Nature Reviews Nephrology **8**, 433 (2012); published online 12 June 2012;
 doi:10.1038/nrneph.2012.122;
 doi:10.1038/nrneph.2012.123;
 doi:10.1038/nrneph.2012.124;
 doi:10.1038/nrneph.2012.125

IN BRIEF

TRANSPLANTATION

Donor-specific HLA antibodies and transplant outcomes

A recent study shows that HLA-DQ donor-specific antibodies (DSAs) might contribute to poor graft outcomes after renal transplantation. DeVos *et al.* monitored 347 renal transplant recipients for the development of *de novo* DSAs after transplantation. HLA-DQ DSAs were the most common DSA type detected and after 26 months of follow-up, serum creatinine level was higher in patients with HLA-DQ DSAs than in those without. Also, a greater proportion of patients with these antibodies had proteinuria after 26 months and their 3-year graft survival was worse.

Original article DeVos, J. M. *et al.* Donor-specific HLA-DQ antibodies may contribute to poor graft outcome after renal transplantation. *Kidney Int.* doi:10.1038/ki.2012.190

ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY

Serum albumin level and risk of AKI after OPCAB surgery

A low serum albumin level before off-pump coronary artery bypass (OPCAB) is an independent risk factor for acute kidney injury (AKI) after surgery, say researchers in Korea. Lee *et al.* studied preoperative serum albumin level in 1,182 consecutive adults who underwent OPCAB and had normal renal function before surgery. AKI developed in 334 patients after OPCAB surgery; a preoperative serum albumin level of <40 g/l was associated with an increased risk of postoperative AKI, and AKI was associated with a longer stay in hospital and with an increased risk of death.

Original article Lee, E. H. *et al.* Preoperative hypoalbuminemia is a major risk factor for acute kidney injury following off-pump coronary artery bypass surgery. *Intensive Care Med.* doi:10.1007/s00134-012-2599-8

DIALYSIS

Peritonitis associated with an increased risk of death

Peritonitis is associated with an increased risk of death in patients on peritoneal dialysis (PD), according to a recent study conducted in Australia and New Zealand. The study included data from 1,316 patients who either died on PD or died within 30 days of being transferred from PD to hemodialysis; each patient served as their own control. The risk of peritonitis was significantly increased during the 120 days before death, with an even stronger association during the 30 days before death.

Original article Boudville, N. *et al.* Recent peritonitis associates with mortality among patients treated with peritoneal dialysis. *J. Am. Soc. Nephrol.* doi:10.1681/ASN.2011121135

GENETICS

IRS1 gene variant associated with GFR variation

Researchers in Texas report that genetic variation in the *IRS1* gene might be associated with variation in glomerular filtration rate (GFR), probably as a result of impaired insulin receptor signaling. Thameem *et al.*'s conclusions came from association analyses they performed between single nucleotide polymorphisms in *IRS1* and GFR and diabetes-related traits. Only the Gly972Arg variant of *IRS1* was associated with GFR.

Original article Thameem, F. *et al.* The Gly(972)Arg variant of human *insulin receptor substrate 1* gene is associated with variation in glomerular filtration rate likely through impaired insulin receptor signaling. *Diabetes* doi:10.2337/db11-1078/-/DC1