinars and training initiatives
- Increasing advocacy for equitable access to kidney care across Africa
- Building stronger partnerships with international nephrology societies and regional networks

As WIN-Africa continues to grow, the network remains committed to supporting women leaders in nephrology and advancing kidney health across Africa through collaboration, research, education, and mentorship.

Together, we continue to build a strong and supportive community dedicated to improving kidney care across the continent.

**The Women in Nephrology Africa (WIN-Africa)**

President: Nicola Wearne (South Africa)

Founder: Sarala Naicker (South Africa)

Secretary General: Victorine Bandolo Nzana (Cameroon)

Executive Members: Rasha Samir (Egypt); Maria Faye (Senegal); Khadidja Abugrain (Libya); Mignon Mc Culloch (South Africa); Gordana Cavric (Botswana); Sudakshina Ghosh (Tanzania); Rasha Darwish (Egypt); Khalida Soki (Kenya); Rim Goucha (Tunisia); Nihal Bashir- (Sudan)

## TESTIMONIAL

### *Being an AFRAN active member, acting for nephrology development in Africa*

BY YANNICK NLANDU, AFRAN YNC CHAIR

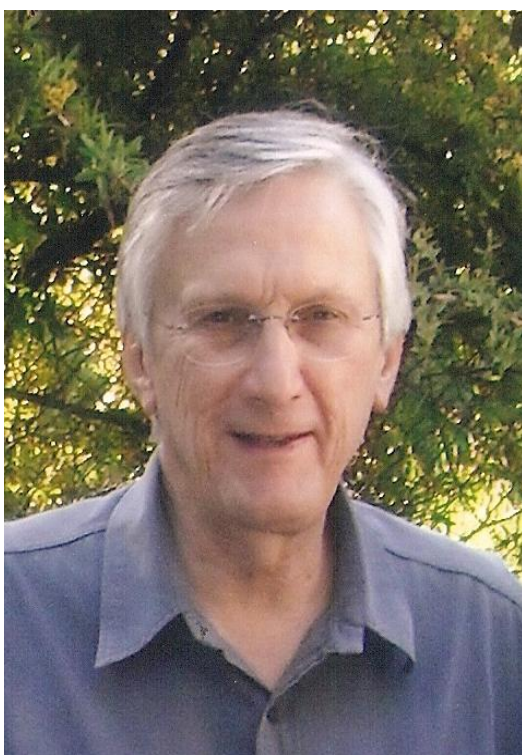
The African Association of Nephrology (AFRAN) offers tremendous opportunities for African nephrologists, particularly young ones. I joined AFRAN in 2019 as a member of the Young Nephrologists Committee (YNC) and actively participated in the group's activities, particularly those of the research subcommittee. This gave me the chance to contribute to more than two review articles and opinion pieces that were published in peer-reviewed journals. Since my appointment as Chair of the YNC, I have had the privilege of continuing the mission initiated by our esteemed former Chair and Co-Chair. It has been a wonderful experience to start by regularizing the activities of the YNC. The 'Share your article' webinar has been a great success for the committee, enabling young nephrologists to present articles they have had published in peer-reviewed journals. This activity serves two purposes: it highlights the work of young nephrologists and provides training in scientific research and the art of reporting for young nephrologists, which is particularly important given the lack of mentoring in certain regions. Young nephrologists want to be involved in advocacy activities at

their level. Organizing the best photo competition during World Kidney Day (WKD) is another initiative supported by the AFRAN executive committee, whose mission is to encourage young nephrologists to get involved in the prevention and early detection of chronic kidney disease. The WKD Twitter space gives the YNC a voice, enabling them to express their views as future leaders of AFRAN on the year's specific theme. Since the last AFRAN congress, the YNC has introduced a scientific session dedicated to young nephrologists for the first time. This provides an opportunity for young nephrologists to lead a scientific session at a congress. Personally, AFRAN has given me the opportunity to fulfil my potential as a leader, both in Africa and globally. These opportunities allow me to grow continuously. My participation in the ISN Global Kidney Health Atlas has improved my understanding of data compilation and made me aware of the increased need for data from Africa. My recent appointment to the ISN Emerging Leaders Programme, Cohort 4, is another achievement made possible by my position at AFRAN. So, what are you waiting for? Make AFRAN your home and become part of our unique family!

