Highlights in this issue:

- **Renal Biopsy in 2015 – From Epidemiology to Evidence-Based Indications**

- **Mortality Outcomes of Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease**

- **Cognitive Function and White Matter Changes Associated with Renal Transplantation**
The fifth revised edition of this highly successful book presents the most extensive enhancement since *Using and Understanding Medical Statistics* was first published 30 years ago. Without question, the single greatest change has been the inclusion of source code, together with selected output, for the award-winning, open-source, statistical package known as R. This innovation has enabled the authors to de-emphasize formulae and calculations, and let software do all of the ‘heavy lifting’.

This edition also introduces readers to several graphical statistical tools, such as Q-Q plots to check normality, residual plots for multiple regression models, funnel plots to detect publication bias in a meta-analysis, and Bland-Altman plots for assessing agreement in clinical measurements. New examples that better serve the expository goals have been added to a half-dozen chapters. In addition, there are new sections describing exact confidence bands for the Kaplan-Meier estimator, as well as negative binomial and zero-inflated Poisson regression models for over-dispersed count data.

The end result is not only an excellent introduction to medical statistics, but also an invaluable reference for every discerning reader of medical research literature.

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Abstract Submission Deadline: 15 April 2016
Earlybird Registration Deadline: 1 July 2016
Regular Registration Deadline: 16 September 2016

The 15th Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology & 52nd Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology ASM

Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
Western Australia

The 15th Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology (APCN) and 52nd Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN) Annual Scientific Meeting, co-hosted by the APSN and ANZSN, will take place in Perth from 17 - 21 September 2016.

The APCN/ANZSN 2016 ASM will provide a world-class scientific program and it will also reflect APSN and ANZSN’s efforts to advance renal care in both the developed and the developing Asian-Pacific countries. The Scientific Program Committee has designed a first-rate scientific program for the 2016 APCN. The program promises to be exciting and of unparalleled quality, with State-of-the-Art lectures given by one Nobel Laureate, five plenary lectures and 48 high-quality seminars in the areas of Aetiology & Pathogenesis, AKI/CKD, Dialysis and Transplantation, given by a mix of distinguished speakers from Australia and New Zealand and from the Asia-Pacific region, making this a truly international event.

With this meeting the APSN and ANZSN also wish to promote the exchange of ideas and education between South East Asian and Australian renal units and the South Pacific region.

We look forward to welcoming your participation in what we believe will be a truly memorable conference.

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53rd Congress ERA-EDTA
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Acute kidney injury (AKI) is a serious disorder in which sudden impairment of kidney function occurs secondary to one or more of a variety of underlying conditions and exposures. It is very common in (elderly) ICU patients and associated with very high mortality. Many of those who survive suffer from permanent kidney failure and other long-term morbidities. Renowned experts from around the world have contributed to this new publication, creating a succinct yet complete review of the most controversial aspects of AKI. The topics range from epidemiology and basic science to pathophysiology and clinical issues. It is intended as a concise reference work for physicians and nurses who deal with AKI in clinical nephrology and intensive care wards on a daily basis.
Renal Biopsy in 2015 – From Epidemiology to Evidence-Based Indications


This is a systematic review of renal biopsies which shows that renal biopsy is important for determining the etiology of nephrotic syndrome in adults and corticosteroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome among children. Often kidney biopsies are needed to explain glomerular hematuria and proteinuria. Whereas kidney biopsy may be useful in acute kidney injury, its role in those with advanced chronic kidney disease is less certain. Other nuances of the role of kidney biopsies are discussed.

Mortality Outcomes of Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease


Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is associated with increased overall mortality in the general population. What is not known is whether the presence of COPD in chronic kidney disease (CKD) is associated with a higher risk of death. In this study of stage 3 and stage 4 CKD patients followed in a large health care system, COPD was prevalent in 5.3% of CKD population. Old age and multiple comorbid conditions were associated with higher odds of COPD. While modest, the presence of COPD was associated with a higher risk of all-cause mortality and importantly, COPD was associated with four-fold higher risk of respiratory related deaths in this CKD population. The observed associations were more pronounced in younger CKD patients and among females with CKD. This study highlights the need for further prospective studies to understand the underlying mechanisms and potential interventions to improve outcomes in this population.

Cognitive Function and White Matter Changes Associated with Renal Transplantation


ESRD is associated with cognitive dysfunction. This dysfunction may be related to the medical comorbidity leading to progressive kidney disease and/or the advanced kidney disease, itself. This small study evaluated the influence of restoring kidney function through kidney transplantation, on cognitive function in 11 patients on dialysis. They demonstrated that cognitive measures of memory and executive function improved post-transplantation. The data suggest that the abnormalities of cognition associated with ESRD may be partially reversible.
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