EDITORIAL COMMENT

Farewell from the CKJ Editor-in-Chief: key kidney topics from 2014 to 2021
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ABSTRACT

The year 2021 was the last full year of Alberto Ortiz’s editorship at Clinical Kidney Journal (CKJ). On May 2022, Maria José Soler will start her term as the Editor-in-Chief. Over these years, CKJ obtained its first journal impact factor and has consolidated its position among the top journals in the field, consistently ranking among the top 25% (first quartile) journals in Urology and Nephrology. The 2020 journal impact factor rose to 4.45, becoming the top open access journal in Nephrology and the ninth ranked Nephrology journal overall. We now review the recent history of the journal and the most highly cited topics which include the epidemiology of kidney disease, chronic kidney disease topics, such as the assessment and treatment of chronic kidney disease, onconephrology, cardionephrology, glomerular disease, transplantation and coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Keywords: chronic kidney disease, Clinical Kidney Journal, ERA Registry

In 2008, the European Renal Association (ERA, formerly European Dialysis and Transplant Association, ERA-EDTA) launched a new journal, NDT Plus, under the editorship of Norbert Lameire (Figure 1). In 2012, NDT Plus evolved into the Clinical Kidney Journal (CKJ), under the leadership of Alain Meyrier. From 2014 onward, Alberto Ortiz has been the Editor-in-Chief (EiC), a term that will end in May 2022 when Maria José Soler will become the first female CKJ EiC [1, 2]. As the last full year as EiC ends, it is worth reflecting on the path so far and on the most impactful topics published in CKJ.

THE FIRST JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR

The single event that has most influenced the trajectory of the journal during Alberto Ortiz’s editorship was the journal’s first impact factor (JIF) in 2019 [3]. Overnight, the number of submissions doubled and the quality increased, forcing the editorial board to make painful rejection decisions. Triaging became necessary and the acceptance rate for original manuscripts dropped to 10–15%. As of January 2021, the number of issues increased from 6 to 12 a year, to accelerate the speed of publication of new science.

From the first JIF, CKJ has been part of the select group of journals ranked among the top 25% (first quartile, Q1) of Urology and Nephrology journals. Moreover, as the JIF progressively increased to over 3.0 and, most recently, to over 4.0, CKJ slowly climbed the ranks of Q1 journals. As of the summer of 2021, the 2020 JIF was 4.452 and Clarivate ranked CKJ as the top open access Nephrology journal and the ninth Nephrology journal overall (Table 1). It was also the sixth ranked Nephrology journal among journals that publish mainly original research.
FIGURE 1: Key milestones in the history of CKJ. Source for journal ranking: reference number [3].

MOST IMPACTFUL NEPHROLOGY TOPICS IN CKJ OVER THE YEARS

It is worth reflecting on the items that drew the most citations over the years, the ones that most impacted other scientists and, potentially, clinical practice. The most cited manuscripts are presented in Table 2 and summarized per topic in Figure 2 [4–37]. Older items have had more time to build awareness and be cited and thus may be overrepresented. This issue is only partially addressed by the column depicting average citations per year, as there will be a lag time from publication to first notice by readers and to citation in the readers’ manuscript, and this will be followed by a lag time from manuscript submission to publication. Thus, citations shown in Table 2 will more accurately reflect the impact of older items than of newer items, whose full impact will be realized in the next few years. To visualize newer items, Table 3 shows the top publications ranked according to average yearly citations and Table 4 the top five cited manuscripts from each year [38–83]. While only one manuscript from 2019 or later is among the manuscripts with most overall citations (Table 2), 45% of manuscripts with the most annualized citations were from 2019 to 2021, illustrating the increased quality and visibility of CKJ contents (Table 3).