## AFRICAN JOURNAL OF NEPHROLOGY: TOWARD GREATER RECOGNITION

BY Alain G. ASSOUNGA, AJN EDITOR

African Journal of Nephrology (AJN), the official journal of AFRAN, is accumulating milestones. Following its accreditation in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) in 2019, AJN achieved a major milestone in 2024 by obtaining accreditation from the CAMES (Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l'enseignement Supérieur). This body evaluates academic promotions in Universities in Francophone Africa. We are now witnessing a significant increase in the submission of French manuscripts. To the contributors of these French manuscripts, we thank you for your submissions, which make AJN a truly bilingual journal. This year, we aim to move AJN to a new hosting platform that will enable us to apply for accreditation for Scopus and PubMed. We take this opportunity to thank all contributors for the large number of submitted manuscripts, and reviewers for evaluating these manuscripts and providing valuable feedback. Of note, in Volume 28, we noted several highlights: a scoping review by Ngema et al. revealed the extent of depression in dialysis patients and Davidson et al. reported on the stability of the peritonitis rate in Cape Town despite extreme conditions such as a severe drought and the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, Ndinya et al. reported that unexplained hyperkalaemia is associated with low rates of in-hospital death. Finally, this year, World Kidney Day will take place on 12 March 2026 with the following theme: "Kidney health for all – caring for people, protecting the planet". Let us all join force to achieve kidney health for all.



Pr Prof. Charles SWANEPOEL  
AFRAN President 2015-2017

## AFRICAN NEPHROLOGISTS

### African nephrologists reach the world.

BY SARALADEVI NAICKER, AFRAN WISE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Prof Charles Swanepoel is Emeritus Associate Professor at the Division of Nephrology at Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town. His distinguished career in nephrology is marked by his longstanding dedication to both clinical practice and academic advancements in the field.

Prof. Swanepoel has made significant editorial contributions to the field of nephrology, served as subject Editor for the journal Nephrology, member of the Editorial Board for the journal Kidney Diseases (Basel) and a reviewer a number of leading medical journals including The Lancet, Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation (NDT), Kidney International, Nephrology (APSN), Kidney Diseases (Basel), American Journal of Kidney Diseases, CJASN, BMJ and BMJ Global Health.

His research has been widely published in the international literature, including BMJ, Kidney International, Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation, American Journal of Kidney Diseases, Nature Reviews Nephrology, Portuguese Journal of Nephrology and Hypertension, Clinical Nephrology, Nephron, Journal of Clinical Apheresis, Transplant International, Clinical Nuclear Medicine, and Seminars in Nephrology. In addition, he has contributed to four book chapters.

Prof. Swanepoel has demonstrated considerable leadership within the nephrology community, serving as President of SA Renal Society (2010-2011), AFRAN (2015- 2017), Chair of the LOC and co-Chair of the ISN Scientific Program Committee for the WCN in Cape Town in March 2015, member of the LOC for the WCN in 2017 in Mexico. He chaired the ISN African Regional Board 2017-2019. He was elected to the ISN Council (2017- 2021) and appointed as a member of the ISN Advisory Committee for Clinical Trials and the ISN Fellowship Committee. He has been invited to speak at numerous international conferences, including UK Kidney Week (2014); WCN (2015); WCN (2017); ISN Nexus Symposium (2014). He chaired a Workgroup at the ISN's 2nd Global Kidney Health Summit, in Sharjah, UAE, in March 2018 which focused on strategies to increase access to integrated ESKD care. He spoke at the KDIGO Implementation Strategies Conference in Bangkok (June 2015). He co-chaired the KDIGO Controversies Conference Kidney Disease in the Setting of HIV Infection in Cameroon in March 2017.

His career demonstrates his global profile and his commitment to advancing kidney health in Africa.

