

Dear EKITA Chair and Board members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my background and my proposal for future development of EKITA as part of my candidacy for the EKITA Vice-Chair position.

In my opinion, one of the definitions that best describes a leader is given by Peter Drucker, who said that 'a leader is a person who has the courage to take [on] responsibility and guide in times of uncertainty'. Old theories state that leadership is determined by distinctive dispositional characteristics present at birth, however evidence has lately emerged to show that leadership can also develop through hard work and careful observations. Thus, effective leadership results from both nature and nurture.

I work as a Paediatric nephrologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children; the UK's largest paediatric kidney transplant centre. I initiated and set up PELMAT (Paediatric London MMA Transplant Working Group) in 2018, which gathers professionals from seven paediatric specialities from four London hospitals to look after patients with Methylmalonic acidemia. Recently, we have successfully performed Europe's first simultaneous liver and kidney transplant for a patient with brittle metabolic condition.

Over the last few years I have worked hard to provide educational opportunities and increase the profile of paediatrics within transplantation. I initiated and am the Course Director for the Paediatric Kidney Transplantation Symposium which has successfully been running for 6 years ([www.transplant4kids.org](http://www.transplant4kids.org)). In addition, I organised the first paediatric transplant session at British Transplantation Society Congress in 2018, which received excellent feedback and has resulted in paediatric sessions being incorporated within the standard programme for future meetings. I am the founder and organiser of the Paediatric Renovascular Education Days in the UK, which focuses on paediatric kidney auto transplantation.

I was elected to the EKITA board in 2019 and since then, with support from the EKITA Chair and colleagues, I have used my experience in the UK to introduce paediatric sessions at the ESOT Congress and TLJ 2.0. I am co-leading EKITA's contribution to ESOT's Education Committee revisions of education practices. As a Board member of PEDAT (Paediatric Donation and Transplantation), a subsection of ELPAT, I set up a survey study on practices across Europe looking at assessment of patients with life limiting conditions and their consideration for, and access to, transplantation. I initiated a collaborative paper between EKITA and ELPAT looking into the ethical considerations for transplanting children.

The majority of my time on the EKITA Board has been during the global covid-19 pandemic, so I am acutely aware of the challenging future that awaits us as transplant professionals. In my opinion, the new Vice-Chair will need to focus, in part, on how to deliver kidney transplantation during a period of great uncertainty. I think we need to concentrate on new ways of collaborating and communicating between various societies as a way of collating and sharing new ways of delivering the best care to our patients. I have learned a lot and have been well supported during my time on the EKITA board. My intention as Vice-Chair would be to fully support the Chair and board members in order to facilitate their ideas and initiatives, as well as share my experiences and knowledge. I would specifically work towards further developing EKITA's profile within the worldwide transplant community by establishing us as 'go to' group for complex and challenging surgical and medical transplant issues. I wish to continue our existing work on living donation and collaborative research. Any future is uncertain, but uncertainty is in the very heart of human creativity and I would be honoured to co-lead EKITA.

Yours sincerely,

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