

We wish to inform the ESPN membership of the sad news that Dr Kate Verrier-Jones passed away on 28th October 2022, following a short illness. Kate played an important role in the development of Paediatric Nephrology as a specialty both in the UK and in Europe. Having initially worked alongside the adult nephrology team in Cardiff to provide care to children in Wales requiring renal replacement therapy, she was joined by Dr Fiona Jewkes in 1990 and me in 1995. She worked tirelessly to raise the profile of paediatric nephrology and led the establishment of an effective dialysis and transplant program in Cardiff.

Between 1988 and 1992 Kate was the Honorary Secretary of the British Association for Paediatric Nephrology. She then moved on to become the Assistant Secretary of the European Society for Paediatric Nephrology from 1992 to 1997 before taking on the role of Secretary General in 1997. She was keen to modernise the functioning of the ESPN and initiated the creation of the first ESPN website. Kate was a key player in the early development of the ERA-EDTA Registry and recognised the importance of European collaboration in collecting and reporting data on children with renal disease to further develop and improve clinical practice, particularly given the relative rarity of many of the conditions encountered. As well as being an astute clinician who was much loved by her patients, Kate was an active researcher, holding the position of Reader in Paediatric Nephrology at Cardiff University, having previously been a medical student at the same Institution. She had a particular interest in the diagnosis and management of urinary tract infection in children. Kate was also very active in fund raising, particularly when it became necessary to relocate the paediatric nephrology service across Cardiff. Her knitted woolly hats were much in demand. The photograph shows Kate with her consultant colleagues and the secretarial staff soon after the move to our new unit at the University Hospital of Wales in 1999.



Kate followed on in her desire to see the NHS making greater use of modern IT, initially with a role in the NHS Information Authority and then moving onto work full-time for its replacement, the NHS National Programme for IT, in 2006.

Outside work Kate's main interest was her garden, which was of such quality as to have been opened on occasions to the public. She is survived by her husband, Roger, also an eminent paediatrician, two children and four grandchildren.

Graham Smith