

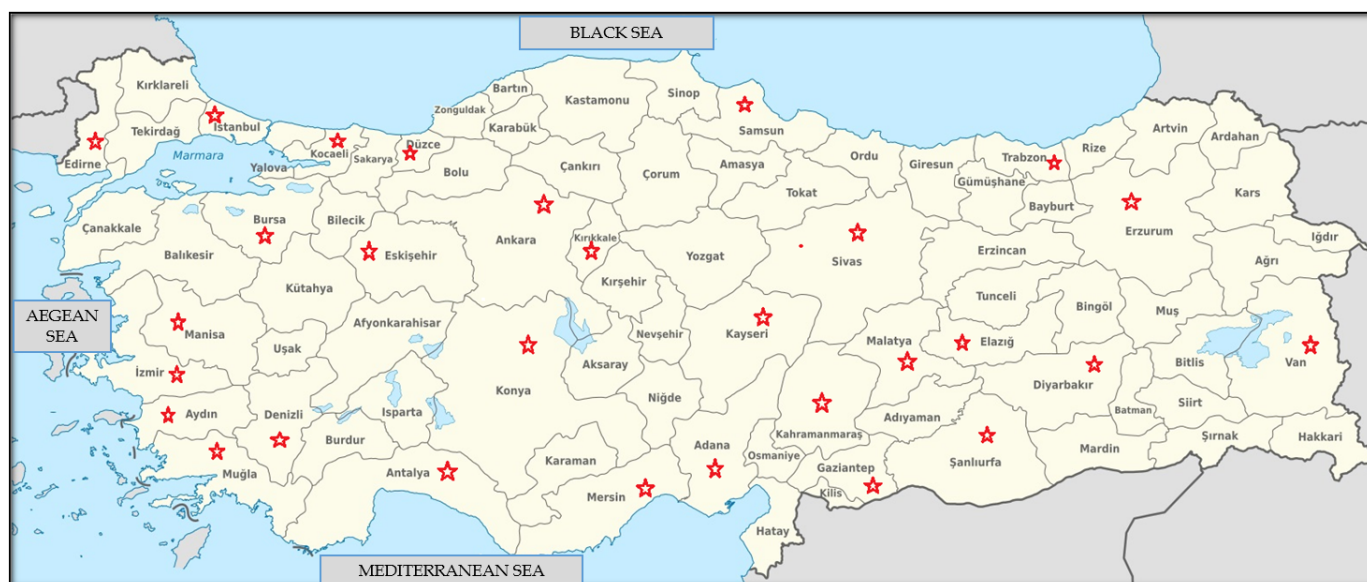
PEDIATRIC NEPHROLOGY in TURKEY

Turkey is situated on an area where Europe meets Asia, creating a link between these two continents. Because of its geographical location, Anatolia has been very important throughout history, and is the birthplace of many great civilizations. Turkey has also been prominent as a center of commerce because of its connections to three continents and the sea surrounding it on three sides.

Modern Turkey was established by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk after the proclamation of The Republic of Turkey in 1923. The area of Turkey is 783,562 km² and total population is 78.741.053 (2015), 18.886.220 of total population (24%) is under the age of 15. There are 30.176 (1.528 inpatient) medical institutions and 135.616 physicians in Turkey (2014). Social security fully covers every children under the age of 18.

Today, nearly 3 million Syrian live in Turkey and Turkey is the leading refugee hosting country in the World. We provide health services, education and all other humanitarian needs as much as possible. The educational activities are provided by the Ministry of National Education; healthcare services are offered by the Ministry of Health. For all refugees, health care is totally free and provides the same quality. In many of our pediatric nephrology centers, renal care is provided to these children with a great devotion.

The foundation of “Pediatric Nephrology” in Turkey is parallel to the organizations in Europe. The European Society for Pediatric Nephrology (ESPN) was founded in 1967. Turkey was one of the founder countries represented by Prof. Dr. İhsan Dođramacı who paid much attention to pediatric nephrology, thus initiating the process of implementing pediatric nephrology in Turkey and in Europe. In 1983, Pediatric Nephrology achieved the status of a subspecialty in Pediatrics in Turkey. Today, Pediatric Nephrology subspecialty training has been given by 31 centers throughout Turkey. We have more than 60 pediatric nephrology centers (most of them are university centers) including almost 50 pediatric hemodialysis units, 60 pediatric peritoneal dialysis units and 30 pediatric transplantation centers.



Pediatric Nephrology Centers in Turkey

Turkish Society of Pediatric Nephrology (TSPN) was founded in 1990 provided the basis for standardization and institutionalisation of training in pediatric nephrology; and it also accelerated the development of clinical and experimental research studies. The construction of well-equipped modern hospitals as well as the financial support by both universities and pharmaceutical industry but most

importantly great enthusiasm of Turkish Pediatric Nephrologists played important roles in achieving high quality of health-care and in the rapid increase in scientific activities.

First National Congress of TSPN was held in 1996 and thereafter repeated every two years. World experts from Europe and North America have been invited to our national meetings and a number of Turkish nephrologists had given many talks during international meetings, which promotes the exchange of knowledge and provides a mutual benefit to the societies.



From the 9th Congress of Turkish Society of Pediatric Nephrology

The Pediatric Nephrology Fellowship Program is a three-year program in Turkey. After completing this program, fellows must pass the pediatric nephrology certifying examination to get subspecialty diploma. TSPN- Accreditation Council for Pediatric Nephrology Training was established in 2005. Six University Pediatric Nephrology centers received “Certificate of Accreditation in Pediatric Nephrology Subspecialty Training” up to now. Many Turkish nephrologists were also received Board Certificate of TSPN after passing a well-structured two-step (written and OSCE) clinical exam.

In 2016, 180 well-trained pediatric nephrologists and 20 fellows are the basis for a high standard of clinical care and academic activities, thus putting Turkey into the leading position in the world. Turkey takes part a very active role in international collaborative studies with the highest contribution to the large registries and prospective studies. Many Turkish nephrologists are working as board member or regular member of ESPN Working Groups.

Turkey is well represented by our colleagues in IPNA and ESPN councils since early 2000s. In addition to the great participation to international congresses and international studies, Turkey is very successful in organising international meetings: the organization of an ESPN Congress in Istanbul in 2005 as well as IPTA Congress in Istanbul in 2009; Mediterranean Kidney Society Meeting in Capadocchia in 2015; IPNA-ESPN Junior Classes in Europe during the last three years. There are also three ERA-EDTA Meetings in Istanbul in 1978, 2008 and 2015 and one ISPD meeting in 2008 with a significant contribution of Turkish pediatric nephrologists.

Turkey had an active role in the establishment of Southeastern European Pediatric Nephrology Working Group and organised its first and third congresses in 2001 and 2008 in Turkey, also an active participant of European Pediatric Dialysis Working Group since 2002.

The new generation of Turkish pediatric nephrologists is well prepared to take over the mission they have learned from the pioneers, and they will aim at improving the accuracy of diagnosis, as well as at providing availability and accessibility of renal care for children in order to guarantee equity and efficacy of health care for all.