## AFRAN COLLABORATIONS

### ISN AFRICA REGIONAL BOARD: Ensuring That African Nephrology's Voice is Heard

BY MOHAMED SALAH ZAKI,  
CHAIR OF ISN AFRICA BOARD

Africa carries a rapidly growing burden of kidney disease, disproportionately affecting young and economically active populations, while facing major limitations in infrastructure, workforce, and access to kidney replacement therapies. In this context, the ISN Africa Regional Board serves as a strategic platform to ensure that African nephrology is not only represented globally, but meaningfully heard and supported.

The Board acts as a bridge between African nephrologists and the International Society of Nephrology (ISN), aligning global initiatives with local realities. Our core mission is to advocate for equitable kidney care, strengthen regional capacity, and promote sustainable, context-appropriate solutions. Through close coordination with national societies and regional leaders, the Board identifies priority needs and channels them into structured ISN programs.

Capacity building remains central to our work. This includes supporting ISN Fellowships, Sister Renal Centers, Continuing Medical Education activities, and training initiatives tailored to low-resource settings. We also promote research collaboration and data generation from African centers, recognizing that local evidence is essential to inform policy and improve outcomes.

A cornerstone of our strategy is our close and evolving partnership with AFRAN. The relationship between the ISN Africa Regional Board and AFRAN is complementary and synergistic. While AFRAN serves as the collective professional voice of African nephrology societies, the ISN Africa Board connects this voice to global platforms, technical expertise, and advocacy channels. Over the past year, we have strengthened this collaboration through joint regional board meetings and shared strategic discussions, ensuring alignment of priorities and coordinated action.

Importantly, we have also organized joint scientific webinars with the AFRAN Transplantation Chapter in collaboration with the ISN Transplantation Working

Group, fostering knowledge exchange and advancing transplantation practice across the continent. These initiatives reflect our shared commitment to practical education and sustainable program development

Beyond education, the Board advocates for prevention and early detection strategies, integration of kidney care into primary health systems, and engagement with Ministries of Health. We also recognize emerging challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, and the need for environmentally responsible dialysis practices in vulnerable regions.

Our vision is clear: a strong, united African nephrology community that shapes its own agenda while benefiting from global solidarity. By working hand in hand with AFRAN and national societies, the ISN Africa Regional Board remains committed to ensuring that Africa's challenges, innovations, and successes are visible, valued, and acted upon at the highest levels.

Together, we can transform kidney care across the continent and ensure that no African patient is left unheard.

## AFRAN ACTIVITIES REPORTS

### AFRAN Webinars Highlights – October to December 2025

BY MOHAMED ABDELGAWAD,  
AFRAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBER, AFRAN NEWSLETTER ASSOCIATED EDOITOR

During the last quarter of 2025, the African Association of Nephrology (AFRAN) delivered an outstanding series of educational webinars that reflected the diversity, depth, and relevance of nephrology practice across Africa and globally. These activities, organized through AFRAN committees and working groups, addressed leadership development, acute kidney injury, dialysis, transplantation, clinical nephrology, and research dissemination, while fostering collaboration between senior experts and young nephrologists.

The quarter opened in **October 2025** with several high-impact educational sessions. On 1 October 2025, the AFRAN Young Nephrologists Committee organized a “Share Your Article” webinar discussing a randomized controlled trial comparing oral sodium bicarbonate with higher dialysate bicarbonate in hemodialysis patients with metabolic acidosis. The session featured Dr Hoda Abdulaziz as speaker, with analytical insights by Dr Lilia Rizo and moderation by Dr Yannick Nlandu, highlighting critical appraisal skills and evidence-based practice. This was followed on 2 October 2025 by a webinar organized by the AFRAN AKI and Critical Care Nephrology Working Group on fluid management strategies in AKI requiring renal replacement therapy. The session was delivered by Professor Javier Neyra (USA), with moderation by Professor Yasser Abdelhamid (Egypt) and Dr Balal Waziri (Nigeria), offering practical approaches applicable to diverse clinical settings. These October activities emphasized both foundational science and bedside decision-making in acute nephrology care.

