

## Review articles: editorial strategies for publishing influential reviews

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**nature portfolio**

# I have two joint roles:



## Chief Editor – *Nature Reviews Nephrology*

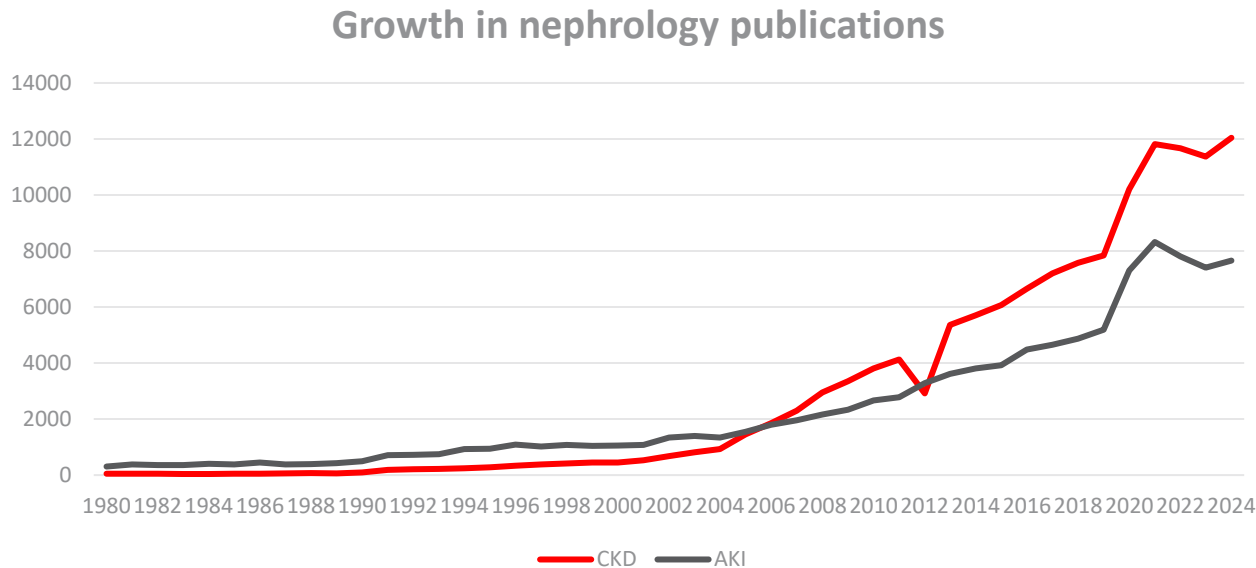
As Chief Editor, I am responsible for the overall strategy, direction and content of the journal and for the management of my team (n = 3)

## Consulting Editor – *Nature*

As a Consulting Editor, I am a member of a much larger team, selecting original research content for external peer review and publication



