



## INTRODUCTION

## A new series of advanced-level research methods papers

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Progress in clinical practice requires research findings obtained by using high-quality research methods. It is therefore very fortunate that over the past decade nephrology researchers have shown an increased interest in the science of clinical epidemiology. Research methods courses are now preceding almost all nephrology congresses across the world. Also, the international introductory courses in epidemiology that have been organized by the European Renal Association–European Dialysis and Transplant Association (ERA-EDTA) since 2004 and where ERA-EDTA Registry staff members and experienced investigators have trained >1200 nephrologists and nephrology researchers have greatly contributed to the expertise of clinicians in this area.

Science is progressing and studies are becoming more complex. Standard analysis techniques have become only basic knowledge, whereas there is an increasing need for using more sophisticated research designs and analysis techniques. Where other methods have focused on, for example, big data analyses, this new advanced-level series of research methods papers in *Clinical Kidney Journal* will focus on conventional techniques.

These are still of crucial importance, as many important research questions cannot be answered by these currently very popular big data analysis techniques, but need to rely on conventional methods. This series will cover a variety of important issues, from joint models to pharmacoepidemiology and from measurement instruments for physical activity to the legacy effect in clinical trials. The articles will be written in a simple style, for widespread understanding without oversimplification. We hope the series will be of interest to our readers.

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### CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

None declared.

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