

Dear ISPD Members,

It has been almost half a year since I took up the position as the President of ISPD, and I would like to share with you some of my thoughts on the future of ISPD regarding its influence and reputation, along with some management issues.

As we all know, the pandemic has halted many events from happening, and ISPD is no exception. Therefore, there are many challenges posing ahead of us. To prevent the emerging tardy development, we need to speed up in articulating new ideas.



First, ISPD needs a visionary plan to raise its exposure rate and be more target-oriented to attract more nephrologists and allied professionals interested in Peritoneal Dialysis. There is a slight fall in our membership from its peak in 2018 (1062 members) to the number at the end of 2020 (998 members), so we need to figure out ways to revitalize the ISPD membership. Among our challenges, we need to make ISPD more attractive among the younger generation, which will also increase our penetration rate. We should make an effort to promote our Trainee/Fellow Membership, and to make everyone aware of our advantageous membership rates for low- and middle-income countries (institutional and collective memberships) and for national and regional societies.

Aside from membership, cooperation with international and regional partners is also very relevant (including ISN, IPNA, EuroPD, ERA-EDTA, ASN, APSN, SLANH, AFRAN, etc.). Each ISPD chapter should explore potential opportunities for sharing resources with local partners on fields such as education. We are open to sign agreements with the national/regional authorities or institutions and appoint education ambassadors in different regions to carry out CME activities that push forward the ISPD mission.

NGOs and international institutions are also crucial partners for our strategy. As COVID continues going on, the advantages of PD become more obvious than ever, and we should promote it to save more lives. I believe that the endorsement of big organizations like WHO will be a driving force to increase the uptake of PD, thanks to their high influence and voice. In addition, if we want to increase the PD penetration rate, we cannot avoid the issue of the insurance policy. Therefore, we need to work with governments to explore ways of formulating more PD-friendly policies. A few weeks ago, I just participated in a meeting with the Chinese Healthcare Security

Administration where we reached a consensus on how to improve PD policy on a national level.

Hong Kong and Thailand are doing great with their PD-first Policy; we should learn from them. New strategies can also be promoted throughout the world, especially in remote areas suffering from poverty. Last September, Guangzhou launched the first Smart Peritoneal Dialysis Center (SPDC) and they are evaluating the outcomes at the current stage. SPDC has provided a good virtual platform for patients and medical staff to communicate, and we are accumulating the relevant experience to consider a large-scale implementation.

Scientific research is a crucial tool to increase ISPD's impact through global research of high quality. PDI, as the official journal of our society, already has a good reputation among PD professionals; however, we should strengthen its impact factor to attract more state-of-the-art scientific research.

I would like to thank our Corporate Members for their continued support, and I invite them to engage on new initiatives in the fields of education, research, and promotion of PD.

In 2020 we were not able to hold our biannual congress in live format; in 2021 we will hold the meeting in a virtual environment. I would like to invite you all to join the most relevant PD event of the last years and learn the latest advances in PD from the safety of your homes on 28 Feb-02 March 2021.

Finally, I would like to ask for the commitment of all the ISPD members to boost our impact and make this society more vibrant in 2021.

Thank you for being part of the ISPD!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Xueqing YU'.

Xueqing YU
President of ISPD