

Preface
CardioRenal Disease



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The increasing prevalence of obesity, hypertension, and diabetes has meant that practitioners are increasingly encountering patients who have both chronic renal disease and cardiovascular disease. Diabetes and hypertension remain the most common causes of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) in most countries. Most patients who have chronic kidney disease die before they reach ESRD. There is a considerable amount of data to suggest that chronic renal disease accelerates atherosclerosis, myocardial disease, and valvular and arterial calcification and promotes cardiac arrhythmias. Moreover, with the aging population it is important to have a better understanding of the impact of worsening renal function on cardiovascular disease. The idea fast emerging from a review of the current

literature is that the kidney not only mirrors changes in the cardiovascular system but also negatively impacts the evolution of cardiovascular disease.

To promote the awareness and understanding of the most pertinent issues, we have assembled a panel of international experts, both cardiologists and nephrologists, to write on major areas of interface between cardiovascular and kidney disease. The articles focus on topics that are directly relevant to the patient and include articles that discuss the pathophysiology, management, and newer paradigms of treatment for patients who exhibit clinical manifestations of both cardiovascular and renal disease, including those who have end-stage renal failure on dialysis or after kidney transplantation.

The management of patients who have both cardiovascular and renal disease remains a challenge, despite significant advances and burgeoning interest. Research in this field is a work in progress, and it is our hope that this issue of the *Cardiology Clinics* will not only provide insight into the day-to-day management of such patients but will also provide an impetus for future research. Clearly, it is high time that nephrologists and cardiologists join forces in the fight against the vicious circle of cardiorenal disease.

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