Editorials

2555 Acute Kidney Injury and Chronic Kidney Disease: A Work in Progress
   Jason R. Bydash and Areef Ishani
   See related article on page 2567.

2558 Fluid Intake for Kidney Disease Prevention: An Urban Myth?
   Alex Chang and Holly Kramer
   See related article on page 2634.

2561 A Preponderance of Evidence Is Sufficient
   Tom F. Parker, III
   See related article on page 2642.

2564 Training the Next Generation of Nephrologists
   Donald E. Kohan
   See related article on page 2681.

Original Articles

Acute Kidney Injury/Acute Renal Failure

2567 Acute Kidney Injury Episodes and Chronic Kidney Disease Risk in Diabetes Mellitus
   Charuhas V. Thakar, Annette Christianson, Jonathan Himmelfarb, and Anthony C. Leonard
   See related editorial on pages 2555.

Clinical Immunology and Pathology

2573 Influenza A/H1N1 Vaccine in Patients Treated by Kidney Transplant or Dialysis: A Cohort Study
   Nilufer E. Broeders, Anneleen Hombrouck, Anne Lemy, Karl Martin Wissing, Judith Racapé, Karine Gastaldello, Annick Massart, Steven Van Gucht, Laura Weichselbaum, Aurelie De Mul, Bernard Brochier, Isabelle Thomas, and Daniel Abramowicz

Clinical Pharmacology

2579 Dose-finding Study of Peginesatide for Anemia Correction in Chronic Kidney Disease Patients
   Iain C. Macdougall, Andrzej Wiecek, Beatriz Tucker, Magdi Yaqoob, Ashraf Mikhail, Michal Nowicki, Iain MacPhee, Michal Mysliwiec, Olgierd Smolenski, Władysław Słowicz, Martha Mayo, Carol Francisco, Krishna R. Polu, Peter J. Schatz, and Anne-Marie Duliege

Chronic Kidney Disease

2587 Pregnancy Outcomes in Women with Chronic Kidney Disease: A Systematic Review
   Immaculat F. Nevis, Angela Reitsma, Arunmozhi Dominic, Sarah McDonald, Lehana Thabane, Elie A. Akl, Michelle Hladunewich, Ayub Akbari, Geena Joseph, Winnie Sia, Arthur V. Iansavichus, and Amit X. Garg

2599 Warfarin in Atrial Fibrillation Patients with Moderate Chronic Kidney Disease
   Robert G. Hart, Lesly A. Pearce, Richard W. Asinger, and Charles A. Herzog

2605 Relationship between Blood Pressure and Incident Chronic Kidney Disease in Hypertensive Patients
   Rebecca Hanratty, Michel Chonchol, Edward P. Havranek, J. David Powers, L. Miriam Dickinson, P. Michael Ho, David J. Magid, and John F. Steiner
2612 Correlates of Osteoprotegerin and Association with Aortic Pulse Wave Velocity in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease
Julia J. Scialla, Mary B. Leonard, Raymond R. Townsend, Lawrence Appel, Myles Wolf, Matt J. Budoff, Jing Chen, Eva Lustigova, Crystal A. Gadegbeku, Melanie Glenn, Asaf Hanish, Dominic Raj, Sylvia E. Rosas, Stephen L. Seliger, Matthew R. Weir, and Rulan S. Parekh, on behalf of the CRIC Study Group

2620 Sympathetic Nerve Traffic and Asymmetric Dimethylarginine in Chronic Kidney Disease
Guido Grassi, Gino Seravalle, Lorenzo Ghiadoni, Giovanni Tripepi, Rosa Maria Bruno, Giuseppe Mancia, and Carmine Zoccali

2628 Chronic Kidney Disease and Albuminuria in Children with Sickle Cell Disease
Marianne McPherson Yee, Shameem F. Jabbar, Ileyinwa Osunkwo, Lisa Clement, Peter A. Lane, James R. Eckman, and Antonio Guasch

Epidemiology & Outcomes

2634 Urine Volume and Change in Estimated GFR in a Community-Based Cohort Study
William F. Clark, Jessica M. Sontrop, Jennifer J. Macnab, Rita S. Suri, Louise Moist, Marina Salvadori, and Amit X. Garg
See related editorial on pages 2558.