In **November 2025**, AFRAN continued its strong educational momentum with a focus on leadership, research, and transplantation. On 12 November 2025, the Women in Nephrology Africa initiative, in collaboration with AFRAN, hosted a leadership-themed webinar addressing collaborative leadership and preparation for leadership positions. Professors Joel Dave and Sarala Naicker delivered insightful talks, with moderation by Professors Abdou Niang, Valerie Lucks, and Ifeoma Ulasi. The session highlighted the importance of mentorship, teamwork, and capacity building within African nephrology. Later in the month, on 19 November 2025, another “Share Your Article” webinar focused on point-of-care creatinine-based eGFR testing for detecting kidney dysfunction among people living with HIV in Tanzania. The webinar featured Dr Daniel Msilanga, Dr Urmila Anandh, and Dr Agbo Anthony Chinedu, showcasing innovative diagnostic strategies and research relevant to low-resource settings. The month concluded with a major AFRAN–ISN joint transplantation webinar on 21 November 2025, addressing kidney transplantation in Africa from challenges to actionable initiatives. Speakers included Professor Mohamed Salah Eldin Zaki (Egypt), Professor Intissar Haddiya (Morocco), and Professor Wesley Tulleken (South Africa), with moderation by Professor Mongi Bacha (Tunisia) and Professor Augusto Cesar Soares dos Santos Jr (Brazil). This session provided a comprehensive overview of current barriers, guideline development, and sustainable transplant program models across the continent.

The **December 2025** program reflected AFRAN’s commitment to clinical excellence and context-specific nephrology education. On 3 December 2025, a clinical nephrology webinar explored the spectrum of paraneoplastic glomerulopathies, presented by Dr Mohamed Hassanein from Egypt. The session bridged nephrology and oncology, offering practical insights into diagnosis and management of complex glomerular diseases. On 16 December 2025, a webinar organized by the AFRAN AKI Working Group and Young Nephrologists Committee focused on malaria-induced acute kidney injury in Africa and low-resource settings, covering pathophysiology and data analysis. The session featured Dr Oriba Dan Langoya and Dr Yannick M. Nlandu as speakers, with moderation by Professor Yasser Abdelhamid and Professor Rasha Darwish. The year concluded on 18 December 2025 with a Fireside Chat (Series 208) discussing the use of peritoneal dialysis in acute kidney injury to save young lives in low-resource settings. Professor Abdou Niang delivered the session, moderated by Professor Paschal J. Rugajio, emphasizing pragmatic solutions for pediatric and adult AKI care in resource-limited environments. Collectively, the October to December 2025 webinar series demonstrated AFRAN’s strong commitment to high-quality, accessible nephrology education, capacity building, and regional collaboration. Through these webinars, AFRAN successfully connected experts across Africa and internationally, supported young nephrologists, and addressed real-world clinical challenges relevant to the African context. AFRAN looks forward to building on this momentum in 2026 with continued educational innovation and partnership.

## AFRICAN PAPERS REPORTS

### African Research Highlights – October to December 2025

BY YANNICK NLANDU,  
AFRAN YOUNG NEPHROLOGY COMMITTEE CHAIR, AFRAN NEWSLETTER ASSOCIATED EDOITOR

The final quarter of 2025 witnessed the publication of several impactful studies addressing major nephrology challenges across Africa, including the economic burden of kidney failure, transplantation outcomes, infectious disease-associated kidney injury, and laboratory reference standards. These publications provide critical evidence to guide clinical practice, health policy, and future research priorities within the African context.

A systematic review evaluating the economic cost of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) in Africa analyzed eighteen studies involving 2,634 patients, most of whom were on hemodialysis. Annual hemodialysis costs showed marked variability, ranging from approximately \$2,003 in Burkina Faso to nearly \$41,958 in South Africa, with a pooled median of \$18,741. Limited data on peritoneal dialysis demonstrated similarly wide variation, while first-year kidney transplantation costs ranged between approximately \$33,120 and \$46,294 depending on the country. Direct medical expenses, particularly medications and laboratory investigations, were the principal cost drivers, highlighting the profound financial burden of kidney replacement therapy across the continent (Yakubu et al., 2025).

