



AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEPHROLOGY

Leading Nephrology in Africa

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AFRAN Board Meeting Minutes

04 June 2025 at 16h00 GMT

Attendees

Abdou Niang	AN
Denis Teuwafu	DT
Esther Getambu	EG
Facial Jarraya	FJ
Fatiu Arogundade	FA
Gordana Cavrix	GC
Malcolm Davies	MD
Mohamed Hany Hafez	MHH
Mohamed Mongi Bacha	MMB
Rasha Darwish	RD
Sampson Antwi	SA
Yannick Nlandu	YN
Lethisha Harilall	LH

The African Association of Nephrology (AFRAN) Board Members held their first meeting for the 2025-2027 period to discuss organizational structure, regional representation, and upcoming initiatives. The board addressed various operational matters including committee organization, membership status, and the relationship between AFRAN and regional nephrology societies, while also reviewing recent achievements and upcoming projects. The conversation ended with discussions about associate membership for nurses and technicians, and the board's position regarding corporate partnerships with private companies seeking to establish dialysis centres in Africa.

1. Welcome Address from the President – AN

The first board meeting of the AFRAN Board commenced with President AN opening the session and welcoming and congratulating the new board members. A prayer was offered by MHH, who also shared wishes for peace and prosperity during the holy month of Zulhijjah. AN stated that the aim was to establish regular, well-organized meetings to advance the society's mission and address the expectations of African nephrologists over the next two years.

2. Roundtable Board Members Introduction

The meeting commenced with the new Board Members, including representatives from various African regions. FJ, the General Secretary, led the discussion, emphasizing the need to define the mission and activities of regional

representatives, as this was not currently outlined in the constitution. Participants shared their backgrounds and roles within AFRAN, expressing their commitment to improving the organization's representation and leadership in Africa. The group agreed to further discuss the mission of regional representatives to enhance AFRAN's activities and impact.

3. Roundtable Discussion on the Missions and Activities of Regional Representatives/Board Members

The Board Members discussed their role and responsibilities in representing Africa's five major geographical zones. They agreed to meet regularly every three months, with extraordinary meetings held upon written request of all members. The board members were tasked with serving as bridges between AFRAN and national societies in their regions, promoting membership and participation in AFRAN activities. They also discussed the need to update and improve AFRAN's website's directory of national societies, with regional representatives taking on the responsibility of gathering and submitting current contact information for their respective regions.

FJ: Tunisian nephrologist, General Secretary, involved with AFRAN for six years.

AN: From Senegal, also leads the Senegalese Society of Nephrology

MHH: Egyptian nephrologist, holds multiple leadership roles in transplantation and nephrology.

RD: Treasurer, based in Egypt, also active in other nephrology associations (ISPD, ISN).

FA: President-elect. Former AFRAN Secretary (6 years). Consultant Nephrologist, Registry of Medical College, Obafemi Awolowo University.

GC (Botswana). Originally from former Yugoslavia, over 30 years in Botswana.

Pioneer nephrologist in the region, Deputy Chair of the Botswana Renal Society.

YL (Democratic Republic of Congo). Chair of the AFRAN YNC (Young Nephrologist Committee). General Secretary of the Congolese Society of Nephrology.

DT (Cameroon). First-time AFRAN board member. Lecturer at University of Buea, Secretary General of Cameroonian Society of Nephrology. SA President of Ghana Kidney Association. Co-chair of AFRAN's PD Committee.

EG (Kenya). Based in Mombasa. Former VP and current executive member of the Kenya Renal Association. Kenya rep for East, Central, and Southern African Council of Physicians.

MMB (Tunisia). Professor of Nephrology, University of Tunis. Vice President, Tunisian Society of Nephrology. Chair of the African Transplant Committee. He emphasized commitment to strengthening North African participation in AFRAN.

FJ, Noted the lack of defined roles for regional reps in the constitution. He suggested that it was time to collaboratively define the purpose, responsibilities, and contributions of regional board members.

AN read from the AFRAN Constitution stating 10 board members representing 5 African regions. He advised that the board members must contribute actively and can have their term extended based on participation however they cannot be from the same country in each zone. He emphasized the importance of reviving the board's activity through regular meetings and member involvement.

