

A tribute to Prof. Garabed Eknoyan

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In this final issue of our journal's Silver Anniversary, Prof. Gary Eknoyan contributes with a wonderful Editorial in which he recalls for the benefit of young nephrologists some of the most significant moments and personalities that have contributed to the development of nephrology worldwide. I myself, after almost 40 years in nephrology, can safely say that Gary Eknoyan is among them!

Some years ago, when KDIGO's fifth anniversary was celebrated, I was asked to say a few words on the subject and about Gary. It is with the greatest of pleasure I reproduce here what I wrote on that occasion. Please read this as a personal tribute to his career and also a thank-you for his long-standing work with our journal.



KDIGO Board meeting. Paris (France), 2004.

When asked to think of a special memory of or shared moment with Gary, it was not just one that came to mind. Actually, that would have been hard as I've known and worked with Gary for a number of years, on a variety of projects, but more importantly and consistently on the KDIGO.

And this is what I think of when thinking of Gary, as the history of KDIGO tells the story of Gary's

personality. KDIGO's fifth anniversary is a fitting moment to pay tribute to the creator of the dream of putting experts from different regional guidelines groups together to create global guidelines to serve people worldwide.

Gary feels – an idea which I fully share – that the best of scientific evidence available at any given time should be accessible to everyone, independent of their socio-economic conditions, to be used as tools to persuade authorities to give the best patient care possible. The 'best' might not be attainable by everyone – but it exists, and should not be hidden, and less developed countries don't have to be given different medical practice guidelines.

More than the chairman, Gary has been the heart and soul of the KDIGO ideal, and his enthusiasm, warmth and friendliness has created an atmosphere of consensus among the very different experts and parties involved. He is positive and innovative and the achievements gained so far are a true reflection of his great qualities. I am proud to have served under his leadership on the first Board of Directors and I am very happy to still be involved as one of the Board of Counsellors.

Here's to you, Gary.