

Special Issue

Chronic Kidney Disease

Message from the Guest Editors

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) has been redefined in the new millennium as any alteration of kidney morphology, function, or blood or urine composition lasting for at least three months. This broad definition encompasses also diseases or conditions that are associated with normal kidney function, such as a kidney scar from an acute pyelonephritis episode or a single kidney resulting from kidney donation. The choice of broadening the definition acknowledges the fact that even the first stages of CKD are associated with adverse clinical events (for example, in pregnancy) and with an increased risk of morbidity and mortality. CKD is a relevant public health problem: according to the 2015 Global Burden of Disease Study, it was the 12th cause of death, leading to 1.1 million deaths worldwide each year; moreover, overall CKD mortality has increased by 31.7% over the last 10 years. These data are likely to be underestimated, and indeed the world kidney day in 2019 is dedicated to care for all patients in all settings, a goal not yet accomplished in developing countries.

Guest Editors

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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