

ISN Regional Training Centers

Practical details for interested organizations
2020 edition

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1. OBJECTIVES OF ISN REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS

The primary objective of ISN Regional Training Centers is to provide nephrology training to doctors and health professionals in low, lower-middle, or upper-middle-income countries from their region through the ISN Granting Programs. In addition, ISN Regional Training Centers are expected to promote ISN activities in their region and to act as a hub, for example by:

- Hosting ISN Fellows;
- Holding educational meetings and workshops on topics considered as a priority by the ISN (such as AKI, CKD and ESKD) and relevant to the region;
- Providing Continuing Medical Educational (CME) speakers and Educational Ambassadors (EAP);
- Organizing Scientific Writing Courses;
- Supporting Emerging Centers from low resource areas through the ISN Sister Renal Centers (SRC) and Sister Transplant Centers (STC) programs;
- Contributing to the ISN Academy;
- Developing and engaging in advocacy activities and collaborations with their local and regional health authorities.

This initiative recognizes institutions that demonstrate a passion and capability for training doctors and health professionals in kidney care from surrounding low- resource areas and who manifest continued involvement in ISN capacity-building activities.

2. BENEFITS OF BEING AN ISN REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

Selected centers will be recognized as ISN Regional Training Centers for a period of 5 years, at the end of which they will have the option to re-apply to keep their status as ISN Regional Training Center. They will be required to produce a progress report of training activities every two years, which will be presented to the ISN Core Programs Committee.

- Selected centers will be given priority consideration when they are identified as training centers/collaborators on applications to the ISN Programs, and thereby will increase their chances of funding by the ISN;
- They will benefit from increased visibility at national, regional and global levels: ISN Regional Training Centers will be advertised on the ISN website and all other ISN communication channels. They will also be promoted through the Matching initiatives for the Fellowship and SRC/STC programs;
- They will be provided with a certificate; and may state that they are an '*ISN Regional Training Center 20XX-20XX*' (with the ISN logo alongside this statement) on their letterhead and other communications.

Note that:

- ISN recognition does not provide certification according to the criteria of any existing postgraduate training organization;
- ISN recognition does not provide evidence of completed and certified specialist training in nephrology for any individual who spends time in an ISN Regional Training Center.

3. HOW TO APPLY

The application process opens in December 2020 and the deadline to apply is on *January 8, 2021*.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The center should be located in a low, lower-middle or upper-middle income country;
- The center main representative and senior staff should be full ISN members;
- The center should have proven capabilities to provide a quality training in nephrology, and track record of training people from the region (especially from surrounding low and lower-middle income countries) through the ISN Granting Programs (Fellowship, SRC/STC, CME, EAP, etc), or outside ISN activities;
- The center should show commitment to contribute to various ISN Granting Programs, sustain relationships with returning trainees to help them grow as local leaders and foster interaction between regional, national and international experts as a way to promote individual and inter-institutional networking.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- **Application form**, which includes questions on:
 - Topics they can provide training on;
 - Involvement in research (clinical, lab and epidemiology/registry);
 - Language of training;
 - Local accreditation (by professional organization or government);
 - Adequate governance, planning, staffing and quality assurance.
- **5-Year Plan (PDF upload)**, which can be formulated in the most convenient format for each applicant. It should describe how applicants envision their involvement in the ISN Programs over the next 5 years (as a training center and/or with representatives attending regional events), and the impact on kidney care at a regional level that they would like to achieve. This 5-year plan will be used to assess the candidate training capabilities and motivation to become an ISN Regional Training Center, but also to track their progress if they are selected, and if they decide to re-apply to remain an ISN Regional Training Center after 5 years.
- **Letter of Support from Local or Regional Society of Nephrology (PDF upload)**, which should be a statement from an executive representative from the local or regional society of nephrology highlighting the strengths of the Center, how it could influence kidney care in the region, and its relevance to the regional needs.

- **Letter of Recommendation from ISN Regional Board (PDF upload)**, which should be a statement from the [ISN Regional Board Chair or Deputy Chair](#) providing a rationale for their recommendation. Please contact the ISN Programs Team at isnprograms@theisn.org if you do not know your ISN Regional Board Chair or Deputy Chair's contact details.

GENERAL TIPS AND COMMENTS

APPLICATION PROCESS:

The application is a lengthy process and we recommend you allocate enough time for it before submission. The ISN will select a limited number of ISN Regional Training Centers each year and only candidates with a strong application file will be accepted.

FORMS:

Your application must be submitted via the [online application system](#). Applications sent by email, fax or post will not be considered.

LETTERS:

Make sure all letters are written under official letterheads and duly signed. They will not be considered valid otherwise.

ISN MEMBERSHIP:

Regional Training Centers serve as ISN beacons within a region. Senior staff at these centers are expected to be **active members of the ISN community with [full ISN Membership](#)**. Explore different ISN membership opportunities for your colleagues and become part of the ISN community. If membership fees are not paid, the application will not be submitted to the ISN Core Programs Committee.

LANGUAGE:

The application and all enclosed documents must be written in English. Documents submitted in any other language will not be submitted to the ISN Core Programs Committee. No exception to this rule will be made.

INTRA-REGIONAL TRAININGS:

Applications should preferably involve training of doctors and health professionals from the same region rather than just from the same country.

4. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

The ISN Core Programs Committee will review applications and consult with the Regional Boards for additional comments. Assessment will be based on the criteria listed below:

- Center is located in a low, lower-middle or upper-middle income country;
- Evidence of ISN membership of senior staff members in the last 5 years;
- Alignment of 5-year plan with ISN vision, mission and strategic framework;
- Relevance of 5-year plan as compared to regional needs;
- Involvement in ISN Programs (in ISN SRC or STC pairs/trios, organization of CME meetings, representatives involved as CME speakers or Educational Ambassadors, etc);
- Facilities available at the training center (in terms of staff, equipment and procedures undertaken);
- Available curriculum and possibility of hands-on training;
- Appropriateness of proposed topics, quality and capability of training, research, governance and accreditation.

Other indicators will be taken into account in the review process:

- Topics applicants can provide training on;
- Digital training opportunities;
- Involvement in research (clinical, lab and epidemiology/registry);
- Language of training;
- Local accreditation (by professional organization or government);
- Adequate governance, planning, staffing and with quality insurance.

The names of centers selected by the ISN Core Programs Committee will be submitted to the ISN Executive Committee for final approval.

The outcome of applications will be announced in February 2021. The selected centers will be encouraged to become involved in the Sister Centers and Fellowship programs as supporting/host centers in their respective application sessions of May and October 2021.

5. ROLE OF ISN REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS

The primary objective of ISN Regional Training Centers is to provide nephrology training to doctors and health professionals in low, lower-middle, or upper-middle-income countries from their region through the ISN Granting Programs. In addition, ISN Regional Training Centers are expected to promote ISN activities in their region and to act as a hub (please see Section 1).

ISN Regional Training Centers will be required to provide a report every two years, to allow the ISN to assess their progress in comparison with the objectives provided in the 5-year plan.

ISN Regional Training Centers will need to re-apply to keep their status every five years.