# Why are reviews important?

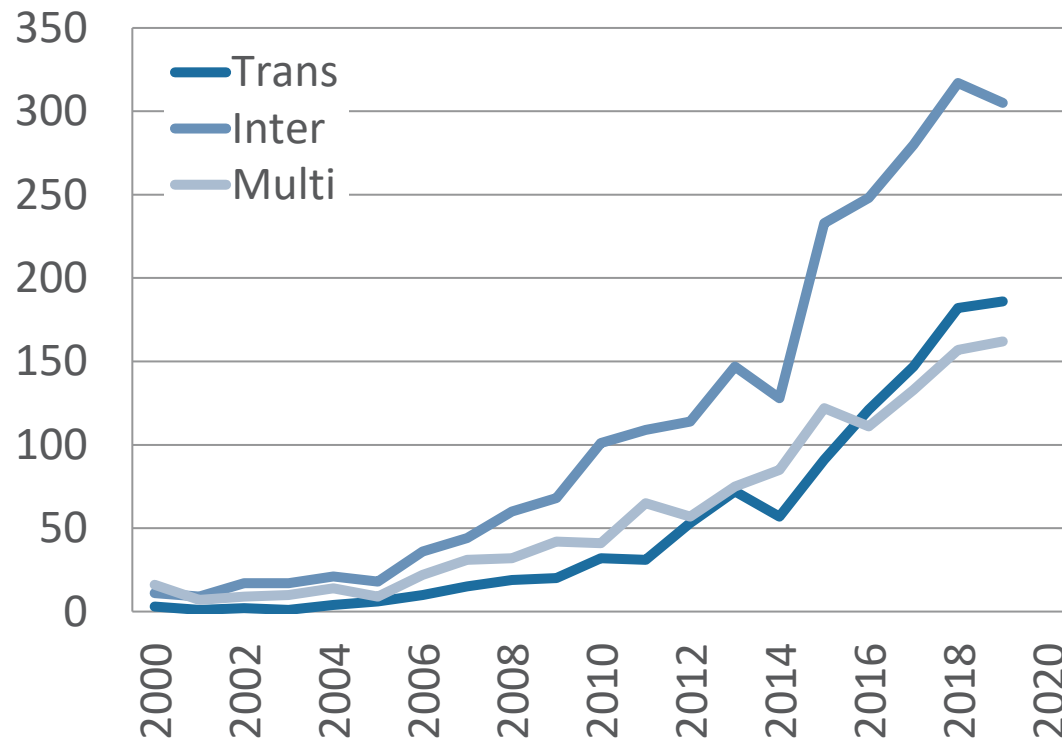


- An estimated 5.4 million academic papers are published per year
- 12,043 papers on “chronic kidney disease” were published in 2024 (32/day)

(from Web of Science)

# Collaborative approaches across scientific publishing

Research is evolving and becoming more collaborative



- This also means it is becoming more complex, involving many more disciplines



# What is the role of a Review?

## Filter the literature Disseminate ideas

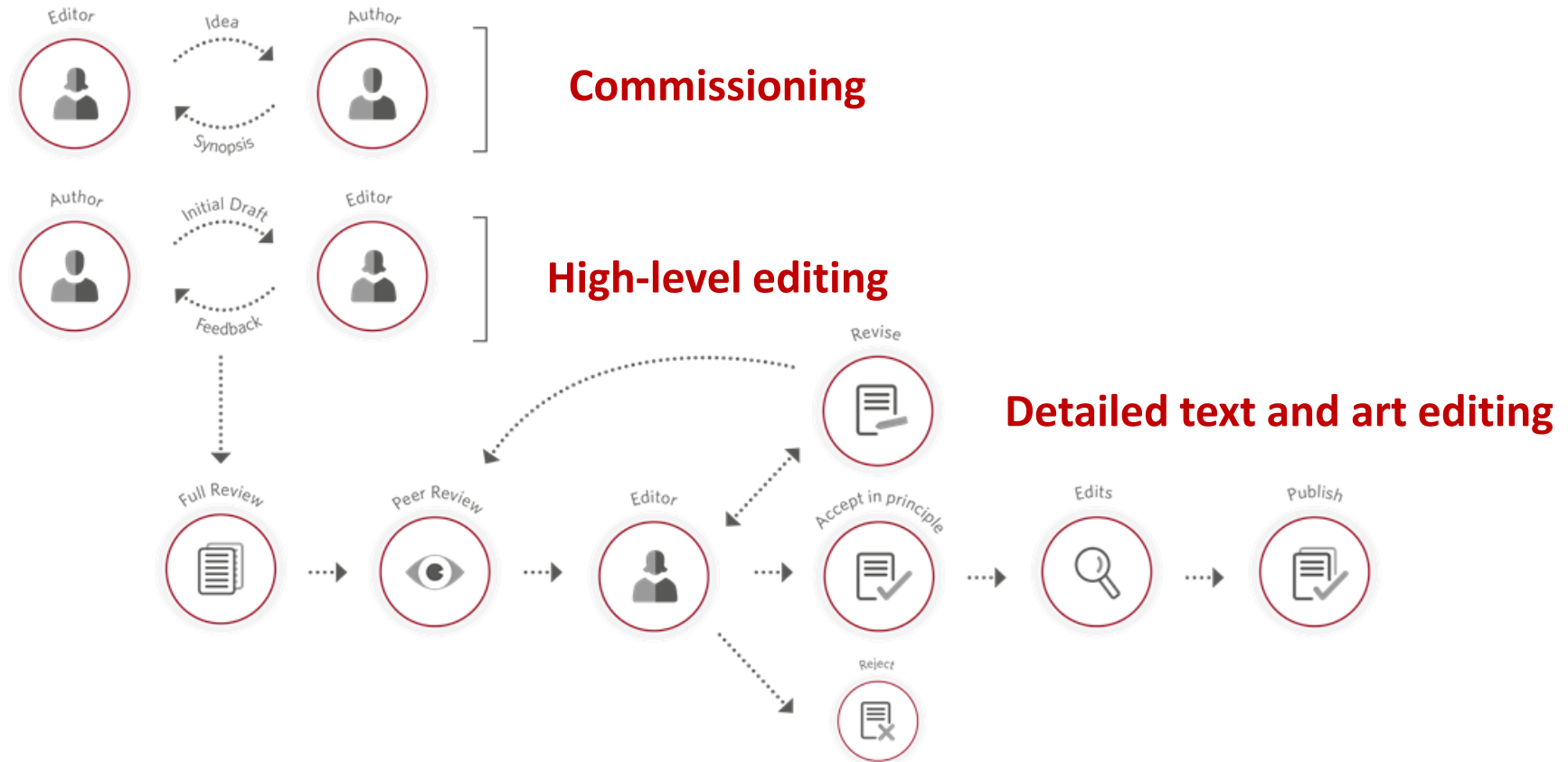
- Help researchers to filter through, and analyse, the vast primary literature
- Provide accessible commentaries and Reviews to facilitate the dissemination of ideas