Overall, the most cited manuscripts had chronic kidney disease (CKD) as topic, either non-dialysis or dialysis CKD (Figure 2), followed by onconephrology, cardiorenal disease and transplantation. In line with a recent bibliographical analysis, acute kidney injury (AKI) was remarkably underrepresented, except for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) context in more recent years [61]. Tables 3 and 4 provide a greater granularity as well as the emergence of topics that have become more relevant in recent years (Table 5). Thus, assessment of CKD by either improving glomerular filtration rate (GFR) assessment by using iohexol to measure GFR or novel methods for assessment of kidney injury, such as the urinary peptidomics biomarker CKD273, were highly cited topics [7, 11]. Regarding onconephrology, the nephrotoxicity of novel anticancer agents also attracted the attention of readers [12, 31, 34]. More recently, novel therapeutic approaches for CKD or its complications, such as sodium-glucose transport protein 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors or hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF) stabilizers, were also topics of interest [5, 39], as well as several manuscripts dealing with the interaction between COVID-19 and kidney disease [38, 40, 44, 47, 56, 57, 59]. COVID-19-related highly cited manuscripts dealt with characterization of AKI in patients with severe COVID-19 and kidney replacement therapy in this context, COVID-19 in CKD and the key role that collective transport to and from hemodialysis units played in the spread of the disease among hemodialysis patients [38, 40, 44, 47]. Finally, topics at the top of the global agenda, such as the impact of air pollution on health and, specifically, on kidney disease have also been highly cited [41]. A special mention should be devoted to the concept of CKD hotspots, first formulated in CKJ as consisting of countries, regions, communities or ethnicities with higher-than-average incidence of
Table 1. Continued

| Ranking | Journal name                                      | 2020 JIF | % of open access Gold manuscripts |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1       | *Kidney International*                          | 10.612   | 19%                               |
| 2       | *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* | 10.121   | 2%                                |
| 3       | *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*           | 8.860    | 8%                                |
| 4       | *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* | 8.237   | 1%                                |
| 5       | *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation*           | 5.992    | 18%                               |
| 6       | *Clinical Kidney Journal*                       | **4.452**| 100%                              |

CKJ in bold.
Source: Reference number [3].

Table 2. Most cited manuscripts published in CKJ 2014–2021, ERA Registry summary manuscripts excluded

| Rank | Title                                                                 | Author          | Year | Total citations | Citations per year |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1    | The potential for improving cardio-renal outcomes by sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 inhibition in people with chronic kidney disease: a rationale for the EMPA-KIDNEY study | Herrington      | 2018 | 110             | 28                 |
| 2    | Effects of exercise in the whole spectrum of chronic kidney disease: a systematic review | Barcellos       | 2015 | 99              | 14                 |
| 3    | Iohexol plasma clearance for measuring glomerular filtration rate in clinical practice and research: a review. Part 1: How to measure glomerular filtration rate with iohexol? | Delanaye        | 2016 | 96              | 16                 |
| 4    | Chronic kidney disease in children                                    | Becherucci      | 2016 | 83              | 14                 |
| 5    | The global nephrology workforce: emerging threats and potential solutions! | Sharif          | 2016 | 76              | 13                 |
| 6    | Chronic kidney disease hotspots in developing countries in South Asia | Abraham         | 2016 | 74              | 12                 |
| 7    | Macrophage in chronic kidney disease                                 | Guiteras        | 2016 | 72              | 12                 |
| 8    | Iohexol plasma clearance for measuring glomerular filtration rate in clinical practice and research: a review. Part 2: Why to measure glomerular filtration rate with iohexol? | Delanaye        | 2016 | 69              | 12                 |
| 9    | Severe acute interstitial nephritis after combination immune-checkpoint inhibitor therapy for metastatic melanoma | Murakami        | 2016 | 64              | 11                 |
| 10   | Frailty and chronic kidney disease: current evidence and continuing uncertainties | Nixon           | 2018 | 63              | 16                 |
| 11   | A renal registry for Africa: first steps                              | Razeen Davids   | 2016 | 61              | 10                 |
| 11   | Analysis of ABCG2 and other urate transporters in uric acid homeostasis in chronic kidney disease: potential role of remote sensing and signaling | Bhatnagar       | 2016 | 61              | 10                 |
| 12   | The intestine and the kidneys: a bad marriage can be hazardous         | Vanholder       | 2015 | 60              | 9                  |
| 13   | Lymphatic disorders after renal transplantation: new insights for an old complication | Ranghino        | 2015 | 57              | 8                  |
| 14   | A comparative analysis of survival of patients on dialysis and after kidney transplantation | Kaballo         | 2018 | 56              | 14                 |
| 14   | 2017 update on pain management in patients with chronic kidney disease | Chi Pham        | 2017 | 56              | 11                 |
| 14   | Urinary peptide-based classifier CKD273: towards clinical application in chronic kidney disease | Pontillo        | 2017 | 56              | 11                 |
| 14   | The effects of vitamin K supplementation and vitamin K antagonists on progression of vascular calcification: ongoing randomized controlled trials | Caluwe          | 2016 | 56              | 9                  |
| 15   | Real-time ultrasound-guided percutaneous renal biopsy with needle guide by nephrologists decreases post-biopsy complications | Prasad          | 2015 | 55              | 8                  |
| 15   | Nephrology care prior to end-stage renal disease and outcomes among new ESRD patients in the USA | Gillespie       | 2015 | 55              | 8                  |
| 16   | Pathophysiological role of different tubular epithelial cell death modes in acute kidney injury | Sancho-Martinez | 2015 | 54              | 8                  |
| 16   | Anticoagulation in chronic kidney disease patients—the practical aspects | Hughes          | 2014 | 54              | 7                  |
| 17   | Transplant renal artery stenosis: clinical manifestations, diagnosis and therapy | Chen            | 2015 | 52              | 7                  |
Table 2. Continued

