



## EDITORIAL COMMENT

# Welcome editorial by the new CKJ Editor-in-Chief: Facing the future of CKJ with enthusiasm!

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## BACKGROUND

In early 2008, the ERA-EDTA launched *NDT Plus* under the Editorship of Norbert Lameire with the aim of providing an educational and training resource focusing on postgraduate clinical education and topics of interest to the clinical nephrologist [1]. Four years later, in February 2012, *NDT Plus* evolved into the *Clinical Kidney Journal (CKJ)* under the leadership of Alain Meyrier [2]. The new CKJ flourished and accomplished its mission: the quality of the journal clearly improved, resulting in a rejection rate of 60% [3]. In 2015, a new chapter of the journal started when Alberto Ortiz was elected as CKJ Editor-in-Chief. A subheading was added to CKJ emphasizing its new focus: *Clinical and Translational Nephrology* [3]. The vision was further expanded in a series of high-quality articles on translational nephrology [4]. The journal became open access (ERA members get a 33% discount on open access fees), monthly and online-only, and fully searchable and accessible through PubMed. The types of manuscripts were streamlined to Editorial Comments, CKJ Reviews, Original Articles, Exceptional Cases and Letters to the Editor [4].

Over the past 5 years, the acceptance rate has gradually decreased, to ~22% in early 2022. The types of manuscripts published shifted towards an increase in high-quality CKJ Reviews and Original Articles. These changes were well-received by the nephrological community, and the number of citations per year exponentially increased. Under the direction of Alberto Ortiz, CKJ was accepted for indexing in the new Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) database from Clarivate Analytics (previously Thomson Reuters) in 2016. CKJ received its first journal impact factor (JIF) in 2019 [5]. The Impact Factor went up to 4.452, ranking CKJ in the first quartile of urology and nephrology journals [5] (Figures 1 and 2). Concretely, CKJ is the 9th in the ranking of overall nephrology journals and the 6th ranked nephrology journal

among journals that mainly publish original research [5]. Clarivate even ranked CKJ as the top open-access nephrology journal.

## CKJ—A GOOD HOME FOR YOUR PUBLICATION

All figures published in CKJ are redesigned by a professional medical illustrator before publication. CKJ authors are also encouraged to submit a graphical abstract or video/audio abstract with their CKJ publication. Our authors can register for and submit their ORCID identities alongside their papers. By registering for an ORCID ID, authors can be sure that their work will be properly attributed and referenced, and made easily discoverable. CKJ wants to publish its accepted scientific work as quickly as possible and therefore publishes the accepted, unedited manuscript online within 48 h after the author license has been signed. The accepted manuscript is then replaced by the final, typeset proof within 5 to 6 weeks. CKJ is also very active on social media and posts articles on the CKJ Twitter account (@CKJsocial) daily. I am planning to further increase CKJ's visibility on social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram) and to introduce monthly Tweetorials. In this respect, each online CKJ publication also shows its individual Altmetrics score, which is the amount of attention the article has received online, on social media and from news sites. A summary of the highest all-time Altmetrics-scoring papers is shown in Figure 3.

## THE CKJ JOURNAL CLUB

After the global COVID-19 breakthrough, webinars were widely implemented in different fields of medicine, mainly for educational purposes. Nephrology could not be left behind and CKJ therefore launched the CKJ Journal Club in October 2020 and

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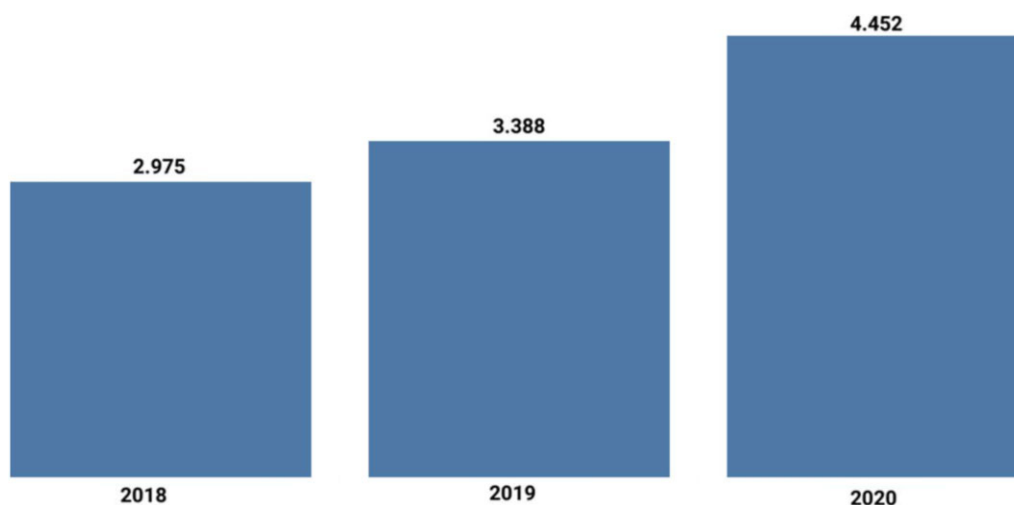


FIGURE 1: Impact factor trend.