### To lead the field:

- Exposure to new fields
- Encourage interdisciplinarity
- Inspire new research
- Allow new concepts to emerge



# The life cycle at *Nature Reviews* - we're very involved!



# Identifying the most relevant topics



## What's new; what's interesting; who is doing interesting work?

- Reading the published literature
- Attending and talking with researchers at conferences
- Lab/institute visits
- We aim to invite authors who are actively working in the field and have interesting ideas and insights

## How can we make a positive contribution to the field?

- Can we expose readers to fresh insights and integrate ideas?
- Can we pair up authors from different fields to encourage interdisciplinarity?

## Most of our Reviews are commissioned but we do consider proposals

- We do not publish original research, systematic reviews or meta-analyses
- *We will not knowingly overlap with ourselves or other published Reviews*

# Synopsis



## The synopsis provides a roadmap for the article

- Rationale – *Why is this topic timely and of broad interest?*
- Angle – *What insight will the article provide?*
- Scope – *What material will be covered? Is it too much to tackle? Is anything missing?*
- Structure – *How will the material be logically arranged? Does it support the key message?*
- Figures – *What display items could be developed?*



# High-level edits before peer review



## Context

Explain why the topic is important and timely.

*Does the introduction motivate the article?*

## Focus

Make sure your key themes and ideas come through and minimize side points.

*Is there missing information or tangential information?*

## Flow

Does the manuscript as a whole flow well and are concepts illustrated with figures and diagrams.

*Do the article structure and display items clearly convey the main message?*

## Relevance

Propose future directions to move the field forward.

*Does the final section propose concrete next steps for future research?*

# What reviewers look for



## Reviewers assess:

- The scientific accuracy of the content
- Whether findings are discussed in a balanced manner
- The authors' conclusions are reasonable, given current knowledge in the field
- The peer-review process is intended to improve the article
- We do sometimes reject commissioned articles
- The final decision is the editor's

# The line edit



- **All of our content is thoroughly edited**
- Are the sections balanced? Not enough detail, too much detail?
- Is the abstract clear and engaging; does it reflect the article's scope?
- Is the introduction accessible? Does it provide the foundation for the reader to get into the details of the topic?
- Are the concepts presented in a logical order, or do sections need be moved around?
- Is the content scientifically accurate and balanced?
- Is it clear and enjoyable to read for specialists and non-specialists?
- Is the text properly referenced?
- Do the display items complement the text?

# The line edit



It is a long established fact that a reader will be distracted by the readable content of a page when looking at its layout. The point of using Lorem Ipsum is that it has a more-or-less normal distribution of letters, as opposed to using 'Content here, content here', making it look like readable English. Many desktop publishing packages and web page editors now use Lorem Ipsum as their default model text, and a search for 'lorem ipsum' will uncover many web sites still in their infancy. Various versions have evolved over the years, sometimes by accident, sometimes on purpose (injected humour and the like). Lorem, as opposed to using 'Content here, content here', making it look like readable English. Many desktop publishing packages and web page editors now use Lorem Ipsum as their default model text, and a search for 'lorem ipsum' will uncover many web sites still in their infancy. Various versions have evolved

Au: Can you clarify further this statement with examples and a reference?

