

## First Message from ISPD President 2024-26, Prof Rajnish Mehrotra

It is a privilege and an honor for me to serve as the 18<sup>th</sup> President of the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis. In the 40 years since its founding, the ISPD has continuously sought to increase access to PD for patients with kidney failure or with acute kidney injury, and set the standards for improving the quality of delivered care. Overarchingly, the work of ISPD has prodded the larger nephrology community to increase the person-centeredness of care of patients with kidney diseases.

One of many ways we advance our mission is through the biannual Congress of the society. The ISPD Congress in Dubai, with its theme of “Peritoneal Dialysis – Achieving Equity through Universal Access”, was an overwhelming success by all measures. It was the first Congress to be held in the Middle East, it attracted more than 1000 participants, it included the first-ever didactic and hands-on course for nurses, a hands-on course for placing PD catheters, and an imaginative and scientific program focused on contemporary themes in peritoneal dialysis. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Prof. Mona Al-Rukhaimi, the President of the Congress, Dr. Ali Abu-Alfa, the Co-Chair of the Scientific Organizing Committee and the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, all local and international faculty, industry partners, and participants from around the world. The preparations for the next Congress in Cape Town are already underway.

What lies ahead? ISPD has always been a home for the multidisciplinary team that is involved in the care of patients treated with PD. The PD nurses are central to our success in supporting patients to do their dialysis treatments at home. Over the past few years, we have deepened our engagement with nurses and presently three of the 13 committees of the society are chaired by illustrious PD nurses. We hope to build on the work by engaging patients with experience on PD – incorporating the voice of patients from around the world in the work of ISPD will allow us to have a perspective from the consumers of the care that we seek to advance. This work will not be easy, it will happen over time, and we need all the good ideas out there for us to be effective in engaging patients.

Further, the ISPD leads the efforts in developing practice standards for PD with the development of standards, guidelines, and position statement. While the ISPD conducts its business and publishes its guidelines in English, we recognize that most patients treated with PD live in countries that speak a language other than English. We have supported voluntary efforts to translate our guidelines: for example, the 2022 peritonitis



guidelines have now been translated into 7 languages. However, much work remains to be done, particularly in translating the guidelines into Spanish to increase the accessibility of our work in Latin America. We are working to advance this cause in the near future.

We have also faced recent headwinds in advancing access to PD for patients with kidney failure, in both the United States and in Europe. In the US, Hurricane Helene has brought the production of PD solutions by Baxter to a halt. Notwithstanding this major setback, Baxter has worked tirelessly with US federal regulators to increase the importation of PD solutions from outside the United States. Further, ISPD partnered with the American Society of Nephrology to rapidly develop guidance for nephrologists for fluid-conserving strategies to prescribe PD. While unfortunate, in my assessment this will not slow the continued growth in use of PD in the United States. In Europe, it is presently challenging for some centers to procure extended catheters for use in patients with a larger body size. ISPD leaders in Europe are deeply engaged with this issue and hope to develop guidance to overcome this challenge.

I want to close by thanking PD professionals around the world, engaged in improving the lived experience of patients with kidney failure. I wish you and your families a happy holiday season a Happy New Year.