

World Kidney Day Symposium – 12 March 2026

“Kidney Health for All: Caring for People, Protecting the Planet”

On 12 March 2026, the World Kidney Day Symposium was held online via the Microsoft Teams platform through the collaboration of Ege University Faculty of Nursing, Necmettin Erbakan University Faculty of Nursing, and the Turkish Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation Nurses Association (TNDTHD). The event attracted significant interest, bringing together more than 150 participants, including academics, healthcare professionals, and students from numerous provinces across Türkiye, such as İzmir, Amasya, İstanbul, Konya, Bursa, Aydın, Erzurum, Ağrı, Düzce, Ankara, Kayseri, Kütahya, Giresun, Tekirdağ, Mersin, Sakarya, Aksaray, Antalya, Samsun, Ardahan, Balıkesir, and Bolu.



Opening Remarks

In her opening address, the Symposium Chair, Prof. Dr. Asiye Akyol, emphasized that kidney health and environmental health cannot be considered separately. She highlighted the importance of addressing human and planetary health together and underscored the need to consider environmental impacts within nursing practices.

Tülay Aksoy, MSc, RN, President of the Turkish Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation Nurses Association, drew attention to the importance of professional association membership and professional organization. She noted that professional associations provide strength in advocating kidney health and shaping health policies at both individual and societal levels. She also emphasized that focusing on the recyclability of dialysis waste is critical for sustainable healthcare practices.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eda Dolgun, Vice Dean, highlighted the role of academic institutions in raising awareness of kidney health as well as in education and research. She emphasized the importance of collaboration between clinical practice and academic research.

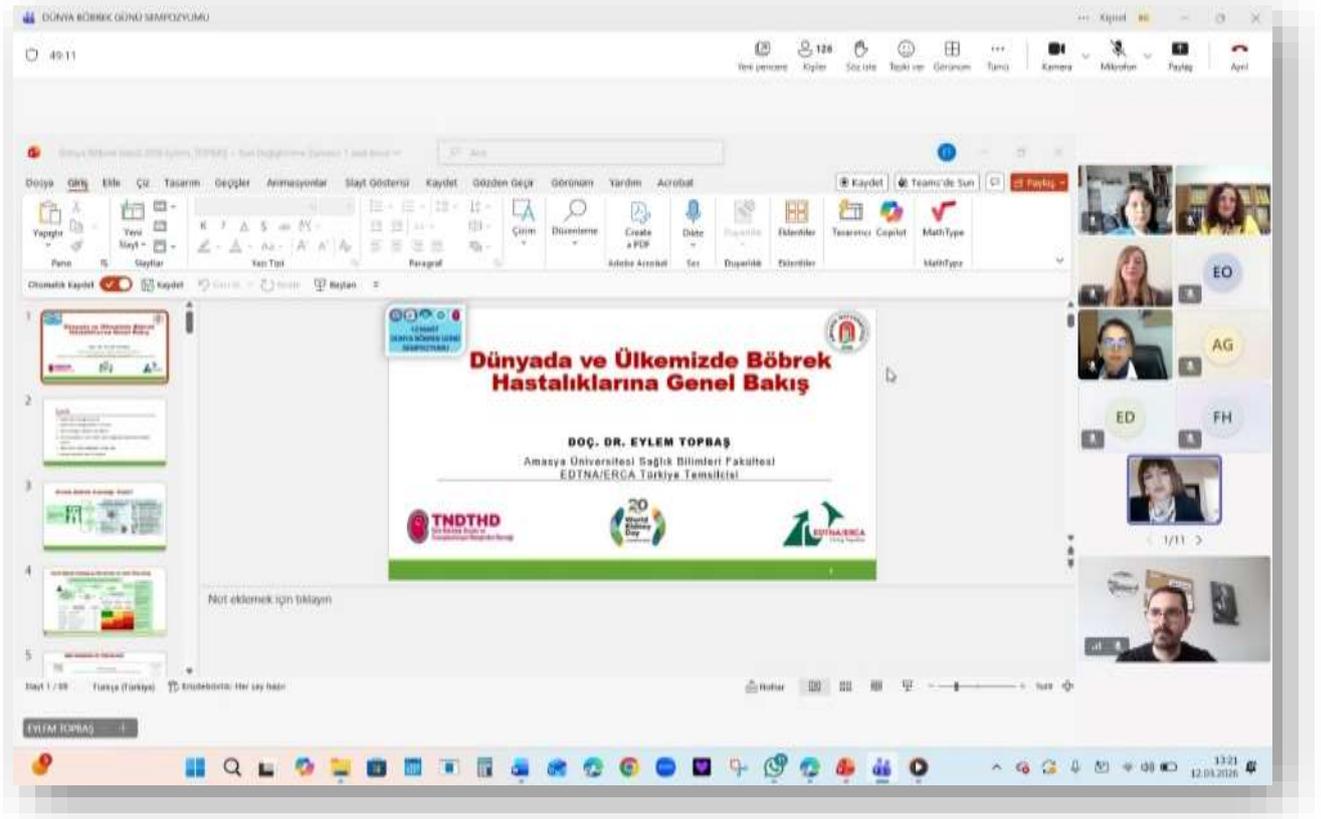


Panel Sessions

The symposium was organized into two panels.

Panel 1: Kidney Diseases and Prevention

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eylem TOPBAŞ (EDTNA/ERCA Türkiye Brand Ambassador) discussed the global and national status of kidney diseases, risk factors associated with the development of chronic kidney disease (CKD), and national and international action plans aimed at prevention. The presentation also highlighted the importance of establishing a common language in nephrology and emphasized the relationship between kidney health protection and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the potential role of artificial intelligence and digital twin technologies in healthcare for the future of nephrology was discussed.



Dr. Emek Bakanoğlu Kalkavan, Lecturer, presented the “8 Golden Rules” aimed at reducing the risk of kidney diseases and outlined strategies to promote community health.



Panel 2: Climate Change and Sustainability in Nephrology

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zülfinaz Özer highlighted the “hidden risks” of climate change on kidney health. She discussed the impact of carbon footprint and a 1–2°C increase in global temperature on kidney health and emphasized that increasing climate pressures



contribute to both a higher disease burden and greater vulnerability of healthcare services. She stressed the importance of access to clean water, early warning systems, patient education, and environmentally friendly practices to ensure sustainable kidney care.

Prof. Dr. Ali Gürel focused on sustainable practices in nephrology. He addressed the environmental impacts of waste generation and water consumption during dialysis processes and noted that dialysis services in Türkiye consume substantial water and resources. He emphasized that transforming dialysis units from resource-consuming facilities into reference points aligned with a **circular economy model** would form the foundation of resilient healthcare systems in the future.

The symposium concluded with a dynamic discussion on integrating environmental sustainability into kidney care. Participants reported that the event was informative, impactful, and motivating, and that it contributed to raising awareness and inspiring new perspectives for professional practice.