

Correspondence

Sir,
I greatly enjoyed reading the lively Nephroquiz by Kettritz and Luft, recently published in *CKJ* [1]. I only have a comment, for the sake of accuracy, regarding the Latin quotation '*Res ipse loquitur*' in the caption to Figure 2; it should actually read '*Res ipsa loquitur*', as the word *res* is feminine in Latin. It is a legal locution, literally translated into 'the thing speaks for itself'; the earliest known use of the phrase was by Cicero [2] in his defence speech 'Pro Milone'.

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References

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2. Tullius Cicero M. *M. Tulli Ciceronis Orationes: Recognovit brevique adnotatione critica instruxit Albertus Curtius Clark. Collegii Reginae Socius.* Curtius Clark Albert. Oxford: eTypographeo Clarendoniano. 1918. Scriptorum Classicorum Bibliotheca Oxoniensis

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Editor's comment

The *Clinical Kidney Journal* Editor is proud to see that *de minimis lectores curant* and will consider launching a section on the classics. He wishes to congratulate Dr Bellomo: *Editor, Ioanni salvtem plvrimam dat. Hvmanissime vir, hvnc lapsvm bene est quod animadvertisti. Federicvs Ventvs Caritati Hospitii Berlinorum, nvlli secvndvs germanicvs Magister, cognovit actionem ac nunc optime latino scribendo cvrabit. Si vales eo valeo.*

Reply

Our deepest apologies to Dr Bellomo, who is correct of course. We can offer little in the way of defense. Kettritz studied Russian rather than Latin. Luft did spend 3 years battling Caesar, Catullus and even Cicero so there is no excuse. English speakers are fortunate. Men are 'he', women are 'she' and everything else is 'it'. The only exception known to us are ships, which are 'she' for reasons known only to the admiralty. Many other languages, particularly German, are saddled with learning the 'gender' (sex would be overdrawn) of puzzling nouns. Why would *res* be feminine? But as an aside, could Dr Bellomo clear us up on another Latin foible? Should it be: glomerulus, glomeruli or glomerulum glomerula?

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