ISN

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY

Advancing Kidney Health Worldwide.
Together.

2023 ISN Pioneer Award Winner: NIS and Russia Region

ISN
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY

Irma Tchokhonelidze (Georgia)

2023 ISN Pioneer Award

The ISN honor the ‘unsung heroes’ of nephrology: doctors who had made extraordinary efforts to advance nephrology in a specific country or ISN region.

Without their dedication, nephrology would be far behind its current state in their home country.

Professor Irma Tchokonelidze played a leading role in promoting education, staff training, and collaboration with the health department to create kidney service for saving kidney patients' lives in Georgia.

Irma Tchokhonelidze professional activities

- **1996:** Start of kidney biopsies in Georgia
- **1997:** Implementing PD modality; transition from acetate to bicarbonate dialysate in HD; establishment of the governmental "Dialysis Program“
- **2001:** Government started support PD importing first double-bag systems
- **2003:** Foundation and leadership of "Dialysis, Nephrology, and Kidney Transplantation Union of Georgia“
- **2005:** Achievement of licensing subject "Nephrology“ as a separate subject
- **2008:** Organization of Georgian pathologist training in Germany and launching a local nephrology-pathology school
- **1996-2011:** Collaboration with the health department and regional administration entities; visiting regional centers with education programs and consulting patients; promoting pre-emptive transplantation for younger ones and PD for patients in remote areas
- **2011:** Foundation of Nephrology Development Clinical Center for the further advancement of Nephrology in Georgia
- **2012:** Foundation of national renal pathology registry
- **2014:** Initiation of annual CME courses for nephrology
- **2015:** Initiation of collaboration of "Dialysis, Nephrology, and Kidney Transplantation Union of Georgia“ with the International and European renal societies

Winner of the 2023 Schrier Award – the ISN SRC partnership (2015-2022)

Emerging center: Nephrology Development Clinical Center, Tbilisi State Medical University, Tbilisi, Georgia
Supporting center: Nephrology Department, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium

ISN SRC trio partnership to help advance kidney services at the State Institution National Medical Center in Tajikistan

Nephrology Development Clinical center in Tbilisi

	2015	2022
HD patients	300	480
PD patients	25	40
Hospital beds	14	40

- Creation of interventional nephrology and multidisciplinary teams for patient care
- Establishment of AKI, kidney biopsy, and vascular access registries
- Implementation of SOPs/quality control tools in HD, PD, and post-transplant patient care
- Introduction of a dialysis nurses' training program
- Establishment of local tissue-typing lab
- Initiation of pediatric nephrology service (PD, HD, Tx)

Irma Tchokhonelidze up to now

- Internal Medicine Professor at the Tbilisi State Medical University
- Director of the Clinical Center for the Development of Nephrology
- Head of the Department of Renal Replacement Therapy of Tbilisi State Medical University
- Director of the nephrology residency program
- Adviser/Expert of the Ministry of the Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia for continuous quality improvement in Nephrology
- Chief of Dialysis, Nephrology and Kidney Transplantation Union of Georgia

MEMBER:

- **International Society of Nephrology:** Councilor (2011-2017), NIS & Russia Regional Board Chair (2014-2019), Deputy Chair of Dialysis Working Group member
- European Renal Association
- International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis
- American Society of Nephrology
- KDIGO Executive Committee member (2022-2025)

Advancing Kidney Health Worldwide. Together.

www.theisn.org

Global Operations Center

Avenue des Arts 1-2
1210 Brussels, Belgium

+32 2 808 04 20

info@theisn.org

Americas Operations Center

340 North Avenue 3rd Floor
Cranford, NJ 07016-2496, United States

+1 567 248 9703

info@theisn.org

Follow us