



5.12 Sichuan Earthquake -Renal Relief Work

We are all shocked and deeply saddened by the devastation inflicted by the major earthquake in Sichuan on May 12. Many of the earthquake survivors had developed acute kidney injury as a result of crush injury, rhabdomyolysis and sepsis. Several dialysis centers have collapsed. The nephrology community in Sichuan is faced with a challenge of unprecedented nature. Our Society has responded promptly to the need of our colleagues in Sichuan after the earthquake. Here is a chronicle of what we've done so far:

- May 12 -A Richter magnitude scale 8.0- earthquake rocked the Sichuan province, resulting in massive destruction & great loss of lives. Many people were injured.
- May 13 -Dr. Andrew Wong & Prof. Philip Li wrote to Prof. XiangMei Chen 陳香美教授 (Chairlady of the Chinese Society of Nephrology), expressing our wish to offer assistance in this disaster.
- Prof. R. Vanholder, Chairman of the International Society of Nephrology Renal Disaster Relief Task Force (ISN RDRTF) got in touch with our Society, requesting our assistance to enable the Task Force to send in a scout team to Sichuan.
- Direct telephone contact was established with Dr. Wang Li 王莉醫師 (Chairlady of the Sichuan Society of Nephrology), who was an ISN-HK Visiting Fellow at PWH only months ago.
- We understood that the first batch of haemodialysis machines was already on their way to Chengdu (成都).
- Communication with the Hong Kong Kidney Foundation was also in progress, informing them of our initial assessment of the situation, and our liaison works with all sides.
- May 14 -Dr. Andrew Wong called for volunteers from among our members to join the ISN RDRTF. Many trainees, fellows & renal nurses volunteered to join to the ISN RDRTF.
- Collaboration with the MSF Hong Kong Office was established
- May 16-17 -Prof. Philip Li (representing the Society, HA and ISN RDRTF/ MSF) & two members of the ISN RDRTF arrived in Chengdu to assess the disaster situation. They visited the 3

major hospitals in and around Chengdu; and discussed in details all the renal relief issues with Dr. Wang Li, (Head of Nephrology, Sichuan Provincial Hospital 四川省人民醫院) & Dr. Fu Ping 傅平醫師 (Head of Nephrology, Hua Xi Hospital 華西醫院). Prof. Li also gave lectures on ‘Renal Disaster and Crush Syndrome in Earthquake’ in both Provincial and Hua Xi Hospitals to the renal doctors and nurses.

- May 18 -Prof. Philip Li sent back his initial assessment report to Hong Kong: the dialysis units in Chengdu had no shortage of dialysis machines & personnel as additional manpower had arrived from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. They did require extra supply of dialysis consumables to meet the need of the large number of patients on acute HD.
- May 19 -Prof. Philip Li conducted a Press meeting with Dr. Andrew Wong at HA Headquarters detailing the extent of the renal relief work.
- Ms. Sandy Hui (NO, UCH), who had overcome many operational hurdles, was all set to join the ISN RDRTF in Chengdu, but the trip was cancelled at the last minute as the ISN/MSF mission was soon to be recalled.
- May 21 -Dr. Andrew Wong, with the full support of the Council, decided to donate HK\$250,000 worth of dialysis consumables (haemofilters and dialysate) to the dialysis units in Chengdu.
- Prof. Philip Li delivered a special talk on “Renal Disaster Relief in Sichuan Earthquake” in QEH. It was well attended by around 100 attendees from the Society and our ‘industries partners’.
- May 23 -First batch of dialysis consumables donated by our Society arrived in Chengdu.
- May 25 -Second batch of dialysis consumables donated by our Society arrived in Chengdu



Prof. Philip Li, together with members of the ISN RDRTF scout team met with Dr. Wang Li in Sichuan Provincial Hospital



Prof. Philip Li delivering a talk on ‘Renal Disaster and Crush Syndrome in Earthquake’ to doctors & nurses in Hua Xi Hospital



Dr. Wang Li & her renal team expressed sincere gratitude to our Society for donating the much needed dialysis consumables to their unit.

.....Thank you very much for your kind wishes and kind help. We have contacted with Dr Li Wang, Chairman, Sichuan Society of Nephrology and Dr Ping Fu, head of Division of Nephrology, West China Hospital. She had made applications for permission from the Department of Health, Sichuan Province. We have also sent experts from many parts of China to Sichuan Province already. And we would like very much to work with ISN experts in Sichuan Province when the permission has been given.

Extract of a letter from the President of the Chinese Society of Nephrology, Prof. XM Chen to our Society.

.....It is my turn to thank Philip Li in name of the whole team for the immense support and also all Chinese colleagues involved, especially Wang Li and Fu Ping, but also H^Y Wang and Dr XM Chen (Pres of the Chinese Soc Nephrol) and also all people involved in HK, especially Andrew Wong and Sandy Hui

Extract of a letter from the Chairman of the ISN RDRTF, Prof. R Vanholder to our Society.

Donation for the Sichuan Earthquake Relief

If you would like to contribute to the renal relief efforts in Sichuan through our Society, you are most welcome to send in a cheque, made payable to “**Hong Kong Society of Nephrology Ltd**” to our Honorary Treasurer, Dr. C.B. Leung (Department of Medicine & Therapeutics, PWH). Please specify that the donation is for the “**Sichuan Earthquake Relief**”.

Prepared by Dr. SL Lui (Hon. Secretary) & Dr. Andrew Wong (Chairman)