Nephrology Worldwide – A Book Review

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Kidney diseases are a substantial public health problem which is imposing severe burden of morbidity and mortality worldwide [1]. Nevertheless, they have garnered much less attention than other non-communicable diseases on the global policy agenda. Robust and updated data on the epidemiology and the capacity for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of kidney diseases at national and international levels are instrumental to mount an appropriate health systems response. In this context, the first edition of *Nephrology Worldwide* (Springer Nature, 2021) is timely, in that it provides a comprehensive overview of the nephrology field across the globe (Fig. 1) [2]. More than 300 authors of 51 nationalities, with different backgrounds and the appropriate know-how to fully describe the state-of-the-art of nephrology in their country, contributed to this book. Each chapter discusses diverse aspects of nephrology in a specific country, including the epidemiology of kidney diseases, dialysis practice in the setting of acute kidney injury and end-stage kidney disease, and kidney transplantation. Topics such as reimbursement policies, education, and workforce in the context of nephrology have also been addressed.

Perhaps the main strength of this book lies in the international perspective that it offers on the state of nephrology and kidney diseases, with coverage across all geographic regions and income levels. Indeed, while the scenario is better outlined in high-income countries, much less information is available from resource-limited settings. The wealth of data presented throughout the text

Fig. 1. Nephrology Worldwide cover image. Reproduced with permission from Springer. © Springer.

provided evidence of the wide disparities among countries in the capacity for kidney care. For instance, the burden of acute kidney injury is particularly high in low- and lower-middle-income countries, where lack of early identification and limited resources for treatment worsen patient outcomes. In such settings, acute kidney injury commonly occurs in the community and frequently develops as a complication of a single, potentially preventable, and reversible disease. This situation prompted the International Society of Nephrology in 2013 [3] to launch the 0by25 initiative with the goal to achieve zero preventable deaths from acute kidney injury in the poorest parts of the world by 2025 [4]. The results of one of the 0by25 initia-

tive efforts, the Pilot Feasibility Project, have recently been published and demonstrated the utility of point-of-care serum creatinine testing coupled with an education and training program in early recognition and appropriate management of community-acquired acute kidney injury in low-resources countries [5].

In summary, this book should be a valuable tool not only to improve knowledge of students and nephrologists, but also to guide health policy decision-making, in the hope that more resources will be devoted to the prevention and treatment of kidney diseases, especially in low- and lower-middle-income countries.

References

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