Contrary to popular belief, Lorem Ipsum is not simply random text. It has roots in a piece of classical Latin literature from 43 BC, making it over 2000 years old. Richard McClintock, a Latin professor at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia, looked up one of the more obscure Latin words, consectetur, from a Lorem Ipsum passage, and going through the cites of the word in classical literature, discovered the undoubtable source. Lorem Ipsum comes from sections 1.10.32 and 1.10.33 of "de Finibus Bonorum et Malorum" (The Extremes of Good and Evil) by Cicero, written in 45 BC. This book is a treatise on the theory of ethics, very popular during the Renaissance. The first line of Lorem Ipsum, "Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet..", comes from a line in section 1.10.32.

Au: I've moved this section to provide a short introduction to the concepts covered next.

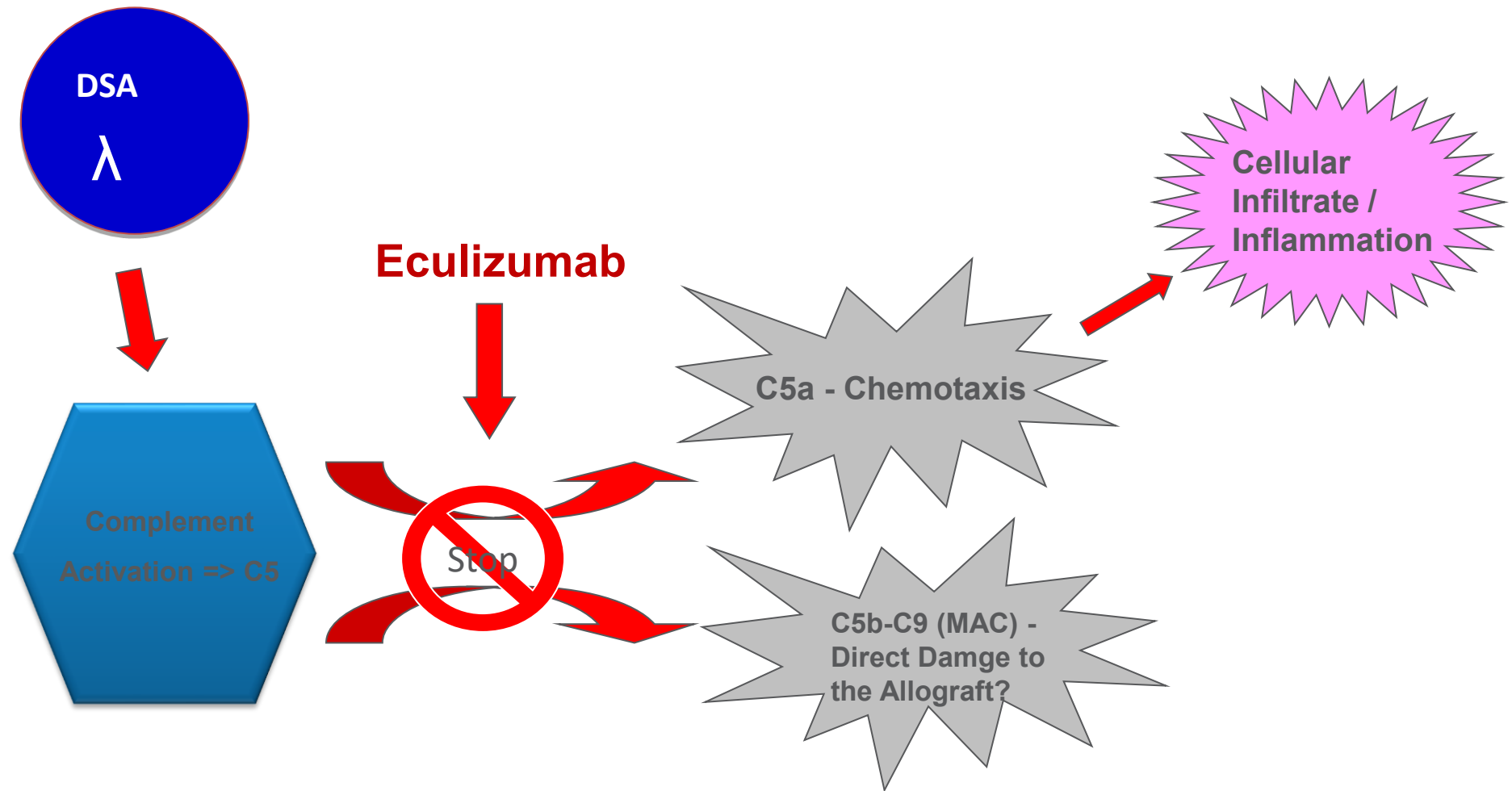
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Au: The recent study of Alan et al. contradicts this finding. Please discuss for balance.

