

# Kidney International celebrates the 60th anniversary of the International Society of Nephrology



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The International Society of Nephrology (ISN) was created through the vision of Professor Jean Hamburger after the First International Congress of Nephrology held in Geneva, Switzerland, and Evian-les-Bains, France, in 1960. Professor Hamburger became the ISN's first president. Since that time the ISN has taken a leadership role in advancing the nephrology field in terms of education, science, and patient care and is now under the leadership of Vivek Jha, the 25th president. One of the most important ISN achievements was the launch of its official journal, *Kidney International (KI)*, in January 1972. Roscoe R. “Ike” Robinson, who was then director of the Division of Nephrology at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina, USA, served as the founding editor of *KI*. C. Craig Tisher (USA) and Claude Amiel (France) were recruited as associate editors of the new ISN official journal. The original name proposed for the Journal was “Kidney,” but some persons thought that this name competed unnecessarily with *The Kidney*, an educational newsletter of the National Kidney Foundation. Thus, the word “International” was added, which well reflected the global reach of the ISN. In the early days, abstracts were published in French and English. From its inception, *KI* has had a leadership position among nephrology journals, publishing breakthrough studies both in basic science and clinical investigation. Readers interested in history are referred to nice overviews of the intertwined growth of the ISN and *KI*.<sup>1,2</sup>

Today, under the editorial leadership of Pierre Ronco (the sixth editor-in-chief in the long history of *KI*) and Brad Rovin (deputy editor), *KI* is the most cited journal in nephrology. It is widely regarded as the world's premier journal for the translation of basic science and therapeutic innovations in the field of kidney disease. Although the Journal's impact factor (currently 8.31) is steadily increasing, the editorial team is always keen to improve *KI* to increase its appeal to the nephrology community. The editorial motto

“faster, higher, and stronger” accurately reflects the ongoing evolution of *KI*.<sup>3</sup> *KI* has the largest number of article types of any nephrology journal to cater to the needs of its diverse readership. Complementing original papers in basic and clinical research, reviews, and technical notes, the Board has introduced new article formats, including brief reports and controversies in nephrology, as well as timely review series on artificial intelligence and statistics in medicine. Also worth pointing out are the nephrologists sans frontières and policy forum sections, which highlight challenges facing the global nephrology community and propose solutions, which is consistent with the ISN's vision of striving for a future in which all people have equitable access to sustainable kidney health.

Although the number of submissions to *KI* continues to increase steadily, standing currently at more than 2200 per year, the average time for an editorial decision of reviewed papers has decreased to 28 days. To expedite the dissemination of new knowledge, the Journal now publishes a noncopyedited version of original articles online within 2 weeks of acceptance.

To increase the accessibility of original articles for *KI*'s increasingly busy readership, graphical abstracts are now published with each article, and translational statements are included with each basic research paper. Important articles and announcements are being promoted through ISN publications, announcements in *KI*, and—leveraging the reach of social media—the *KI* twitter account (@Kidney\_Int). In 2016, *KI* successfully launched a full open-access companion journal, *KI Reports (KIR)*, under the editorial leadership of Jai Radhakrishnan, and in 2019, supplements to *KI* were revived to highlight KDIGO guidelines and important ISN topics.

Because 2020 is the 60th anniversary of the ISN, the ISN Research Committee, co-chaired by Adeera Levin and Masaomi Nangaku, will highlight important contributions to nephrology research during the past 60 years in each region of the world with regional Board

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members of the ISN. To complement this project, the editorial team of *KI* will celebrate this anniversary of the ISN through a monthly series called “Milestones in Nephrology” beginning in January 2020. This series will focus on acknowledging historical papers of importance to the nephrology community from the early days of *KI*. During the past several months the editors have been working hard to select 60 groundbreaking papers that changed our field. Although 60 papers do not even scratch the surface of all the transformative work that has appeared in *KI*, the editors were given the freedom to choose papers they found impactful. We therefore apologize in advance if reader’s favorite papers are not discussed. Nonetheless, the editorial board believes these historic papers are worth a relook, especially for the upcoming generation of nephrologists and scientists.

Every month in 2020 the readership of *KI* will find 5 groundbreaking *KI* papers discussed

by an editor. These papers will be put into perspective of the most recent advances in the field. The board is confident that *KI*’s readers will be surprised, pleased, and proud to see the vision possessed by many of the original contributors to *KI*. The editors believe this endeavor will be an exciting way to celebrate the ISN’s 60th birthday and honor the investigators who molded this specialty, and that it will set the stage for the Society’s next 60 years.

#### DISCLOSURE

All the authors declared no competing interests.

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