Title	First Listed Author	Article Details	IF Citations
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	William G Herrington	Vol:11, Iss:6, Pub Date:2018-10-25	48
The European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association (ERA-EDTA) Registry Annual Report 2015: a summary	Anneke Kramer	Vol:11, Iss:1, Pub Date:2018-01-05	46
The European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association (ERA-EDTA) Registry Annual Report 2016: a summary	Anneke Kramer	Vol:12, Iss:5, Pub Date:2019-02-26	33
Renal toxicities associated with pembrolizumab	Hassan Izzedine	Vol:12, Iss:1, Pub Date:2018-11-09	26
Risk factors associated with post-kidney transplant malignancies: an article from the Cancer-Kidney International Network	Ben Sprangers	Vol:11, Iss:3, Pub Date:2017-10-27	23
Frailty and chronic kidney disease: current evidence and continuing uncertainties	Andrew C Nixon	Vol:11, Iss:2, Pub Date:2017-12-02	19
A comparative analysis of survival of patients on dialysis and after kidney transplantation	Mohammed A Kabbalo	Vol:11, Iss:3, Pub Date:2017-10-18	17
Canagliflozin and Renal Events in Diabetes with Established Nephropathy Clinical Evaluation and Study of Diabetic Nephropathy with Atrasentan: what was learned about the treatment of diabetic kid..	Beatriz Fernandez-Fernandez	Vol:12, Iss:3, Pub Date:2019-05-31	16
Cost of hemodialysis in a public sector tertiary hospital of India	Gunjeet Kaur	Vol:11, Iss:5, Pub Date:2018-01-25	16
Air pollution and kidney disease: review of current evidence	Baris Afsar	Vol:12, Iss:1, Pub Date:2018-11-12	14

FIGURE 2: Which articles received the most citations, contributing to the 2020 impact factor?

has continued since then. Each month, a high-impact article is discussed in a webinar with the authors, external expert panelists and Will Herrington or Kate Stevens and Jennifer Lees as the moderators. During these webinars, the audience can ask live questions to the speakers, giving them the opportunity to directly interact with the author. Since 2022, the CKJ Journal Club has become the ERA Journal Club, now also discussing NDT publications (Figure 4).

## CKJ COLLABORATES WITH OTHER JOURNALS

In 2021, CKJ continued the cardio-renal collection, a virtual journal including cardio-renal medicine articles from NDT, CKJ and the European Society of Cardiology journals published by OUP (Figure 5). CKJ will soon also launch a new virtual collection in-

cluding articles from NDT and CKJ and *Age and Ageing*, the official journal of the British Geriatrics Society (JIF of 10.668). After all, many kidney patients are also elderly.

During my term as CKJ Editor-in-Chief, I am also planning to work closely together with the NDT Editor-in-Chief and ERA Council to achieve harmony between the 'brother' journals NDT and CKJ.

## FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Although Alberto Ortiz and the previous Editors-in-Chief have done a fantastic job, and I know that I have some very big shoes to fill, I continuously want to explore new ways to further improve CKJ. We will submit our Medline application in July 2022, and the final decision will be announced in July 2023. If CKJ is

Title	First Listed Author	Article Details	Altmetric Score
Impact of poverty and race on pre-end-stage renal disease care among dialysis patients in the United States	Robert Nee	Vol:10, Iss:1, Pub Date:2016-10-18	134
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	William G Herrington	Vol:11, Iss:6, Pub Date:2018-10-25	115
Characterization of acute kidney injury in critically ill patients with severe coronavirus disease 2019	Sébastien Rubin	Vol:13, Iss:3, Pub Date:2020-06-06	112
Magnesium basics	Wilhelm Jahnen-Dechent	Vol:5, Iss:Suppl_1, Pub Date:2012-02-01	108
Membranous nephropathy: a single disease or a pattern of injury resulting from different diseases	Sanjeev Sethi	Vol:14, Iss:10, Pub Date:2021-03-26	104
Twelve weeks of supervised exercise improves self-reported symptom burden and fatigue in chronic kidney disease: a secondary analysis of the 'ExTra CKD' trial	Thomas J Wilkinson	Vol:12, Iss:1, Pub Date:2018-08-13	104
Should donors who have used marijuana be considered candidates for living kidney donation?	David Ruckle	Vol:12, Iss:3, Pub Date:2018-11-15	102
An update review of intradialytic hypotension: concept, risk factors, clinical implications and management	Mehmet Kanbay	Vol:13, Iss:6, Pub Date:2020-07-08	88
Coronavirus disease 2019: acute Fanconi syndrome precedes acute kidney injury	Raphaël Kormann	Vol:13, Iss:3, Pub Date:2020-06-08	88
Evaluation of rapid changes in haemodynamic status by Point-of-Care Ultrasound: a useful tool in cardioneurology	Eduardo R Argaiz	Pub Date:2021-10-25	77

FIGURE 3: Top 10 articles by all-time Altmetrics score. Which articles have received most attention?



