



In this issue: Journal of Nephrology, October 2020: diabetic kidney disease and more

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In this issue, which presents with a specific focus on diabetic kidney disease (DKD), Fioretto gathers a series of timely reviews providing broad and in-depth insight into DKD and its management (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-020-00849-3>). As Fioretto (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-020-00797-y>) says in her presenting editorial, there is an unmet need for better treatment options in order to prevent the development and slow the progression of DKD. The current dismal scenario is likely to rapidly change with the use of new drugs, and furthermore, new therapeutic advances may also affect the clinical management of patients with other forms of chronic kidney disease.

The reviews, all written by well-known experts in the field, touch upon various aspects of DKD, and, besides the expected review on GLP-1 receptor antagonists and SGLT2, include oxidative stress and omics research, and also cast a new light on old issues, such as the role of uric acid or atherosclerosis. Along the same lines, Caldara's editorial (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-020-00839-5>) reminds us to read the position statement of our three societies [the Italian Society of Nephrology (SIN), the Italian Society for Organ Transplantation (SITO) and the Italian Diabetes Society (SID)] on the management of metabolic alterations in adult kidney transplant recipients.

The topic collection on kidney and pregnancy is enriched by an elegant, albeit still relatively small study reporting the effect of diabetes on foetal kidney growth. Indeed, the study by Brennan (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-020-00815-z>) elicits a reflection on how pregnancy may be the first opportunity towards the prevention of kidney diseases, and not only.

Meanwhile, the October issue continues the discussion on the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic in the Nephrology community. Westhoff and colleagues (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-020-00828-8>) share the experience of our German neighbours, and Pio-Abreu (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-020-00823-z>) that of our Brazilian friends, confronted with the diffusion of the disease in hemodialysis patients. On the same topic, Przedlacki (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-020-00811-3>) comments on the fears and expectations of the patients and health care workers towards the testing policies, and Ghiggeri (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-020-00821-1>) summarises the advantages of exploiting our research databases, analysing his experience with children and young adults, to gain important insights into the impact of the epidemics on different cohorts of patients.

Though still recovering from the first COVID-19 wave, and while waiting for a second one, life goes on.

We are pleased to share with you our choice of papers dealing with clinical nephrology [Binda (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-020-00706-3>) on lupus nephritis, Li on IgA nephropathy]. The importance of proteinuria as a broad marker of disease risk is highlighted by the papers of Ahn (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-020-00740-1>) and Rahamimov (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-020-00703-6>). In the field of dialysis, Pedrini (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-020-00709-0>) leads an elegant randomised trial suggesting that mixed-dilution hemodiafiltration could reduce the erythropoiesis stimulating agents requirement, while an intriguing paper by Cuppari (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-020-00819-9>) on peritoneal dialysis underlines the link between bowel habits and gut derived toxins, whose level is increasingly being associated with several dialysis-related outcomes.

In line with the decision to develop further topic collections, in particular on some issues that have characterised the development of nephrology in our country, the editorial signed by Cupisti (<https://doi.org/10.1007>

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s40620-020-00829-7) and the new editorial team inaugurates the topic collection on nutritional management in all CKD stages, and welcomes a study by Carrero (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-020-00765-6>) on plant-based diets in the elderly.

Especially in hard times like ours, a journal should also convey some “joie de vivre”; nephrologists are curious physicians who love facing difficult diagnoses and intriguing cases.

With this in mind, please enjoy our nephrology pictures and lessons for clinical nephrologists, from four continents

reporting on some interesting challenges encountered in Australia, Taiwan, the US and France.

Stay safe, enjoy reading, and send your best papers to Journal of Nephrology.

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