

Renal Review Implementation Group Meeting

The group was set up by the government of Northern Ireland to address the welfare of renal patients in NI. The group is made up of representatives of the main Health Trusts and Boards, renal doctors and NIKPA representatives.
We in NIKPA voice the concerns and views of the patient at these meetings.

The last meeting was held in January of 2008. The main new changes to occur are the launch of Organ Donation Taskforce Report. The Taskforce was set up to find new ways to increase organ donation and transplantation in the UK. They make recommendations to the Government.
The launch of the report took place on 16th January 2008. In the report it said that a 50% increase in organ donation is achievable in the UK within five years. Which could mean an additional 1,200 transplants taking place a year saving thousands of lives. The Taskforce makes 14 recommendations to the Government for improvement for organ donation and transplant rates. One of the recommendations by the Taskforce is to employ more transplant coordinators and to strengthen the network of dedicated organ retrieval teams.
In light of this report an additional transplant coordinator will be appointed at the Belfast City Hospital
Another piece of good news is that matters are underway to add three additional consultant nephrology posts one in each of the Antrim, Daisy Hill and Ulster Hospitals.

Expansion of Antrim Area Hospital
NIKPA did receive a reply to the letter that was sent to the Minister Mr Mc Gimpsey about the problems that patients face (in particular those in the Northern Board) with regards to travelling long distances for dialysis. Many patients who live in the Coleraine and Ballymoney areas are having to travel to Antrim or Belfast for dialysis .It has been confirmed that the business case for expansion in Antrim is 'well advanced' and 'will be resolved within the coming months.'

Correction
In the previous issue of the NIKPA newsletter it was mentioned that Omagh Hospital would be expanding their renal capacity to 24 stations. This statement referred to the new Omagh Hospital, which will be completed in 2008, and not to the present Tyrone County Hospital.

If you have any view relating to this or other dialysis issues you can log onto are Discussion Forum found at our website .

Linda McDowell, Treasurer, NIKPA

"LIFE" – Photography Competition (Prizes: 1st - £50, 2nd & 3rd £25)

The subject of the competition is "LIFE". Any photograph portraying life in any shape, form or fashion will be acceptable.

The competition is open to any renal patient being treated in Northern Ireland, their family, friends, nurse, doctor or consultant. As long as you have a connection to a NI renal patient, your are welcome to participate. Only one entry per participant. Photos can be submitted as prints or digital files, no bigger than A4 paper size. Prints will not be returned and NIKPA may use the photos on future magazines or on it's website. Maximum size for a digital file is 4MB. You must gain consent from any models you use, if the model is a child then you must have permission from their parents or guardians.

The photo must be taken between April 1st, 2008 and May 14th, 2008. Closing date for receipt of photographs is May 21st, 2008. The competition will be judged by the NIKPA committee or an independent judge appointed by the committee. The judge's decision is final.

Competition closes May 21st, 2008
Post you entry to: NIKPA Competition, 58 Kernaghan Park, Annahilt, Co. Down. BT26 6DF OR email your photo to info@NIKPA.org

Visit our website at www.NIKPA.org



NIKPA Newsletter

Northern Ireland Kidney Patients' Association

www.NIKPA.org



Spring 2008

'World Kidney Day', March 13th 2008

It was decided by the committee to mark 'World Kidney Day' by giving donations to two worthy causes which would benefit the kidney patients of Northern Ireland.

A thousand pounds was presented to the Nursing Sisters of Level 11 Nephrology B.C.H. Level 11 (Below Left) is made up of the General Nephrology Ward and the Transplant Ward. The money will be spent on a piece of equipment called a 'syringe driver' which is used in 'symptom management' of renal patients.

A thousand pounds was also presented to the Transplant Co-ordinators based at B.C.H (Below right) who were raising funds for an information day entitled the ' The Gift of Life'. This event is for Theatre staff and Intensive Care Unit Staff to show them how organ donations change the lives of people.



NIKPA CHRISTMAS BALLOT WINNERS

Details of winners are as follows:-

- 1st. - Rose McCloskey, Belfast.
- 2nd. - Michael Glynn, Derrygonnelly.
- 3rd. - Breige Dooley, Belfast.
- 4th. - Garath Kirkwood, Carrickfergus.
- 5th. - Fred Carson, Co. Antrim.

We thank everyone who supported us by purchasing & selling tickets and also say a big 'THANK YOU' to the following sponsors for their support and generosity:-

- EMO OIL, SYDENHAM, BELFAST.
- BIKEDOCK, 79/85 RAVENHILL ROAD, BELFAST.
- GLENFARM HOLDINGS LTD., GLENNAVY.
- HENDERSON'S/SPAR, BELFAST.

Also congratulations to Mrs Geraldine McCandless of Bangor, winner of the Christmas Caption competition.

Have your say visit

The Discussion Forum

at www.NIKPA.org

ORGAN DONATION LIFE CYCLE LAUNCHED AT STORMONT

The Green Party hosted the launch of an organ donation awareness campaign at Stormont today (World Kidney Day 13.03.08). The NIKPA LIFECYCLE, a sponsored cycle to dialysis units across Northern Ireland will take place in July. Organizer William Johnston was joined by Green Party MLA Brian Wilson, doctors, nurses, transplant patients, dialysis patients, friends and family at the launch.

