



June 29, 2007

I am pleased to present the **2006 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 end-stage renal disease 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, extending from the Board of Trustees, the Medical Review Board, the Pediatric Renal Group, the Patient Leadership Committee and the Network Council to each individual dialysis unit.

Our committee members are volunteers who strive to improve the quality of care provided to patients receiving treatment for ESRD. Their contributions of time and expertise have enabled our Network to go well beyond the requirements of our CMS contract to drive a progressive organization. I would especially like to thank Dr. Jay Wish for his tremendous contributions during his term as president. During the six years which Dr. Wish served in that office, the Network was successful developing and implementing innovative projects to advance quality improvement for dialysis providers.

I would also like to recognize the contributions of Dr. Peter DeOreo, who completed his tenure as chair of the Vascular Access Advisory Panel at year-end 2006. Under his leadership, our Network fistula rate has steadily increased toward the national goals set by CMS. Dr. DeOreo is now serving as Medical Review Board chairman, and Dr. Tim Pflederer has taken on the challenge of meeting the aggressive fistula goals as VAAP chair. Increasing the use of fistulae is an important 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 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,

George Aronoff, M.D.  
President