| Rank | Title                                                                 | Author         | Year | Total citations | Citations per year |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 18   | The Stockholm CREATinine Measurements (SCREAM) project: protocol overview and regional representativeness | Runesson       | 2016 | 51              | 9                  |
| 19   | Gut microbiota and inflammation in chronic kidney disease patients     | Mafra          | 2015 | 50              | 7                  |
| 19   | Renal toxicities associated with pembrolizumab                         | Izzedine       | 2019 | 50              | 17                 |
| 19   | Nephrotoxicity of recent anti-cancer agents                            | Lameire        | 2014 | 50              | 6                  |
| 20   | A circulating permeability factor in focal segmental glomerulosclerosis: the hunt continues | Wada           | 2015 | 49              | 7                  |
| 20   | Risk factors associated with post-kidney transplant malignancies: an article from the Cancer-Kidney International Network | Sprangers      | 2018 | 49              | 12                 |

Source: Reference number [4].

**FIGURE 2:** Topics of most highly cited manuscripts published in CKJ between 2014 and October 2021. Extracted from Table 2.

Source: Reference number [4].

CKD [10, 48, 49]. The ERA Registry, discussed below, regularly identifies CKD hotspots in Europe at both the national level (e.g. Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Kosovo, Israel and North Macedonia) and regional level (e.g. French-speaking Belgium, Canary Islands and the Mediterranean regions of Spain: Catalonia, Valencia and Murcia) [62].

**CKJ AND THE ERA REGISTRY**

CKJ publishes the summary of the ERA Registry Annual Report. This is one of the most cited items in the journal and was not included in the above analyses. It represents the longest running multinational registry that is searchable as a publication in PubMed. In recent years, Registry Reports have consistently ranked among the top 10 cited items per year, often on the top spot. Furthermore, their citation record has increased over the years [62–69]. The most cited Registry Report was the 2015