Green Party Assembly Member Brian Wilson said: “It is important to highlight the lack of organ donation and I congratulate Mr. Johnston’s environmentally friendly method of raising the profile of this very important subject.”

41-year-old Mr. Johnston from Bangor, County Down has been waiting for a life saving kidney transplant for 10 years and is organizing a sponsored cycle to raise awareness. Inspired by the late Jane Tomlinson CBE, who despite terminal illness raised over a million pounds for cancer charities through athletic challenges, Mr. Johnston is organizing a sponsored tandem-cycle the NORTHERN IRELAND KIDNEY PATIENT ASSOCIATION LIFECYCLE this summer to highlight Transplant Week on the 7th - 11th July 2008. Mr. Johnston said: “I want to increase the profile of organ donation and how it can transform lives and I want people to be glad about carrying a donor card. I hope to raise funds for renal research, patient care and increase the profile of organ donation, which really is the gift of life.”



Claire Murnin, Sister of the Renal Unit at the Ulster Hospital said: “As a unit we are delighted to support this campaign to promote the importance of donation and carrying a donor card.” Beverly and David Robinson from the Northern Ireland Transplant Association said: “Northern Ireland needs more organs; so many people die while waiting for an organ donation so this publicity will bring answers to people about organ donation.” Heather Savage, Transplant co-coordinator with Belfast City Hospital said: “Anything that raises awareness about organ donation is always good and its worth remembering that in a lifetime, you are much more likely to need a transplant than to ever be in a position to donate organs.” Also in attendance was Gary Gamble, home dialysis nurse with Belfast City Hospital and Maureen West, Ulster Hospital Dialysis coordinator.

The event’s sponsor Baxter Health Care was represented by Tom Richardson and Steven Davis. At the launch we will be wearing specially designed charity T-Shirts promoting our GLAD (GIVING LIFE AFTER DEATH) campaign. Stage will vary from 10 to 55 miles, divided into ten mile legs to encourage fun cyclists.

Stages include:-

- 25.06.08 Ulster Hospital to Royal Victoria Hospital for Sick Children
- 27.06.08 RVH for Sick Children to Antrim Hospital
- 30.06.08 Altnaglavlin Hospital to Tyrone Hospital
- 02.07.08 Tyrone Hospital to Daisy Hill Hospital
- 04.07.08 Daisy Hill Hospital to Belfast City Hospital

William Johnston can be contacted on 028 91 27 13 12



Mr & Mrs Jim Callaghan the Renal Patient Support Group Xmas Party which took place on 2nd December 2007

Christmas Around the Region

Transplant Nurse Specialist, Sharon McCarron with Santa (a.k.a. Arthur Nutter, dialysis patient at Altnagelvin Renal Unit) enjoyong their Christmas Party Night on December 6th, 2007.



Tyrone County Hospital Renal Unit

The Renal Unit in Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh opened in August 1989 as a satellite of Belfast City Hospital and developed as a subregional unit from 1993, providing a comprehensive renal service to a population of some 330,000 in the western part of Northern Ireland. Prior to the opening of the Renal Unit in Altnagelvin Hospital in December 2005, we covered Derry city and Co Londonderry area as well as most of Tyrone and all of Fermanagh. We continue to cover Tyrone and Fermanagh and more recently, we have had some patients transfer from Antrim Area Hospital. Prior to Altnagelvin’s Unit opening, we had on average of 95-100 haemodialysis patients but gradually as Altnagelvin has increased its capacity, our numbers have levelled out on average to 80-85. We continue to have a small number of patients from the Derry catchment area as Altnagelvin has not yet opened all of its stations. Tyrone County and Altnagelvin Renal Units work in close partnership with each other and share 4 Renal Consultants between the 2 Units.

Tyrone County has 24 stations currently serving 84 haemodialysis patients. We also have 11 peritoneal Dialysis patients in the western area and have a large progressive / pre-dialysis population as well as a significant number of transplanted patients.

We set up a Patient Support Group in Tyrone County in February 2007 and this has proved to be a useful source of support to all of our renal population with people who are on haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, transplanted patients and pre-dialysis patients and their families all being represented in the regular attendees. In December 2007, we held our 2nd annual Christmas Party evening for patients and their families and it was a great success. We held it in a local hotel and had a lovely (renal!) meal followed by a prize draw and then music and dancing. One of our patients, Denis Maguire, delighted us all by accompanying the band on his saxophone for a few tunes and Arthur Nutter, one of our former patients who has transferred to Altnagelvin, played a very convincing Santa for the evening! A great night was had by all.

Anne Cook

Donations to NIKPA

If you wish to make a donation to NIKPA funds, please send a cheque made payable to NIKPA, to our treasurer Mrs. Linda McDowell, 58 Kernaghan Park, Annahilt, Co. Down. BT26 6DF.

NIKPA wishes to offer it's sincere thanks for recent kind donations from the following:- Ann Carr - Toomebridge, James and Rose McCloskey-Newtownbreda, Armagh Golf Club, Rosemary McCloskey Lasa - Hartlepool, Ladies of the Antrim Golf Club (See photo Right), Winston Wallace - Coleraine, Pat Russell - Belfast, The Family of the late Joe Mayes - Belfast, Dr Nelson - B.C.H, Janet Hirrel - Belfast, Noreen and George Kerr - Crossgar, Dr. C. Doherty BCH.