In parallel, a systematic review and meta-analysis assessing kidney transplantation outcomes in African countries included 27 studies encompassing 6,187 participants across adult and pediatric populations. Most transplants utilized living donors, with common immunosuppressive regimens including tacrolimus, cyclosporine, mycophenolate, and prednisolone.

Despite infrastructural limitations, graft and patient survival rates were generally favorable and comparable to global benchmarks in several studies. However, acute rejection rates ranged from 8% to 43.4%, and delayed graft function as well as HLA mismatches were significant predictors of poorer outcomes. Metabolic complications, including new-onset diabetes—

particularly associated with tacrolimus—were frequent. Structural challenges such as high cost, limited tissue typing facilities, restricted access to modern immunosuppressants, and weak follow-up systems remain major barriers to sustainability (Anthony et al., 2025).

Several studies during this period focused on acute kidney injury (AKI) and long-term kidney outcomes in infectious disease contexts. A prospective Congolese cohort study examining survivors of COVID-19 demonstrated that patients who experienced COVID-associated AKI had a significantly greater annual decline in eGFR and a higher incidence of chronic kidney disease over two years of follow-up. AKI emerged as a powerful independent predictor of CKD, reinforcing the importance of structured post-AKI surveillance in African healthcare systems (Nlandu et al., 2025).

Kidney disease burden beyond COVID-19 was also highlighted by a cross-sectional study from Southwestern Uganda evaluating adults with chronic hepatitis B infection. The overall prevalence of kidney disease was 27%, with abnormalities detected using urine NGAL and reduced eGFR. Female sex was associated with higher odds of kidney disease, emphasizing the need for routine kidney screening among patients with chronic viral infections (Jjunju et al., 2025).

Finally, a post-hoc analysis from Central Africa established reference intervals for serum creatinine in a healthy Congolese adult population. The study demonstrated that serum creatinine values were comparable to those observed in White European populations, slightly higher than Caucasians but lower than African-American populations. These findings have important implications for kidney function estimation and caution against unvalidated race-based adjustments in African populations (Bukabau et al.,

2025).

Collectively, these publications reflect the growing strength of nephrology research in Africa. They highlight persistent economic barriers, promising transplantation outcomes despite resource constraints, the long-term impact of AKI, infectious disease-associated kidney injury, and the importance of locally validated laboratory standards. AFRAN remains committed to supporting research dissemination and translating evidence into improved kidney care across the continent.

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**NEPHROLOGY HIGHLIGHT IN AFRICA**

**DR CONGO: Contributing to nephrology development in central Africa**

**BY YANNICK NLANDU**

**CHAIR OF AFRAN YOUNG NEPHROLOGUY COMMITTEE & GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CONGOLESE SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY**

**NEPHROLOGY In DR CONGO**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the largest country in Central Africa, with a population of over 100 million. Despite its mineral wealth, the DRC remains one of the poorest countries, classed alongside low-income nations. Civil wars and population displacement have contributed to this situation. Like other African countries, the DRC faces the burden of kidney disease, the etiology of which is driven by both non-communicable and infectious diseases. The DRC has contributed to the development of nephrology in Africa by expanding local training opportunities, organizing renal care from primary risk prevention and early diagnosis to the management of kidney disease, producing data to improve knowledge of kidney disease in the DRC and Africa, and providing information to policymakers.

The DRC only has one university that trains nephrologists. By 2026, the University of Kinshasa had graduated over 40 nephrologists, including 34 adults and seven pediatricians. In addition to these graduates, there are a few nephrologists who were trained abroad. Nevertheless, the number of specialists serving the entire country remains low, with fewer than 0.4 nephrologists per million inhabitants. This ratio is further reduced in rural areas due to the uneven distribution of nephrologists, who tend to be concentrated in the capital.

