



June 30, 2006

I am proud to present the **2005 Annual Report for End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network 9**, which outlines a year of Network activities, and is made possible by the coordinated effort among health care providers, patients, and Network staff.

The Renal Network, Inc. (ESRD Network 9/10) is an independent agency that monitors the treatment of patients with ESRD in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. A total of 18 ESRD Networks throughout the country provide oversight of dialysis and transplant centers. The goal of the ESRD Networks is to assure appropriateness of dialytic care while fostering patient independence and well-being. ESRD Networks are funded through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The Renal Network, Inc., fosters and appreciates patient participation at all levels of its operation from the Board of Trustees, the Medical Review Board, the Pediatric Renal Group, the Patient Leadership Committee and Network Coordinating Council to each individual dialysis unit.

Our committee members are volunteers who have given of their time to improve the quality of care provided to patients receiving treatment for ESRD. Their contributions of time, effort, dedication and expertise have enabled our Network to go well beyond the requirements of our CMS contract to drive a progressive pro-active organization. We are especially grateful to for the contributions of the steering committee overseeing the Fistula First Initiative – the Vascular Access Advisory Panel. Under the leadership of Dr. Peter DeOreo as chair, their expertise has helped Network 9/10 improve in the area of fistula placement and maintenance. Increasing the use of fistulae is a national, as well as a Network, goal, one which will ensure better quality of care for all hemodialysis patients.

I wish to thank all the dedicated professionals, including those in each of our dialysis and transplant facilities and the Network administrative office, without whose hard work and perseverance the Network accomplishments would not have been possible. I am proud of my association with The Renal Network, Inc., and I expect that the contributions of our stakeholders will continue to make our Network a model for others to emulate.

Sincerely,

Jay B. Wish, M.D.
President