

Press Release: ISGD Centers of Excellence in Glomerular Disease Criteria

The International Society of Glomerular Diseases (ISGD) is delighted to announce that the criteria for ISGD Centers of Excellence in Glomerular Disease (ISGD COE-GD) have been finalized. Glomerular diseases are a leading cause of end-stage kidney disease worldwide; fortunately, we are in an era of rapid advancements in understanding, novel treatments, and precision medicine in glomerular medicine. Designating centers of excellence is essential to ensure treatments and advancements are reaching all patients and as such the establishment of ISGD COE-GD has been a priority and core tenet of ISGD's mission since its founding¹. The program is being led by Brad Rovin, Liz Lightstone, Sydney Tang and Alessia Fornoni with ISGD's Peer Support committee², composed of 35 international GD experts, industry partners and patient advocates.

The finalization of the ISGD COE-GD criteria represents the culmination of over two years of meticulous development, ensuring a rigorous, aspirational, and internationally inclusive standard that will be implemented methodically with dedicated professional resources. In this context, a separate designation, ISGD Partner Centers, has also been established for centers that are emerging and establishing themselves. After a period of public commentary this spring, which included over 45 written submissions and two listening sessions with nearly 60 global experts, ISGD is pleased to announce that the complete set of 18 criteria is now available. Access criteria here: <https://bit.ly/COE-Criteria>

These criteria reflect the four mission pillars of the ISGD COE-GD program:

- **Clinical Expertise** – To provide comprehensive, state-of-the-art care for GD patients, ensuring timely diagnosis, access to advanced treatments and clinical trials, and a multidisciplinary approach to managing the disease.
- **Research Advancement** – To support and/or conduct clinical, translational, and basic research to improve GD understanding and treatment, contributing to the broader scientific community.
- **Education** – To offer educational opportunities at all levels of expertise for healthcare providers, researchers, patients, and caregivers to deepen GD

¹ <https://karger.com/gdz/article/3/1/230/864763/The-International-Society-of-Glomerular-Disease>

² ISGD Peer Support Committee: Sharon Adler, Andrea Angeletti, Ghada Ankawi, David Arrieta, Andrew Bombback, Silke R. Brix, Corey Cavanaugh, Yongen Chang, Angela Maria Cordoba Hurtado, Seferiana Day, Manasi Desai, Andrew Ervin, David Feldman, Duvuru Geetha, Larry Greenbaum, Sangeeta Hingorani, Anuja Java, Ashley Jefferson, Vivek Jha, Tingting Li, Adrian Liew, Cynthia Lim, Laura Malaga-Diequez, Ana Malvar Perrin, Juan M. Mejia-Vilet, Carla M. Nester, Precil Neves, Sarah Panzer, Hermann Pavenstädt, Elion PD Hoxha, Sarka Schmidhuber, Purva Sharma, James Tumlin, Suzy Velazquez, Chia-shi Wang

knowledge, foster training, and develop or extend expertise in disease management.

- **Advocacy for Health Care Equity** – To champion health care equity, accessibility, and patient advocacy by raising awareness, seeking research funding, and working toward improving care for underserved populations.

In the coming weeks, applications for the first cohort of ISGD COE-GD and ISGD Partner Centers will open. Guiding documents will be posted and informational sessions will be held for centers interested in applying. Please follow our ISGD COE-GD website for all updates: <https://www.is-gd.org/centers-of-excellence>.

ISGD is also pleased to announce that we have established an esteemed, international and multi-disciplinary team of ISGD COE-GD Evaluators which includes:

Andrea Angeletti <i>Istituto Giannina Gaslini, Italy</i>	Ghada Ankawi <i>King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia</i>	Ambarish Athavale <i>UC San Diego, California, USA</i>	Silke Brix <i>Manchester University, United Kingdom</i>
Eugene Chan <i>Hong Kong Children's Hospital, Hong Kong</i>	Yongen Chang <i>UC Irvine, California, USA</i>	Duvuru Geetha <i>Johns Hopkins University, Maryland, USA</i>	Cynthia Lim <i>Singapore General Hospital, Singapore</i>
Juan M. Mejia-Vilet <i>Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición Salvador Zubirán, Mexico</i>	Precil Neves <i>Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil</i>	Jun Oh <i>Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany</i>	Sarah Panzer <i>University of Wisconsin- Madison, Wisconsin, USA</i>
Sarka Schmidhuber <i>Patient Advocate, Nevada, USA</i>	Chia-Shi Wang <i>Emory University, Georgia, USA</i>		

We are excited to celebrate this long-awaited and significant milestone in nephrology with our ISGD community. Liz Lightstone, ISGD COE-GD program lead and ISN president-elect reflects on this momentous achievement:

Glomerular diseases' impact on children and adults globally is devastating; they are among the most common causes of end stage kidney disease. We are in a golden era with rapid development of understanding the pathophysiology of these diseases, numerous positive controlled trials demonstrating novel effective treatments and a movement towards proper precision medicine approaches to individualize therapy. Now more than ever we need ISGD COE-GD to enhance expertise, upskill the global nephrology community, accelerate research and perhaps above all, ensure that new findings are rapidly implemented and widely accessible; compared to the drought of the previous half century, we suddenly have a plethora of approved drugs to treat various GDs – now we need our strong advocacy to ensure equity of access.

From a very personal perspective, I have the honor and privilege to serve on the leadership of both the ISN and ISGD, believe our visions and missions closely align and believe the establishment of ISGD COE-GD offers a huge opportunity to work together more closely in order to improve the outcomes for people with glomerular disease around the world.

The ISGD COE-GD program now establishes a global network dedicated to advancing care, research, and advocacy for GD patients, improving outcomes and quality of life worldwide.

ISGD COE-GD Program Leads:

Brad Rovin, Liz Lightstone, Sydney Tang, Alessia Fornoni

ISGD Leadership:

Tobias B. Huber, *Society President*. Laurel Damashek, *Executive Director*. Angel Morales, *Project Manager*.

For further information please reach out by email to gdcoe@is-gd.org.

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