Since 2006, early screening for chronic kidney disease (CKD) and its risk factors has been organized annually as part of World Kidney Day, accompanied by key educational messages on risk factor management. These campaigns were supported by the Greek Embassy and non-governmental organizations. This enabled over 15,000 people to be screened and, most importantly, allowed the prevalence of CKD in Kinshasa to be determined for the first time. However, financial issues and the absence of a comprehensive programme backed by the Congolese government resulted in the suspension of large-scale campaign activities in the DRC. The Congolese Society of Nephrology is now committed to relaunching activities this year with an ambitious project to screen almost 10,000 patients across four regions.

In the DRC, kidney disease is diagnosed in accordance with the recommended standards, depending on the availability of creatinine and albuminuria tests. Renal biopsies and histological analyses have been performed locally for many years, ever since the time when the DRC was known as Zaire. One of the first articles on this topic was published in 1984 by Professor Nestor Pakasa, who was a pioneer of nephropathology in Central Africa. However, these diagnostic tools remain limited in urban areas. Although haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis have been available in the DRC for many years, kidney transplantation is still unavailable. The Congolese Society of Nephrology submitted a bill on organ transplantation to the Congolese parliament to legalize transplantation activities, but unfortunately it has not yet been adopted.

Nephrology in DR Congo has contributed significantly to our knowledge of kidney disease. Descriptions of renal histological lesions, focusing particularly on infectious diseases such as malaria, HIV, loiasis, schistosomiasis and trypanosomiasis, have been published in the form of an atlas. Robust cross-sectional studies have analysed the prevalence of CKD in eastern and western regions of the DRC, as well as in populations at risk of CKD due to specific risk factors such as the APOL-1 risk allele and sickle cell disease. Research has centred on the adoption of certain diagnostic tools and reference values. It has been reported that ethnic factors are inappropriate for GFR estimation formulas in the Congolese population. Further research is ongoing in specific populations, such as patients with sickle cell disease. Creatinine reference values for Congolese people have recently been published. Including this data in African meta-analyses contributes to a better understanding of kidney disease in Africa. Congolese researchers participate in numerous regional and international studies. They also play a leading role in the African Association of Nephrology, participating at various levels.

In 2017, Congolese nephrologists founded the Congolese Society of Nephrology, which organized its first congress in partnership with Central African nephrologists. The society intends to hold the event regularly and will host the Afran congress in the near future. However, the DRC still faces challenges in increasing its ratio of nephrologists to population size. These challenges include strengthening training capacities, advocating for health insurance to support the development of an early detection programme for chronic kidney disease and its management, and reviving the draft law on organ transplantation.

**CONGOLESE SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY  
SOCIETE CONGOLAISE DE NEPHROLOGI**



Date of creation: 2017

Number of Members: 89

Website: <https://soconeph.org/>

**Bureau**

President: Pr Dr Nazaire Nseka

Vice President: Pr Dr Ernest Sumaili

Secretary: Dr Yannick Nlandu

Deputy Secretary: Dr Didier Kapinga

Treasurer : Pr Dr Justine Bukabau

Deputy Treasurer : Mrs Sylvie Kolemba

Contact : [sec.soconeph@soconeph.org](mailto:sec.soconeph@soconeph.org)

**CONGOLESE NEPHROLOGY DATA**

NUMBER NEPHROLOGISTS	40
TEACHING NEPHROLOGY Dpt	2
NEPHROLOGY Dpt (Nbr)	1
HD CENTRES (Nbr)	24
PD CENTRES (Nbr)	4
TRANSPLANT CENTRES (Nbr)	None
PEDIATRIC NEPHROLOGY Dpt	1
NATIONAL REGISTRY (Y or N)	NO
FACULTY MEDICINE (Number)	21
Patient Association (Yes/No)	Yes
CKD 4 and 5 (pmp)	No records
HD patients (Nbr)	500
PD patients (Nbr)	1
TR patients (Nbr)	45
HD session reimbursement (US\$)	Largely out of pockets
PD Reimbursement (base of CAPD 4 exchanges/day for 2 days) (US\$)	Largely out of pockets
Access to dialysis/CKD 5 (%)	1-3%
Population with insurance coverage in the country (%)	Less than 5 to 10%

