Editorial

Editorial on Contributions to Nephrology, Vol. 181, by Prof. Nan Chen, entitled:

New Insights into Glomerulonephritis (Pathogenesis and Treatment)

In China glomerular disease remains the leading cause of chronic kidney disease including ESRD. The recently published book of both Chinese and leading Western experts discusses various aspects of pathogenesis and treatment of glomerular disease in China and Eastern Asia and covers the most important new aspects of selected types of glomerulonephritis.

After the more general papers dedicated to the epidemiology and pathology of glomerular disease five remaining sections deal with recent progress in IgA nephropathy, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis/minimal change disease, membranous nephropathy, membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis and crescentic glomerulonephritis. In the section on IgA nephropathy particular attention is paid to renal histopathology, podocyte injury, immunopathological predictors of outcome, recent genome-wide association studies and also to the treatment of this frequent and often slowly progressive glomerular disease. Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS) still remains a very heterogeneous disease with poorly understood etiopathogenesis which complicates the search for the potential therapeutic targets. Particularly interesting papers deal with the potential role of podocyte gene mutations in the adults with FSGS, familial FSGS and treatment of primary FSGS. The next section discusses the recent progress in the etiopathogenesis and diagnostics of membranous nephropathy, short-term complications of membranous nephropathy and the role of tacrolimus and other calcineurin inhibitors in its treatment. Recent changes in the classification of membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis and their impact on its treatment are discussed in another section. Special attention is paid to hepatitis C virus-associated glomerulonephritis and C3 glomerulopathy. The last part of the book deals with novel aspects of classification, pathogenesis and treatment of crescentic glomerulonephritis including ANCA-associated vasculitis.

Recent progress in our understanding of the pathogenesis of glomerular disease not only facilitated early diagnosis, but also identified putative therapeutic targets leading to a gradual shift from non-specific immunosuppression to the biologic (targeted) treatment. The presented book could serve as a brief guide for the general nephrologist who wishes to keep pace with the ever expanding knowledge in the area of glomerular disease.

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