NDT Special Issue on: **ANCA associated vasculitis**

The classification and management of small vessel vasculitis has been transformed since the discovery of anti-neutrophil cytoplasm autoantibodies (ANCA) in the 1980s. ANCA associated vasculitis is the most common vasculitic cause of renal failure and has a prevalence of over 20 cases per 100,000 in Europe. The multi-system nature of these disorders results in considerable heterogeneity in the clinical phenotype and diagnostic delay is common. Some 20% develop end stage renal disease, but damage to other organ systems, especially the respiratory tract, and therapy related damage, is common.

The **European Vasculitis Study Group** was founded 25 years ago, to test the clinical role of ANCA testing. EUVAS developed into a clinical research grouping conducting randomised clinical trials and a broad portfolio of related studies that have resulted in an evidence based approach to current management guidelines, and a baseline against which to evaluate newer therapies. Over 70 European centres have participated in EUVAS studies, which now involve investigators in North America, Japan and Australia/New Zealand.

In recognition of this progress, NDT will dedicate a special issue to ANCA associated vasculitis. Topics include: **epidemiology, classification, genetics and pathogenesis;** and **diagnostic serology and disease assessment.** Of particular relevance to the kidney, the **classification and prognosis of renal histology,** and **current approaches to staging and treatment of renal vasculitis.**

Treatment toxicity is a major cause of chronic morbidity and early mortality in vasculitis and a focus of clinical research has been the optimization of **cyclophosphamide dosing** and evaluation of **alternative immunosuppressives,** both for **remission induction and relapse prevention.** Patients frequently present in renal or respiratory failure and strategies to rescue organ function, including **plasma exchange,** will be reviewed.

The last 10 years have seen several innovations with targeted therapies in the treatment of ANCA vasculitis that have both informed pathogenetic concepts of this and other autoimmune renal disorders, and been of major practical value to patients. **Newer therapies** will be discussed, especially **the rationale and clinical utility of B cell depletion therapy.** The implementation of this new knowledge in a rare disease area in order to maximize benefit to patients remains a challenge and the development of **clinical trial methodology, registries, treatment recommendations and health delivery systems** will be reviewed.

Like previous theme issues, this issue will be solely supported by the ERA-EDTA and will be completely independent of industry funding.

In addition to a selected series of short reviews (on invitation), this theme issue will include original papers specifically submitted for this supplement. All investigators with an interest in the issue are invited to submit their original observations online, in the form of original papers

(deadline June 31, 2014). Interested prospective authors should consult NDT's Guide for Authors before submission.

(http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/ndt/for_authors/general.html)

Submit at: http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ndtjournals.

All submitted manuscripts will undergo rigorous editorial evaluation and review.

When submitting a paper for the special issue, please insert a clear statement in the cover letter and in the abstract in order to help us identify papers intended for this supplement.

Manuscripts received by June 31, 2014 will have the best chance of consideration for inclusion in this special issue of NDT to be published in November 2014.

David Jayne, special issue guest Editor