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## IN BRIEF

### TRANSPLANTATION

#### WISE contributes to renal allograft dysfunction

Wnt-modulator in surface ectoderm (WISE) promotes tubular atrophy and interstitial fibrosis, say researchers. Qian *et al.* showed that WISE mRNA was expressed in normal rat kidneys and in rat renal transplants. In a rat model of chronic allograft dysfunction, treatment with an anti-WISE neutralizing antibody improved graft function, increased kidney  $\beta$ -catenin levels, attenuated glomerular and interstitial injury, and reduced proteinuria, renal injury biomarker levels, kidney infiltration of macrophages and T cells, and the expression of immune response and profibrotic genes.

**Original article** Qian, X. *et al.* Inhibition of WISE preserves renal allograft function. *J. Am. Soc. Nephrol.* doi:10.1681/ASN.2012010012

### HYPERTENSION

#### A role for *Adamts16* in blood pressure regulation

A new study has shown that targeted disruption of the *Adamts16* gene in a rat model of hypertension resulted in a reduction in systolic blood pressure and vascular media thickness, a lowering of aortic pulse wave velocity, a lengthening of mechanosensory cilia on vascular endothelial cells, the splitting and thickening of glomerular capillaries, and an increase in survival time. The researchers suggest that *Adamts16* might act on the vasculature to regulate blood pressure.

**Original article** Gopalakrishnan, K. *et al.* Targeted disruption of *Adamts16* gene in a rat genetic model of hypertension. *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA* doi:10.1073/pnas.1211290109

### IMAGING

#### Binary angiographic classification of FMD lesions

Savard *et al.* report that binary angiographic classification of renal artery fibromuscular dysplasia (FMD) lesions as 'unifocal' or 'multifocal' FMD (defined as <2 stenoses and  $\geq 2$  stenoses in the same arterial segment, respectively) is clinically relevant. At the time of FMD diagnosis, patients with multifocal lesions ( $n = 276$ ) were older (median 49 years versus 30 years) and had lower blood pressure than those with unifocal lesions ( $n = 61$ ). The proportion of male patients and the prevalence of unilateral renal artery lesions and kidney asymmetry were also lower in the multifocal group.

**Original article** Savard, S. *et al.* Association between two angiographic subtypes of renal artery fibromuscular dysplasia and clinical characteristics. *Circulation* doi:10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.112.117499

### CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

#### HIV and renal AA amyloidosis in intravenous drug users

Over a 10-year period, amyloid A (AA) amyloidosis was the predominant cause of progressive renal disease in patients with current or prior intravenous drug use and chronic kidney disease who underwent renal biopsy in Frankfurt, Germany, being responsible for 50% of cases. 67% of the patients with AA amyloidosis were HIV positive compared with 17% of the patients without AA amyloidosis ( $P = 0.036$ ). The researchers suggest that the increased frequency and duration of infections and the immunosuppression in intravenous drug users with HIV might promote the development of AA amyloidosis.

**Original article** Jung, O. *et al.* Renal AA-amyloidosis in intravenous drug users—a role for HIV-infection? *BMC Nephrol.* doi:10.1186/1471-2369-13-151