Renal physiology: an evolving field

As with most areas of biology, renal physiology is an evolving field. Changes in our field are reflected in studies published in the American Journal of Physiology-Renal Physiology. Thirty years ago, manuscripts published in the journal often focused on characterizing basic transport processes in the nephron or on renal hemodynamics. Over the ensuing years, the remarkable advances in cellular and molecular physiology as well as important technical advances have provided investigators the opportunity to develop new model systems to explore the functional roles of specific proteins. These advances are reflected in the studies published by the journal.

The journal has been led by a group of talented renal physiologists who have served as editors as our field has evolved over the past several decades. These scientists include Tom Andreoli, Jim Schafer, Keith Hruska, Steve Hebert, and most recently Jeff Sands. It has been a pleasure to work with Jeff for the past six years as an Associate Editor of the journal, along with Doug Eaton, Susan Wall, Pam Carmines, Tom Hostetter, and Sharon Anderson, who have also served as Associate Editors. As a group, they have contributed to the success of the journal, and on behalf of the journal and the American Physiological Society, I thank them for their commitment to excellence and their service to the journal.

I am delighted and honored to serve as the editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Physiology-Renal Physiology. A superb group of new Associate Editors has joined the journal’s editorial team, including Gerry Apodaca (University of Pittsburgh), Darwin Bell (Medical University of South Carolina), Jeff Garvin (Henry Ford), Lisa Satlin (Mount Sinai School of Medicine), and Kumar Sharma (University of California at San Diego), and Susan Wall (Emory University). This editorial team represents different areas of expertise within the broad general area of renal physiology, including epithelial transport, renal cell and molecular biology, renal developmental biology, cell signaling, integrative physiology, renal pathophysiology, renal hemodynamics, as well as urinary bladder physiology.

Our primary goal is continue to attract the best work from authors who are publishing in the area of renal physiology, so that the American Journal of Physiology-Renal Physiology will continue to be the premier journal in our field. The journal will continue to broaden the scope of research topics that are within the general realm of renal physiology. A growing number of publications in the journal are focused on the area of pathophysiology, addressing important questions related to human disease. In view of the importance of this type of research, the journal will continue to encourage submissions of manuscripts with a translational focus.

The journal will encourage authors to submit manuscripts that focus on elucidating physiological mechanisms and will continue to be selective in the manuscripts that it publishes. We will continue to publish timely reviews of topics relevant to the renal physiology community, editorial commentaries that are relevant to important findings that are published by the journal, and letters to the editor. We will continue to focus on keeping the review process both fair and timely, and we encourage reviewers to maintain a collegial tone in their critiques.

Our editorial team looks forward to working with the journal’s authors and readership to continue to foster its tradition of excellence. As the field of renal physiology continues to evolve, we hope that your most exciting and innovative work will be published in the American Journal of Physiology-Renal Physiology.

Thomas R. Kleyman, Editor-in-Chief
American Journal of Physiology-Renal Physiology