

The Aging Kidney in Health and Disease

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Edited by

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To all our elderly patients, our best teachers

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Foreword

It is a great pleasure to respond to the invitation to write a foreword for this book.

With a worldwide increase in an aging population, the practice of medicine is increasingly focused on elderly patients with chronic diseases and episodic acute exacerbations rather than the previous model of acute disease management only.

As nephrologists around the world deal with millions of elderly individuals, many of whom are classified as suffering from chronic kidney disease in stages 2–5, they are, of necessity, practicing geriatrics without specific training or previous exposure in this field.

Therefore, most nephrologists, as well as dealing with new types of clinical presentations, and geriatric evaluation tools, will face the difficulties of reaching the treatment targets specific to geriatric patients.

These geriatric targets include, in addition to the usual diagnosis and medical or surgical treatment for young adults, the recuperation of the ability to perform activities of daily living, which are often partially or totally lost in renal disease.

Apart from these clinical difficulties, physicians will also face enormous ethical challenges. These issues are clearly dealt with by geriatricians and nephrologists.

Improvements in care and advancing clinical knowledge will enable us to delineate more clearly those changes that are due to aging as opposed to those changes due to disease. This book provides an important step in further clarifying and quantifying the differences between an aging and a diseased kidney.

Advances continue not only in the treatment and management of renal disease in the elderly, but also in the primary and secondary prevention of renal disease in this population.

This book is written from a multidisciplinary view, with nephrologists, urologists, geriatricians, pathologists, biologists, and pharmacists working together to provide the reader with a holistic view of geriatric nephrology.

The editors bring a wealth of experience to the subject of renal aging in health and disease, each from his own perspective. They have also assembled a large number of international experts to address a wide range of topics, thus providing comprehensive coverage of all issues relating to renal function in the elderly. These range from the discussion of the anatomical, biological, and physiological changes in the aging kidney to specific pathological processes, noting common problems and treatment advances.

This book will provide important assistance not only for both nephrologists and geriatricians but also for trainees in these two specialties, to whom I would strongly recommend it.

I would like to congratulate the editors as well as the individual chapter authors for the outstanding job they have done.

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