**ERA Journal Club e-seminars**

The ERA Journal Club e-seminars aim to initiate an open discussion among the nephrology community on how the results obtained in the recent trials can be applied to the needs of patients.

[Browse videos](#)

FIGURE 4: The 2022 ERA Journal Club, previously the CKJ Journal Club.

accepted, then all CKJ publications will be retrievable in PubMed immediately after their advance access publication (as is the case for NDT). Further items on the agenda are the introduction of podcasts, and plain-English summaries in our publications, which will also be very useful for social media purposes.



**FREE TO ACCESS**

Explore a collection of **cardio-renal research**

FIGURE 5: The cardio-renal collection including articles from NDT/CKJ and the ESC journals published by OUP.

CKJ published four Supplements in 2021: 'COVID-19 and its impact on the kidney and the nephrology community', 'To improve the life of patients with kidney disease: the impact of exercise', 'CKD-associated pruritus: an update on the clinical characteristics, pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment' and 'The duality of dialysis membranes: their attributes and ramifications' (see Figure 6). Since several Supplement articles are very well cited, I will continue to publish four to five high-quality Supplements in 2022.

## REVIEWERS AND EDITORS—THE BACKBONE OF OUR JOURNAL

I am well aware that the journal's success largely depends on the invaluable support of our reviewers and editors. Currently, we offer our reviewers the possibility to get recognition



FIGURE 6: CKJ Supplements published in 2021.

for their reviews via Publons. A special ‘thank you’ message for the CKJ reviewers has also been posted on the CKJ homepage (Figure 7), and I will further investigate how to appropriately reward our reviewers in 2022. Following the new scope of the journal, I am planning to evolve the journal by also modifying the editorial board. There will be five new associate editors in addition to the other theme editors. Together with these five associate editors (Mario Cozzolino, Francesca Mallamaci, Kate Stevens, Roser Torra and Christoph Wanner) there will be (bi)-weekly editorial meetings to decide on the outcome of certain CKJ submissions and to decide on the journal’s strategy and further developments. I am further planning to welcome additional gender-balanced editorial board members and statistical experts to contribute to the scientific level of the journal.

## EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE

I am most grateful to the past Editors-in-Chief, dedicated editorial board team and reviewers that have made CKJ the high-quality first quartile journal it has become. But some aspects of CKJ will not change... In that sense, the excellent editorial assistance will continue to be provided by Caroline Vinck.

I expect that the new format of having weekly editorial meetings, in combination with the excellent and hard work of our authors, reviewers, editorial board members and editorial office, will result in an enjoyable, thought-provoking journal focused on educational nephrology, all aspects of clinical diseases, nephropathology, interventional nephrology, clinical trials and research in nephrology, with the main goals to promote ‘nephrology’ as a specialty and to improve the care for our patients.



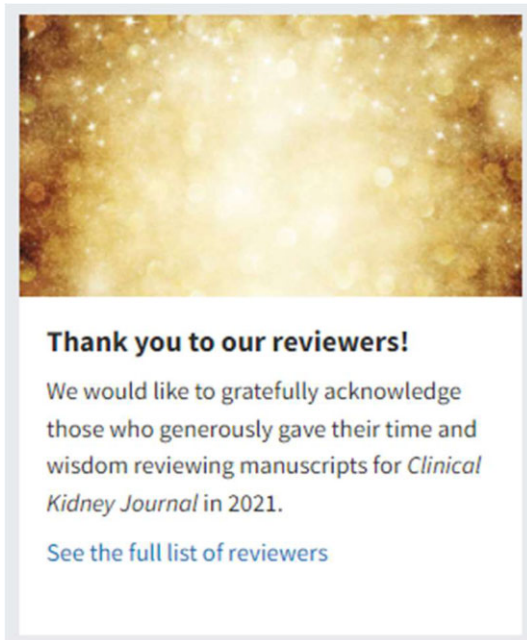


FIGURE 7: Thank you to our reviewers' message on the CKJ homepage.

Over the next 3 years, I will improve or maintain CKJ's impact factor and try to deliver to our readers one of the best clinical nephrology journals.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the ERA Council for giving me the thrust and support to take on this important task. I am very enthusiastic and excited to start this new phase in my life!

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

None relevant to this article. M.J.S. is the Editor-in-Chief of CKJ.

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