

53<sup>rd</sup> Congress Vienna Austria May 21<sup>st</sup>–24<sup>th</sup> 2016



Leading European Nephrology

PRESS INFORMATION

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## Nephrology in Austria is a model to be emulated Europe-wide

**The European Nephrology Congress opens in Vienna on May 21, 2016, with more than 8,000 physicians attending**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the ERA-EDTA (European Renal Association and European Dialysis and Transplant Association) will be jointly held with the ÖGN (Austrian Society for Nephrology) in the Austria Center Vienna from May 21–24, 2016. More than 8,000 nephrologists (specialist physicians for kidney disease and hypertensive disorders) are expected to attend. The world's second-biggest nephrology congress covers the full range of topics in this specialty, with discussions focusing not only on developments in the field of renal replacement therapy (dialysis and transplantation), but also on the latest findings on the causes, development and treatment of different kidney diseases, on the management of various concomitant diseases in patients with chronic renal failure, as well as interdisciplinary issues at the interfaces between nephrology & cardiology, nephrology & hypertensiology and nephrology & diabetology, in particular.

A special focus of the Congress, according to its President, Prof. Dr. Gert Mayer, Innsbruck, is on the prevention of chronic kidney disease (CKD), which is often a consequence of diabetes mellitus and high blood pressure in the second half of people's lives. "Demographic change is confronting us with a challenge here, especially since the number of those with diabetes and/or high blood pressure has risen. Present-day nephrology sees its mission in protecting these high-risk patients against terminal renal failure. This is not only in the interests of those affected, but also of the European healthcare systems, given that dialysis is a relatively cost-intensive therapy. Here in Austria, we are moving in the right direction", says Mayer. The President of the ÖGN, Prof. Dr. Karl Lhotta, Feldkirch, adds that, "As far as prevention is concerned, nephrology in Austria is a model to be emulated Europe-wide. Nephrologists and general practitioners work closely together here, and our CKD Prevention Program 60/20 sets an example that many other countries can follow. We can also refer to the specific successes we have achieved – in Austria, the incidence of new CKD cases is declining!"

Another topic that will occupy the kidney specialists in Vienna is the question of how to put 'big data' to use in the field of nephrology. "Today's computer technologies make it possible to analyze colossal amounts of data. We should exploit technological progress to characterize our patients more precisely, in other words to identify new risk factors or promoters of disease. That paves the way for individualized therapy and leads nephrology into a new era", explains Mayer.