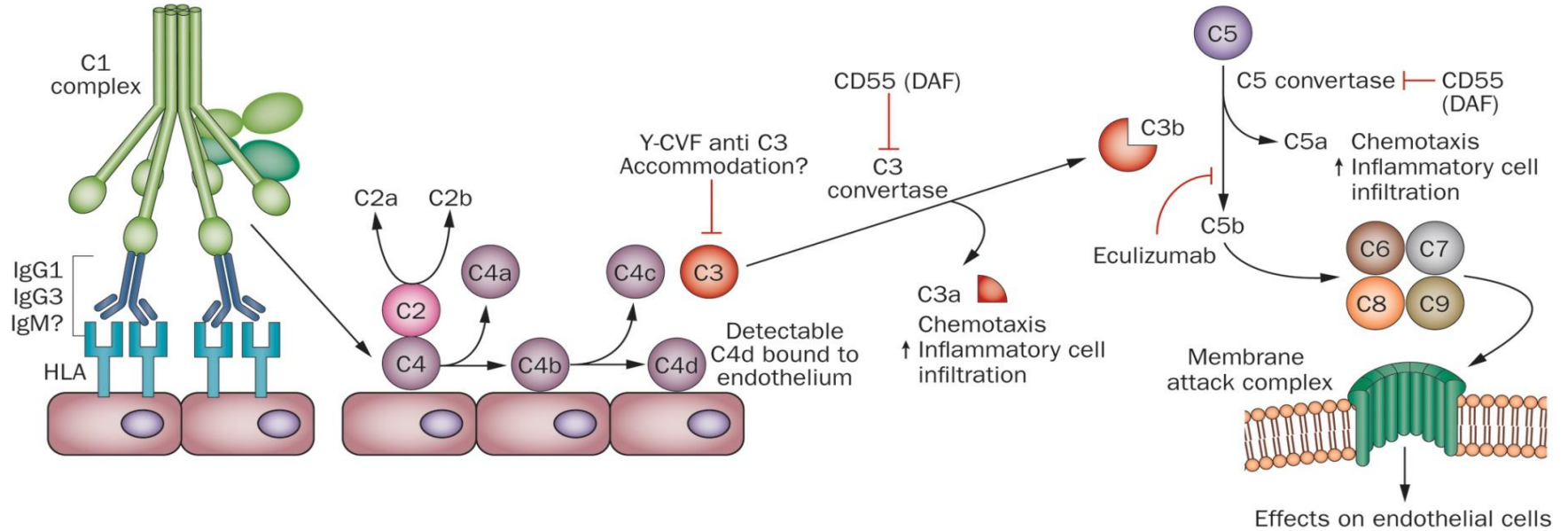
Au: I've added a description for clarity.

- Structure, language, sense, clarity, readability, technical accuracy, community standards (nomenclature)

## Figure development at Nature Reviews



# Figure development at Nature Reviews





# Our approach to inclusive publishing

A diverse and inclusive approach to science and publishing is beneficial for science.

- a. Authorship
- b. Topics we cover
- c. The formats we use

## Mentorship in the lives of scholars

Mentoring is an essential component of scientific leadership and can have a profound impact on the development and life course of the mentee. Isi Ero-Tolliver, Dean of the School of Science at Hampton University, describes the life-changing and long-lasting effects of mentorship and why it is important to invest time and effort in mentoring.

Isi Ero-Tolliver



## Nephrology education and training in Africa

To quote Nelson Mandela, "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". Education and training have changed the world of nephrology in Africa for many patients and their physicians, but most low- and middle-income countries still lack access to affordable therapies for kidney disease.

Saraladevi Naicker



## Safeguarding dialysis services during the COVID-19 pandemic

Interruptions to dialysis services in resource-limited settings, like India, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted our ill-preparedness. We need alternative plans to safeguard the provision of this life-sustaining treatment and protect our vulnerable patients.

Mayuri Trivedi



## A call for civic engagement

As witnesses to the health consequences of social discrimination, clinicians are uniquely positioned to build coalitions of stakeholders to address inequities and drive change. Such civic engagement is needed to ensure that all populations are given the opportunity to thrive.

