JASN Begins Anew

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Welcome to the new JASN. This is the launch issue for a new editorial team, and all of us are honored to edit the finest kidney journal in the world. We accepted this exciting opportunity knowing Bill Couser and his associate editors have done a remarkable job in advancing the quality and substance of your journal during the past several years. We are grateful for their past leadership and recent guidance through our transition. They have left us big shoes to fill.

Going forward, JASN is committed to publishing the very best work in renal science and clinical nephrology. Everything that we take for granted in kidney medicine today had its start somewhere in the laboratory, and as our science grows, so does the clinical success of the subspecialty. We instinctively believe this dynamic is an important value to preserve in the pages of your journal.

JASN has built such a fine reputation that it now receives far more submissions than it can publish. This is both good and bad. At a final acceptance rate of less than 20%, we are able to offer really outstanding original contributions to our readers. Unfortunately, this also means the journal is unable to publish much of the great work coming from other laboratory and clinical investigators. The growing numbers of submissions also increases the pressure on our reviewers, and we must therefore return a larger fraction of our submissions without formal review, while at the same time working to expand our reviewer pool (you can help us by updating your keywords at the JASN submission site). We truly regret these difficulties.

In planning our launch, we have added many new features to JASN to appeal to an ever-expanding readership. The journal has been redesigned inside and out, in print and online, which we hope will make the journal more appealing to browse and use. The cover has been updated, and we invite all members to submit interesting pictures as potential cover candidates. You can do this by going to the JASN submission site, choosing COVER as your manuscript type, and uploading your kidney-related image and figure legend. We hope that this collection of classic pictures will vividly represent the art in renal medicine.

By shortening the page length of our articles, we will be able to publish a variety of new features in the front section of the journal. These include Brief Reviews, Occasional Observations, JASN Debates, Science in Renal Medicine, Pathophysiology of the Renal Biopsy, Clinical Commentaries, and Editorials. The Original Contributions section is divided into Basic Research, Clinical Epidemiology, and Clinical Research. These will feature the very best of both Regular Articles and Brief Communications, the latter in a new letter format.

Bonnie O’Brien continues as our indispensable managing editor, and JASN’s new associate editors include Lloyd Cantley, Yale University (cell biology/signaling/pathophysiology); Robert Colvin, Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital (pathology/pathophysiology/transplantation); Alfred George, Vanderbilt University (genetics/physiology); T. Alp Ikizler, Vanderbilt University (clinical nephrology/diagnosis); Mary Leonard, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (renal osteodystrophy/translational health services/epidemiology and outcomes); Neil Powe, Johns Hopkins University (clinical epidemiology/translational health services); Susan Quagggin, University of Toronto (developmental biology); Andrew Rees, Medical University Vienna (glomerular injury/pathophysiology/immunology); and Terry Strom, Harvard Medical School/Beth Israel Hospital (transplantation/immunology).

We welcome your suggestions as we work together to make the finest kidney journal in the world even better.

Removing Antibody and Preserving Glomeruli in ANCA Small-Vessel Vasculitis

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If anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic autoantibodies (ANCA) participate in the pathogenesis of small-vessel vasculitis, then it would stand to reason that removal of these antibodies should ameliorate disease. There is substantial evidence that