Table 3. Most cited manuscripts published in CKJ 2014–2021 ranked per average yearly citations

| Rank | Title                                                                 | First author | Year | Total citations | Citations per year |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1    | The potential for improving cardio-renal outcomes by sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 inhibition in people with chronic kidney disease: a rationale for the EMPA-KIDNEY study | Herrington   | 2018 | 110             | 28                 |
| 2    | Characterization of acute kidney injury in critically ill patients with severe coronavirus disease 2019 | Rubin        | 2020 | 35              | 17.5               |
| 3    | Renal toxicities associated with pembrolizumab                        | Izzedine     | 2019 | 50              | 17                 |
| 3    | External validation of prognostic models: what, why, how, when and where? | Ramspek      | 2021 | 17              | 17                 |
| 4    | Iohexol plasma clearance for measuring glomerular filtration rate in clinical practice and research: a review. Part 1: How to measure glomerular filtration rate with iohexol? | Delanaye     | 2016 | 96              | 16                 |
| 4    | Frailty and chronic kidney disease: current evidence and continuing uncertainties | Nixon        | 2018 | 63              | 16                 |
| 4    | Daprodustat for anemia: a 24-week, open-label, randomized controlled trial in participants on hemodialysis | Meadowcroft  | 2019 | 48              | 16                 |
| 5    | Effects of a medium cut-off (Theranova ®) dialyser on haemodialysis patients: a prospective, cross-over study | Cozzolino    | 2021 | 15              | 15                 |
| 6    | Effects of exercise in the whole spectrum of chronic kidney disease: a systematic review | Barcellos    | 2015 | 99              | 14                 |
| 6    | Chronic kidney disease in children                                    | Becherucci   | 2016 | 83              | 14                 |
| 6    | A comparative analysis of survival of patients on dialysis and after kidney transplantation | Kaballo      | 2018 | 56              | 14                 |
| 6    | Patterns of medication use and the burden of polypharmacy in patients with chronic kidney disease: the German Chronic Kidney Disease study | Schmidt      | 2019 | 41              | 14                 |
Table 3. Continued

| Rank | Title                                                                 | First author | Year | Total citations | Citations per year |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 7    | Coronavirus disease 2019 in chronic kidney disease                    | D'Marco      | 2020 | 27              | 13.5               |
| 8    | The global nephrology workforce: emerging threats and potential solutions! | Sharif       | 2016 | 76              | 13                 |
| 9    | Anemia and iron deficiency among chronic kidney disease Stages 3–5 SND patients in the Chronic Kidney Disease Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study: often unmeasured, variably treated | Wong         | 2020 | 25              | 12.5               |
| 9    | Acute kidney injury and kidney replacement therapy in COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis | Fu           | 2020 | 25              | 12.5               |
| 10   | Risk factors associated with post-kidney transplant malignancies: an article from the Cancer-Kidney International Network | Sprangers    | 2018 | 49              | 12                 |
| 10   | Macrophage in chronic kidney disease                                 | Guiteras     | 2016 | 72              | 12                 |
| 10   | Chronic kidney disease hotspots in developing countries in South Asia | Abraham      | 2016 | 74              | 12                 |
| 10   | Air pollution and kidney disease: review of current evidence          | Afsar        | 2019 | 36              | 12                 |
| 10   | Iohexol plasma clearance for measuring glomerular filtration rate in clinical practice and research: a review. Part 2: Why to measure glomerular filtration rate with iohexol? | Delanaye     | 2016 | 69              | 12                 |
| 11   | 2017 update on pain management in patients with chronic kidney disease | Chi Pham     | 2017 | 56              | 11                 |
| 11   | Women and kidney disease: reflections on World Kidney Day 2018        | Piccoli      | 2018 | 45              | 11                 |
| 11   | Acute kidney injury pathology and pathophysiology: a retrospective review | Gaut        | 2021 | 11              | 11                 |
| 11   | Urinary peptide-based classifier CKD273: towards clinical application in chronic kidney disease | Pontillo     | 2017 | 56              | 11                 |
| 11   | Routinely measuring symptom burden and health-related quality of life in dialysis patients: first results from the Dutch registry of patient-reported outcome measures | van der Willik | 2021 | 11              | 11                 |
| 11   | Severe acute interstitial nephritis after combination immune-checkpoint inhibitor therapy for metastatic melanoma | Murakami     | 2016 | 64              | 11                 |
| 11   | Daprodustat for anemia: a 24-week, open-label, randomized controlled trial in participants with chronic kidney disease | Holdstock    | 2019 | 33              | 11                 |
| 11   | What do epidemiological studies tell us about chronic kidney disease of undetermined cause in Meso-America? A systematic review and meta-analysis | Gonzalez-Quiroz | 2018 | 43              | 11                 |
| 12   | Clarifying the concept of chronic kidney disease for non-nephrologists | Perez-Gomez  | 2019 | 31              | 10                 |
| 12   | A renal registry for Africa: first steps                              | Razeen Davids| 2016 | 61              | 10                 |
| 12   | Analysis of ABCG2 and other urate transporters in uric acid homeostasis in chronic kidney disease: potential role of remote sensing and signaling | Bhatnagar    | 2016 | 61              | 10                 |
| 12   | The keys to control a COVID-19 outbreak in a haemodialysis unit       | Rincon       | 2020 | 20              | 10                 |

