The XIVth International Congress of Nephrology was held in Sydney from May 25—29, 1997. The thematic approach, that was so successful at the two previous Congresses, was again adopted for the meeting. The seven major themes involved renal development, transport and genetics; acute renal failure and environmental renal disease; immune-mediated renal disease; progressive chronic renal disease, hypertension and vascular disease; and transplantation. The themes involved one or two state-of-the-art lectures and eight to nine Symposia, each of 90 minutes. There were eight Plenary lectures.

The deadline for early registration was set at January 31, 1997 with a full registration fee for ISN members of $A750 and $A900 for non-members. By mid-February 1997, there were over 1600 full registrations.

There were two new major initiatives in the Congress format. The first was an International Scholarship Program for young nephrologists from developing countries within the Asian Pacific Region. Sixty scholars were selected by their national nephrology society and fully funded by the Congress. This program consisted of each trainee spending a week being hosted in a renal unit in Australia or New Zealand and then attending a Scholarship Training Course (with sessions on basic and clinical nephrology) in Sydney on May 22 and 23. They then attended the pre-Congress Symposia and the Congress before returning home. It is anticipated that such links will develop into “sister” units to further the development of nephrology.

The second initiative was the introduction of pre-Congress Symposia. The Symposia were supported by the ten major Congress sponsors and were held from Saturday, May 24–Tuesday, May 27. Each was of approximately 3 1/2 hours duration and addressed issues relating to renal management.

Six Satellite meetings were held throughout Australia after the main meeting, including one in Sydney, three in Queensland, one in Melbourne, and one in Central Australia (Ayers Rock). Each involved independent organizers, individual sponsorship and a separate Program Committee.

It was decided that a Congress Proceedings would not be produced; however, a book of abstracts of free communications and extended abstracts of invited contributions was produced, together with a CD-Rom of Plenary and State-of-the-Art lectures and major presentations within the Continuing Medical Education program. The CD-Rom was provided free to all Congress registrants within six to eight weeks of the meeting and copies were distributed to National Societies and Libraries in underdeveloped countries.
The President of the Continental Congress, later known as the President of the Congress of Confederation, was the presiding officer of the Continental Congress, the convention of delegates that emerged as the first (transitional) national government of the United States during the American Revolution. The president was a member of Congress elected by the other delegates to serve as a neutral discussion moderator during meetings of Congress. Designed to be a largely ceremonial position without much