**LAST CONFERENCE REPORT**

The 1st Congress of the Congolese Society of Nephrology (SOCONEPH) took place in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, from 23 to 25 August 2023. This historic event for the Congolese medical community coincided with the second International Course on Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation. The congress brought together adult and paediatric nephrologists, as well as doctors from other specialties such as cardiology, endocrinology and infectious diseases, general practitioners, nurses and dialysis technicians. Highlights of the programme included the inaugural IPNA-AFPNA Master's course for junior paediatric nephrologists. The presentations covered cross-disciplinary areas such as infectious diseases and the management of kidney diseases in Africa, with the overarching theme of 'Kidney disease: from diagnosis to management'. The 2023 SOCONEPH Congress was a significant scientific event in Kinshasa. Local advances and key clinical topics were highlighted, including formulas for estimating glomerular filtration rate, cardiovascular risk associated with PCSK9 in haemodialysis patients, kidney damage associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection, and the renal toxicity of traditional plants in the DRC. These topics were presented with the participation of national and international experts. The first congress was enriched by the attendance of colleagues from across Africa, particularly from neighbouring countries such as the Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, and Senegal. The 1st SOCONEPH Congress featured practical sessions on inserting permanent haemodialysis catheters and POCUS, in collaboration with the Congolese Society of Radiology. The SOCONEPH would like to thank AFRAN and the International Society of Nephrology for their support. SOCONEPH intends to organize this major scientific conference regularly in order to gain experience and bid to host the AFRAN congress in the DRC.



**AFRAN CONTRIBUTION**

**1<sup>st</sup> FORUM ON ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION (FADTO)**

**The Right Way to Develop Kidney Transplantation in Africa**

**BY ABDELLATIF SIDI ALY,  
AFRAN DEPUTY TREASURER, FADTO CHAIR**

In May 2025, Nouakchott hosted the 1st African Forum on Organ Donation and Transplantation (FADTO), marking a historic milestone for health systems across the continent. The Forum culminated in the adoption of the Nouakchott Declaration, a structured and consensus-based roadmap designed to address Africa’s critical transplantation gap .

Africa faces a growing burden of end-stage organ failure driven by the rapid rise of non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes. Yet access to transplantation remains extremely limited: in 2016, fewer than 700 transplants were performed across a continent of over one billion people . Kidney transplantation, the gold standard therapy for end-stage renal disease, remains inaccessible to the vast majority of patients.

Through a Delphi consensus process involving more than 300 experts from 12 countries, FADTO established eight foundational principles to guide the ethical and sustainable development of transplantation systems in Africa . These principles provide a pragmatic pathway grounded in governance, equity, financing, innovation, and accountability.

First, strong legal and institutional frameworks are essential. Countries must adopt clear transplantation laws, prohibit organ trafficking, and establish national regulatory bodies. Second, equitable access must be ensured through transparent waiting lists and donor registries adapted to sociocultural contexts. Third, public awareness and engagement are critical to normalize donation and build trust.

Regional cooperation emerged as a decisive lever. South–South collaboration, illustrated by Algeria’s technical support to Mauritania, demonstrates how expertise transfer can accelerate capacity building. Innovation and workforce training, including laboratory strengthening and advanced transplant techniques, are equally fundamental.

Sustainable financing remains a cornerstone. Integrating transplantation into universal health coverage, reallocating dialysis budgets toward cost-effective transplant programs, and securing access to affordable immunosuppressive medicines are strategic

priorities. Without continuity of post-transplant treatment, graft survival and patient outcomes cannot be guaranteed.

Mauritania’s experience embodies proof of feasibility. After performing its first kidney transplant in 2024 through regional cooperation,

the country institutionalized its program with political backing and the creation of a national transplantation council. This model demonstrates that with leadership, governance, and partnerships, progress is achievable, even in resource-constrained settings.

The Nouakchott Declaration does not merely call for expansion of surgical activity; it proposes a systems-based transformation. The “right way” to develop kidney transplantation in Africa requires ethical governance, financial sustainability, regional solidarity, and measurable impact.

If implemented with determination, this roadmap can transform end-stage renal disease from a silent death sentence into a treatable condition for thousands of African patients.



**AFRAN Council 2025-2027**

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