Bold denotes manuscripts not presented in Table 2, representing more recent manuscripts with high average yearly citations but with a lower number of years in which they could be cited. ERA Registry summary manuscripts excluded.

Source: Reference number [4].

Table 4. Top cited manuscripts from each year ranked per total citations

| Year | Rank | Title                                                                 | First author | Total citations | Average per year |
|------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2014 | 1    | Anticoagulation in chronic kidney disease patients—the practical aspects | Hughes       | 54              | 7               |
|      | 2    | Nephrotoxicity of recent anti-cancer agents                           | Lameire      | 50              | 6               |
|      | 3    | CKD hotspots around the world: where, why and what the lessons are. A CKJ review series | Martin-Cleary | 41              | 5               |
|      | 3    | Renal replacement therapy in Latin American end-stage renal disease   | Rosa-Diez    | 41              | 5               |
|      | 4    | Incidence of acute kidney injury following total joint arthroplasty: a retrospective review by RIFLE criteria | Kimmel      | 40              | 5               |
|      | 4    | Focal and segmental glomerulosclerosis: clinical and kidney biopsy correlations | Sethi      | 40              | 5               |
|      | 5    | Amyloid nephropathy                                                   | Khalighi     | 34              | 4               |
Table 4. Continued

| Year | Rank | Title                                                                 | First author | Total citations | Average per year |
|------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 2015 | 1    | Effects of exercise in the whole spectrum of chronic kidney disease: a systematic review | Barcellos     | 99              | 14               |
|      | 2    | The intestine and the kidneys: a bad marriage can be hazardous        | Vanholder    | 60              | 9                |
|      | 3    | Lymphatic disorders after renal transplantation: new insights for an old complication | Ranghino     | 57              | 8                |
|      | 4    | Real-time ultrasound-guided percutaneous renal biopsy with needle guide by nephrologists decreases post-biopsy complications | Prasad       | 55              | 8                |
|      | 4    | Nephrology care prior to end-stage renal disease and outcomes among new ESRD patients in the USA | Gillespie    | 55              | 8                |
|      | 5    | Pathophysiological role of different tubular epithelial cell death modes in acute kidney injury | Sancho-Martinez | 54              | 8                |
| 2016 | 1    | Iohexol plasma clearance for measuring glomerular filtration rate in clinical practice and research: a review. Part 1: How to measure glomerular filtration rate with iohexol? | Delanaye     | 96              | 16               |
|      | 2    | Chronic kidney disease in children                                    | Becherucci   | 83              | 14               |
|      | 3    | The global nephrology workforce: emerging threats and potential solutions! | Sharif       | 76              | 13               |
|      | 4    | Chronic kidney disease hotspots in developing countries in South Asia | Abraham      | 74              | 12               |
|      | 5    | Macrophage in chronic kidney disease                                   | Guiteras     | 72              | 12               |
|      | 6    | Iohexol plasma clearance for measuring glomerular filtration rate in clinical practice and research: a review. Part 2: Why to measure glomerular filtration rate with iohexol? | Delanaye     | 69              | 12               |
|      | 7    | Severe acute interstitial nephritis after combination immune-checkpoint inhibitor therapy for metastatic melanoma | Murakami     | 64              | 11               |
| 2017 | 1    | 2017 update on pain management in patients with chronic kidney disease | Chi Pham     | 56              | 11               |
|      | 1    | Urinary peptide-based classifier CKD273: towards clinical application in chronic kidney disease | Pontillo     | 56              | 11               |
