

Introduction to Focus on Fabry Nephropathy: Biomarkers, Progression, and Disease Severity

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During the past few years, we have witnessed a tremendous increase in knowledge of the genetic nature of a number of rare kidney diseases. The investigation of the role of genetic disruption at the basis of pathologic processes in the kidney not only has helped in understanding these disease states but also has highlighted developmental issues and revealed novel insights into kidney function.

The "Focus on Fabry Nephropathy: Biomarkers, Progression, and Disease Severity" was organized as an Official Satellite of the World Congress of Nephrology and was held in Bergamo, Italy, on May 27 through 28, 2009. The aim was to bring together research geneticists, nephrologists and clinicians, and experts from related specialties to explore the current state of the art for the diagnosis and treatment of nephrologic issues in patients with Fabry disease. The venue and format of the satellite were focused to develop collaborative efforts and stimulate discussions, novel insights, and consensus positions. The conference speakers covered a variety of aspects of Fabry nephropathy: Natural history, factors that drive progressive loss of kidney function and responses to therapy, biomarkers for

understanding the progression of disease and response to therapy, special issues for pediatric patients and patients who are on dialysis or have undergone transplantation, pathology of Fabry nephropathy, and developing treatment options for Fabry nephropathy. The importance of improving the understanding of Fabry disease as a potential framework for understanding progressive kidney disease and cardiovascular diseases more generally was acknowledged, and thus the importance of the conference proceedings shared herein should serve a dual purpose.

The plenary invited lectures included Profs. Giuseppe Remuzzi (Molecular Basis of Glomerular Permeability and Proteinuria), Barry M. Brenner (Fetal Origins of Kidney Disease in Adults), and Christof Westenfelder (Stem Cell Therapies for CKD). Of special note were concurrent workshops organized by Adeera Levin that addressed Biomarkers of Fabry Nephropathy and Progression, Dosing Issues in Enzyme Replacement Therapy, Dialysis and Transplantation in Fabry Patients, and Renal Pathology and Kidney Dysfunction in Pediatric Patients with Fabry disease. The workshop reports form the basis for the Moving Points in Nephrology series that follows.

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