

BEGINNINGS OF IPNA

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Paediatric nephrology emerged as a distinct speciality in the 1960's and was much influenced by the work of such pioneers as Gamble, Hartmann, Darrow, McCance, Kerpel-Fronius etc.

Initially centres became established in several places in Europe and North America and in the mid 1960's the International Study of Kidney Disease in Childhood (ISKDC) was formed under the Presidency of Henry Barnett with Ira Grier as secretary.

Societies of paediatric nephrology were formed in Europe (EPNS 1967) and North America (ASPN 1969).

The first international symposium on paediatric nephrology occurred in Guadalajara, Mexico in 1968 under the presidency of Gustavo Gordillo.

A further meeting was held in Paris in 1971 with Pierre Royer as president.

Following this, preliminary discussions occurred at the IPA meeting in Vienna, 1971 and a provisional working party was set up in New York later in the year. This included Philip Calcagno, Chester Edelmann, Harmen Tiddens, Carlos Gianantonio and Gustavo Gordillo and Gavin Arneil. Its function was to look into the possible formation of a world council in paediatric nephrology, and a subsequent meeting was arranged to coincide with a meeting of the International Study of Kidney Disease in Children (ISKDC) in Dublin in October 1972, sponsored by Seamus Dundon.

As a result of the Dublin meeting a formal working party (WPWPN) was set up under the leadership of Gavin Arneil as founding secretary-general with Oscar Oetliker as founding treasurer, and the secretaries of the European Society of Paediatric Nephrology (ESPN) Harmen Tiddens, the American Society (Chester Edelmann) and subsequently the Japanese Society (Tadasu Sakai) were nominated as founding secretaries.

Members of the provisional council were Adeniyi of Nigeria, Carlos Gianantonio, Gustavo Gordillo, Niilo Hallmann, Malcolm Holliday, Maya Ignatova, David McCredie and Pierre Royer, plus Philip Calcagno as president of the 1974 Washington Symposium on Pediatric Nephrology. A formal constitution was prepared which was adopted at the 1974 Washington meeting when IPNA was established officially and the above councillors officially elected to serve until 1977 together with a further eight to serve until 1980. The new councillors were Jean de la Croix, Peter Grossmann, Alfred Michael, Jean Mongeau, Max Robinson, Dick White, Jan Winberg and Philip Calcagno.

The 2nd International Congress of IPNA (the 4th international symposium) was held in Helsinki in 1977 under the presidency of Niilo Hallmann and subsequent meetings have been held every 3 years.

In 1977 Gianantonio, Hallmann, Robinson and Royer retired and were replaced by Lam, Brodehl, Broyer and Calcagno.

In 1980 new assistant secretaries Chesney and van Acker were appointed. and White, de la Cruz, Grossmann, Michael and Calcagno retired with Chantler, Metcalf, Robson, Wojnarowski, and Gianantonio, returning, to replace them. Also in 1980, the first symposium on Developmental Renal Physiology was organized by Adrian Spitzer in New York to honor the retirement of Henry Barnett. This has subsequently become a very successful satellite meeting of IPNA and was last held in PECS in 2007 prior to the Budapest meeting, under the presidency of Endre Sulyak, a pupil of Kerpel-Fronius.

We put in a firm bid to hold the 1983 meeting in Melbourne. This encouraged quite a deal of support but in the end it was decided to hold the meeting in Hanover with the possibility of Melbourne for 1986.

This was not to be. The 1986 Congress was held in Tokyo and we had to wait until 2004 before we finally met in Adelaide.

I retired from Council in 1983 and was replaced by Paul Roy.