|      | 2    | Cognitive function and advanced kidney disease: longitudinal trends and impact on decision-making | Iyasere      | 45              | 9                |
|      | 2    | Risk factors for bleeding complications after nephrologist-performed native renal biopsy | Lees         | 45              | 9                |
|      | 3    | Current evidence on the discontinuation of eculizumab in patients with atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome | Macia        | 44              | 9                |
|      | 4    | Age-dependent reference intervals for estimated and measured glomerular filtration rate | Pottel       | 39              | 8                |
|      | 5    | Symptom burden in patients with chronic kidney disease not requiring renal replacement therapy | Brown        | 38              | 8                |
| 2018 | 1    | The potential for improving cardio-renal outcomes by sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 inhibition in people with chronic kidney disease: a rationale for the EMPA-KIDNEY study | Herrington   | 110             | 27.5             |
|      | 2    | Fraility and chronic kidney disease: current evidence and continuing uncertainties | Nixon        | 63              | 16               |
|      | 3    | A comparative analysis of survival of patients on dialysis and after kidney transplantation | Kaballo      | 56              | 14               |
|      | 4    | Risk factors associated with post-kidney transplant malignancies: an article from the Cancer-Kidney International Network | Sprangers    | 49              | 12               |
|      | 5    | Women and kidney disease: reflections on World Kidney Day 2018         | Piccoli      | 45              | 11               |
|      | 6    | What do epidemiological studies tell us about chronic kidney disease of undetermined cause in Meso-America? A systematic review and meta-analysis | Gonzalez-Quiroz | 43              | 11               |
| 2019 | 1    | Renal toxicities associated with pembrolizumab                         | Izzedine     | 50              | 17               |
|      | 2    | Daprodustat for anemia: a 24-week, open-label, randomized controlled trial in participants on hemodialysis | Meadowcroft  | 48              | 16               |
### Table 4. Continued

| Year | Rank | Title                                                                 | First author | Total citations | Average per year |
|------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 3    |    3 | Patterns of medication use and the burden of polypharmacy in patients with chronic kidney disease: the German Chronic Kidney Disease study | Schmidt      | 41              | 14               |
| 4    |    4 | Air pollution and kidney disease: review of current evidence          | Afsar        | 36              | 12               |
| 5    |    5 | Daprodustat for anemia: a 24-week, open-label, randomized controlled trial in participants with chronic kidney disease | Holdstock    | 33              | 11               |
| 6    |    6 | Clarifying the concept of chronic kidney disease for non-nephrologists | Perez-Gomez  | 31              | 10               |

2020

| Year | Rank | Title                                                                 | First author | Total citations | Average per year |
|------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1    |    1 | Characterization of acute kidney injury in critically ill patients with severe coronavirus disease 2019 | Rubin        | 35              | 17.5             |
| 2    |    2 | Coronavirus disease 2019 in chronic kidney disease                   | D'Marco      | 27              | 13.5             |
| 3    |    3 | Anemia and iron deficiency among chronic kidney disease Stages 3–5NDS patients in the Chronic Kidney Disease Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study: often unmeasured, variably treated | Wong         | 25              | 12.5             |
| 3    |    3 | Acute kidney injury and kidney replacement therapy in COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis | Fu           | 25              | 12.5             |
| 4    |    4 | The keys to control a COVID-19 outbreak in a haemodialysis unit      | Rincon       | 20              | 10               |

