

Editorial

Development of Nephrology Research in Central Asia and Beyond

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Abstract:

Received: August 20, 2025
Accepted: August 23, 2025
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It is with great honor and enthusiasm that I present to you the first issue of the Central Asian Journal of Nephrology (CAJN). This new journal comes at a critical time for the region, when the burden of chronic kidney disease (CKD), acute kidney injury and associated comorbidities is steadily increasing, while systematic research and evidence-based methods, as well as the development and implementation of new technologies, remain limited. Our mission is to create a dedicated platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration and policy development aimed at improving kidney health in Central Asia and beyond.

Introduction

Regional context

Central Asia occupies a unique geographical and cultural position, linking East and West, tradition and innovation. The countries of this region - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and neighboring states - are united not only by geographical proximity, but also by deep genetic, cultural, educational and social similarities. These common characteristics have a profound impact on the epidemiology, clinical course, and treatment effectiveness of kidney disease.

Lifestyle factors such as diets high in salt and animal fats, high rates of hypertension and diabetes, and environmental exposures contribute to the high prevalence of CKD in the region. Moreover, genetic predispositions shaped by centuries of common ancestry and migration may underlie specific kidney pathologies but remain poorly understood. Despite these common features, most of the scientific evidence underlying current nephrology practice is derived from studies of West or East Asian populations, which do not fully reflect the regional realities of Central Asia.

The need for research and collaboration

The lack of region-specific data makes it difficult for clinicians and policymakers to develop effective prevention, screening, and treatment strategies. Although the burden of kidney disease is evident in hospital wards and dialysis centers across Central Asia, much of it remains unrecorded in global health statistics and ignored in international research programs.

With the Central Asian Journal of Nephrology, we aim to change this situation. We see the journal as a catalyst for collaborative research, bringing together nephrologists, internists, epidemiologists, geneticists, public health experts, and policymakers. By publishing original research, reviews, clinical cases, and practical recommendations, CAJN will become an important repository of knowledge that reflects the realities of our population.

Furthermore, the journal aims to promote regional integration of research. Kidney disease knows no political boundaries, and neither does our research. By pooling resources and expertise across Central Asian

countries, we can conduct multi-center studies, establish registries, and develop locally relevant guidelines that can transform practice.

Global contribution

Although the journal focuses on Central Asia, its implications extend far beyond the region. Global nephrology can benefit from understanding the interplay of genetic predisposition, cultural traditions, and environmental factors that shape kidney health in our populations. Knowledge gained in Central Asia can shed light on global issues such as diabetic nephropathy, glomerular diseases, and the impact of climate and environmental change on kidney disease outcomes.

Moreover, as our region is at the crossroads of civilizations, it has the potential to bring together different scientific traditions and bring unique ideas to the global nephrology community. We aim to provide an inclusive platform where international scientists can interact with their Central Asian counterparts, enriching the dialogue and advancing common solutions.

A look into the future

The launch of the Central Asian Journal of Nephrology marks more than the birth of a new scientific

journal – it is an effort to raise the profile of kidney health on the regional and global agenda. We call on clinicians, researchers and policymakers to join us in this endeavor: collecting data, publishing results, engaging in dialogue and, ultimately, improving the lives of millions of people living with kidney disease.

On behalf of the editorial board, I thank all the authors, reviewers and partners who supported this concept and contributed to the implementation of this first issue. Together, we have the opportunity to shape the future of nephrology in Central Asia and thereby make a significant contribution to the development of global healthcare.

We are pleased to welcome you to the Central Asian Journal of Nephrology, a journal born in Central Asia but whose voice and influence extends far beyond its borders.

The Kidney Fund of Kazakhstan has taken such an important responsibility to create this international platform and the opening of the Central Asian Journal of Nephrology, and we are open to cooperation and affiliation with other professional societies, global pharmaceutical companies, higher education institutions and research institutes in Central Asia and beyond.