MMB proposed acting as a bridge between AFRAN and national societies. He planned to organize virtual meetings with North African society leaders. He also highlighted language barriers (French/English) as a challenge to engagement and

suggested encouraging dual-language participation to promote inclusivity. He proposed outreach at national congresses (e.g., Algeria, Morocco) to promote AFRAN membership.

FJ agreed that regional representatives should serve as bridges between the AFRAN Executive and national societies. He supported outreach efforts to increase membership and activity, especially in underrepresented regions like Algeria. Affirmed flexibility with language and encouraged collaboration among regional reps to handle linguistic diversity (e.g., French/English pairing).

The primary mission of regional representatives is to act as connectors between AFRAN and nephrologists/national societies in their regions.

African Nephrology Collaboration and Goals

The discussion continued to address the lack of data in African nephrology and the need to improve collaboration and objectives within AFRAN. EG emphasized the importance of setting clear, inclusive, and achievable goals to leverage strengths across regions and improve nephrology training and care. Faical highlighted AFRAN's role in promoting nephrology and networking among African nephrologists, as well as its efforts to collaborate with international societies and pharmaceutical companies to enhance kidney care. The discussion also touched on the progress of the Peritoneal Dialysis program in Cote d'Ivoire, which launched in January 2024. DT expressed his commitment to helping AFRAN grow in the Central Africa region and proposed executing previous plans. GC agreed with the focus on education, networking, and sustainable dialysis solutions for patients.

Their role will include:

- Promoting AFRAN.
- Increasing membership.
- Identifying regional challenges.
- Disseminating AFRAN decisions and programs.
- Contributing ideas and organizing local engagement.

4. Constitution Update

AN mentioned constitutional changes from the last General Assembly. The group debated whether to list committees and working groups in the Constitution, with FJ advocating for limiting the number of committees while allowing flexible working groups.

5. AFRAN Committees: Review of Chairs and Co-Chairs. Final list to be published on the website and a meeting to be scheduled

The group discussed the structure of committees and working groups within AFRAN. They agreed to maintain the current 12 committees while allowing working groups to operate under the umbrella of existing committees, rather than creating new committees. FJ and AN emphasized that this structure allowed for flexibility in addressing new areas like green nephrology without expanding the number of committees. RD raised concerns about potentially reversing progress by moving working groups under committees, but the group agreed the current system works well.

The discussion commenced announcement of new committee chairs and co-chairs for various nephrology committees, including Research, Transplant, PD, Registry, Young Nephrology, Education and Training, Web and Media, and Clinical

Nephrology. GC raised questions about the relationship between WIN (West African Nephrology) and AFN, suggesting that WIN could be considered a division of AFRAN. AN proposed meeting with the WIN executives to discuss their potential status within AFRAN, while FA suggested studying how other nephrology associations structure their relationships with regional bodies. The group agreed to further explore these options and consult with other committee members.

6. WIN Africa's Role and Future

The group discussed the status and future of Women in Nephrology Africa (WIN Africa), which was initially established under the umbrella of AFRAN due to logistical support needs. RD explained that WIN Africa was founded by Professor Sarala Naicker and others, while FJ expressed concerns about potential divisions between male and female nephrologists, suggesting that Africa's limited number of nephrologists should work together rather than be separated. The discussion concluded with FA raising questions about the decision-making process regarding WIN Africa's relationship with AFRAN, seeking clarity on whether it was an executive committee decision or the president's initiative.

7. AFRAN Nurse Membership Recognition Initiative

The board discussed recognizing and formalizing the membership of nurses and technicians from African nephrology societies as associate members of AFRAN. RD proposed a formal letter from the board to allow these groups to join with specific benefits like committee participation and reduced congress fees, though without voting rights. The board agreed to prepare and sign this letter after further discussion at the next Board of Trustees meeting, with FJ tasked to share a letter from Nephro Ed regarding low-cost hemodialysis for African countries.

8. Nephro Aid Partnership Discussion

The proposal from Nephro Aid was discussed. Nephro Aid is a private company seeking to establish low-cost hemodialysis centers in Africa. The board agreed that while AFRAN could accept corporate membership fees from Nephro Aid, they could not endorse or promote their products to governments. MHH suggested that Nephro Aid should first prove the quality of their products through independent research, which would require approval from local ethical committees. The board decided to draft a clear response to Nephro Aid, emphasizing that Afran is a scientific association and cannot act as a commercial intermediary for private companies.

The meeting ended at 20h04 GMT.