2021

| Year | Rank | Title                                                                 | First author | Total citations | Average per year |
|------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1    |    1 | External validation of prognostic models: what, why, how, when and where? | Ramspek      | 17              | 17               |
| 2    |    2 | Effects of a medium cut-off (Theranova ®) dialyser on haemodialysis patients: a prospective, cross-over study | Cozzolino    | 15              | 15               |
| 3    |    3 | Net ultrafiltration rate and its impact on mortality in patients with acute kidney injury receiving continuous renal replacement therapy | Tehranian    | 12              | 12               |
| 4    |    4 | Acute kidney injury pathology and pathophysiology: a retrospective review | Gaut         | 11              | 11               |
| 4    |    4 | Routinely measuring symptom burden and health-related quality of life in dialysis patients: first results from the Dutch registry of patient-reported outcome measures | van der Willik | 11             | 11               |
| 5    |    5 | Pathology of COVID-19-associated acute kidney injury                  | Sharma       | 7               | 7                |
| 5    |    5 | Kidney transplantation and COVID-19 renal and patient prognosis       | Toapanta     | 7               | 7                |
| 6    |    6 | Tryptophan levels associate with incident cardiovascular disease in chronic kidney disease | Konje        | 5               | 5                |
| 6    |    6 | Renin–angiotensin system blockade in the COVID-19 pandemic            | Cohen        | 5               | 5                |
| 6    |    6 | Tumor necrosis factor-alpha blockade ameliorates diabetic nephropathy in rats | Cheng        | 5               | 5                |
| 6    |    6 | Serum total indoxyl sulfate and clinical outcomes in hemodialysis patients: results from the Japan Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study | Yamamoto    | 5               | 5                |
| 6    |    6 | Risk prediction of COVID-19 incidence and mortality in a large multi-national hemodialysis cohort: implications for management of the pandemic in outpatient hemodialysis settings | Haarhaus     | 5               | 5                |
| 6    |    6 | Development and internal validation of a prediction model for hospital-acquired acute kidney injury | Martin-Cleary | 5             | 5                |
| 6    |    6 | Cellular origin and microRNA profiles of circulating extracellular vesicles in different stages of diabetic nephropathy | Uil          | 5               | 5                |
| 6    |    6 | Health claims databases used for kidney research around the world      | Van Oosten   | 5               | 5                |

Source: Reference number [4]

### Table 5. Topics of most highly cited manuscripts published in CKJ in each year between 2014 and October 2021

- **2014**: Onconephrology (nephrotoxicity of anticancer agents) and cardiovascular disease (anticoagulation)
- **2015**: CKD: Exercise and CKD
- **2016**: CKD: Measured GFR
- **2017**: CKD: Urinary peptidomics and pain
- **2018**: CKD: SGLT2 inhibitors
- **2019**: Onconephrology (checkpoint inhibitors) and CKD (HIF stabilizers)
- **2020**: COVID-19
- **2021**: CKD (haemodialysis: medium cut-off dialyser), AKI and COVID-19

Extracted from Table 4.

Source: Reference number [4].
THE PERSONS WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE

High-quality journals do not just happen. We should be grateful to the authors who considered CKJ to disseminate their expertise and research as well as the reviewers who devoted their time to constructively criticize and improve the quality of the manuscripts (Supplementary data, Tables S1–S8). Finally, a hardworking and expert editorial board liaised with reviewers and integrated their concerns to select the highest quality manuscripts that would be most informative and useful to our readership (Supplementary data, Table S9). A big thank you to all of you and good luck to our new Editor-in-Chief!

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Supplementary data are available at ckj online.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

A.O. has received consultancy or speaker fees or travel support from Advicience, Astellas, AstraZeneca, Amicus, Amgen, Fresenius Medical Care, Bayer, Sanofi-Genzyme, Menarini, Kyowa Kirin, Alexion, Idorsia, Chiesi, Otsuka, Novo-Nordisk and Vifor Fresenius Medical Care Renal Pharma, and is Director of the Catedra Mundipharma-UAM of diabetic kidney disease and the Catedra AstraZeneca-UAM of chronic kidney disease and electrolytes. A.O. is the Editor-in-Chief of CKJ.

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