2642 Early Outcomes among Those Initiating Chronic Dialysis in the United States
Kevin E. Chan, Frank W. Maddux, Nina Tolkoff-Rubin, S. Ananth Karumanchi, Ravi Thadhani, and Raymond M. Hakim
See related editorial on pages 2561.

2650 Interaction of Time-Varying Albumin and Phosphorus on Mortality in Incident Dialysis Patients
Emanuel Zitt, Claudia Lamina, Gisela Sturm, Florian Knoll, Friederike Lins, Otto Freistätter, Florian Kronenberg, Karl Lhotta, and Ulrich Neyer

ESRD & Chronic Dialysis

2657 Effect of Dialysis Modality on Survival of Hepatitis C-Infected ESRF Patients

2662 Effectiveness and Safety of Warfarin Initiation in Older Hemodialysis Patients with Incident Atrial Fibrillation
Wolfgang C. Winkelmayer, Jun Liu, Soko Setoguchi, and Niteesh K. Choudhry

2669 Access Survival amongst Hemodialysis Patients Referred for Preventive Angiography and Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty
Kevin E. Chan, Timothy A. Pflederer, David J. R. Steele, Michael P. Lilly, T. Alp Ikizler, Frank W. Maddux, and Raymond M. Hakim

Health Services Research

2681 Alignment of Nephrology Training with Workforce, Patient, and Educational Needs: An Evidence Based Proposal
Cathie Lane and Mark Brown
See related editorial on pages 2564.

Mineral Metabolism/Bone Disease

2688 Fibroblast Growth Factor 23 in Patients Undergoing Peritoneal Dialysis
Tamara Isakova, Huiliang Xie, Allison Barchi-Chung, Gabriela Vargas, Nicole Sowden, Jessica Houston, Patricia Wahl, Andrew Lundquist, Michael Epstein, Kelsey Smith, Gabriel Contreras, Luis Ortega, Oliver Lenz, Patricia Briones, Phyllis Egbert, T. Alp Ikizler, Harald Jueppner, and Myles Wolf

Renal Transplantation

2696 Belatacept-versus Cyclosporine-Based Immunosuppression in Renal Transplant Recipients with Pre-existing Diabetes
Lionel Rostaing, Hans H. Neumayer, Rafael Reyes-Acevedo, Barbara Bresnahan, Sander Florman, Stefan Vitko, Michael Heifets, Jun Xing, Dolca Thomas, and Flavio Vincenti
**2705 Late Graft Loss among Pediatric Recipients of DCD Kidneys**  
Kyle J. Van Arendonk, Nathan T. James, Jayme E. Locke, Robert A. Montgomery, Paul M. Colombani, and Dorry L. Segev

**2712 Association of Pretransplant Serum Phosphorus with Posttransplant Outcomes**  

**Special Feature**

**2722 ASN Clinicopathologic Conference**  
Ajay K. Singh and Lorraine C. Racusen

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**On the Cover**

*What’s the diagnosis?* This image depicts a single red blood cell cast contained in a urinary sediment examined at 40X under phase contrast microscopy. Individual red blood cells are clearly seen within the cast, which is held together by Tamm Horsfall Protein (THP). Copious amounts of THP are produced in the thick ascending limb, with 40–80 mg/day appearing in the final urine of normal individuals. This highly glycosylated protein tends to form a gel in concentrated urine, and in the process trap any elements that are present within the tubule at that time into the resulting cast. Presence of a red blood cell cast in the urinary sediment suggests a renal as opposed to lower urinary tract source of hematuria, and therefore that glomerular damage has occurred. Causes include glomerulonephritis, vasculitis with renal involvement, and renal infarction. Since red blood cell casts can disintegrate over time, examining a fresh urine sediment can increase the odds of spotting one. (Image and text supplied by Rachel Miller and John Lieske MD, Mayo Clinic Renal Testing Laboratory, Rochester, MN).