Nature Reviews Nephrology **11**, 630 (2015); published online 15 September 2015;
doi:10.1038/nrneph.2015.154;
doi:10.1038/nrneph.2015.155;
doi:10.1038/nrneph.2015.156;
doi:10.1038/nrneph.2015.157

IN BRIEF

TRANSPLANTATION

Racial disparities in kidney transplantation in the USA

An analysis of kidney transplantations performed in the USA between 1998 and 2011 using data from the United Network for Organ Sharing registry has shown that the overall rate of kidney transplantation was equivalent for black and white patients by 2010. Sood and colleagues report that the incidence of kidney transplantation in black patients increased at an annual rate of 2.84%; however, white patients were more likely than black patients to receive a living donor transplant.

Original article Sood, A. *et al*. Rates of kidney transplantation from living and deceased donors for blacks and whites in the United States, 1998 to 2011. *JAMA Intern. Med*. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2015.4530

IMMUNOLOGY

Hepcidin—a renal antibacterial defence

New findings suggest that hepcidin contributes to renal host defence and could be targeted to prevent bacterial infection. Houamel *et al*. found that mice lacking hepcidin had increased renal bacterial load compared to wild-type mice following induction of urinary tract infection with uropathogenic *Escherichia coli*; conversely, the bacterial response was attenuated by pretreating wild-type mice with hepcidin. The researchers found that hepcidin exhibited bacteriostatic activity but also found evidence of strategies used by the bacteria to escape the antimicrobial activities of hepcidin.

Original article Houamel, D. *et al*. Hepcidin as a major component of renal antibacterial defenses against uropathogenic *Escherichia coli*. *J. Am. Soc. Nephrol*. doi:10.1681/ASN.2014101035

DIABETES

Outcomes associated with nonalbuminuric CKD

Nonalbuminuric chronic kidney disease (CKD) is not a frequent finding in patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) but is associated with cardiovascular morbidity and all-cause mortality, according to new research. In an observational study of 3,809 patients with T1DM, 78 (2.0%) patients had nonalbuminuric CKD at baseline. After a median follow-up of 13 years, these patients had an increased risk of cardiovascular events and all-cause mortality but were not at increased risk of albuminuria or end-stage renal disease.

Original article Thorn, L. M. *et al*. The presence and consequence of nonalbuminuric chronic kidney disease in patients with type 1 diabetes. *Diabetes Care* doi:10.2337/dc15-0641

PAEDIATRIC NEPHROLOGY

Myocardial wall stress in children with CKD

Children with chronic kidney disease (CKD) exhibit blood pressure-independent left ventricular (LV) dysfunction, which leads to increased systolic myocardial wall stress (MWS) and possibly to LV hypertrophy later in life, say researchers. In their study of 92 children, Gu *et al*. found that MWS was higher in children with CKD than in healthy controls and increased across stages of CKD, despite no significant difference in blood pressure between the groups.

Original article Gu, H. *et al*. Elevated ejection-phase myocardial wall stress in children with chronic kidney disease. *Hypertension*. doi:10.1161/HYPERTENSIONAHA.115.05704