Lilia Cervantes



## Kidney health equity for Indigenous Australians: an achievable goal

Ameliorating the inequitable burden of kidney disease that is experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is an achievable goal. Genuine and committed partnerships between the Australian government, health-care providers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are imperative to maximize the success of health equity initiatives.

Jaquelyne T. Hughes




# Our approach to inclusive publishing

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- a. Authorship
- b. Topics we cover
- c. The formats we use

Review article

 Check for updates

## Global landscape of kidney health across Indigenous populations

Somkanya Tungsanga<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Ikechi G. Okpechi<sup>1,4,5</sup>, Maria Eugenia V. Bianchi<sup>6</sup>, Swasti Chaturvedi<sup>7,8,9</sup>, David Collister<sup>1</sup>, Harley Crowshoe<sup>10</sup>, Giselle M. Rodriguez de Sosa<sup>11</sup>, Habibu A. Galadanci<sup>12</sup>, Erin Hedin<sup>13</sup>, Kwaifa S. Ibrahim<sup>14,15</sup>, Arsh K. Jain<sup>16,17</sup>, Irene L. Noronha<sup>18</sup>, Robin L. Erickson<sup>19</sup>, Jaquelyne T. Hughes<sup>20,21,22</sup>, Paul Komenda<sup>23,24</sup>, Win Kulvichit<sup>25</sup>, Roberto Pecoits-Filho<sup>25,26</sup>, Kalani L. Raphael<sup>27,28</sup>, Vallabh O. Shah<sup>29,30</sup>, Malama Tafuna<sup>31,32</sup>, Caroline Tait<sup>33,34</sup>, Kathy Woods<sup>35</sup>, Adeera Levin<sup>36</sup> & Aminu K. Bello<sup>1</sup>✉

 Check for updates

## Pervasive kidney health inequities for Māori require multi-level attention

David Tipene-Leach<sup>1</sup>✉ and Paschaal Walker<sup>2</sup>

Indigenous Māori experience inequities in kidney transplant, pre-emptive procedure, and dialysis population as a whole. Preventing inequities requires clinical audit for renal practitioners and the clinical workforce would

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41581-025-00987-6>

## Patient involvement in nephrology research

Nicole Scholes-Robertson & Allison Jaure

 Check for updates

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- b. **Topics we cover**
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[nature](#) > [nature reviews nephrology](#) > series

**Series** | 31 October 2025

## Humanitarian challenges in Nephrology

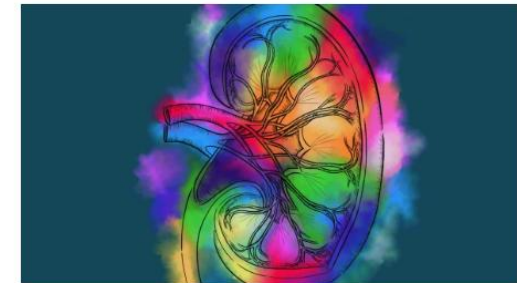
This series of articles focuses on global humanitarian challenges in nephrology that contribute to widespread disparities in kidney health, including issues related to social injustices and environmental protection. These articles explore areas of progress and highlight where innovation in research and policy are most needed to tackle health inequity.



**Collection** | 28 May 2024

## Pride in nephrology

This Collection aims to highlight the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ colleagues and nephrology patients, and the need to address health inequities



**Focus** | 15 December 2023

## Sex differences in kidney disease and physiology

Sex differences exist in all physiological systems and impact every aspect of human health and disease. This focus issue explores sex differences in kidney disease, renal transporters, the immune system and metabolism and highlights the importance of consideration of sex and gender-related factors in basic and clinical research.



# Our approach to inclusive publishing

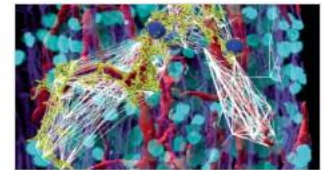
A diverse and inclusive approach to science and publishing is beneficial for science.

- a. Authorship
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- c. The formats we use

## **Python image analysis tool reveals the basis of coordinated human kidney function**

In this Tools of the Trade article, Liam McLaughlin (Jain lab) describes the development of an open-source Python tool that converts volumetric imaging data into quantifiable network graphs.

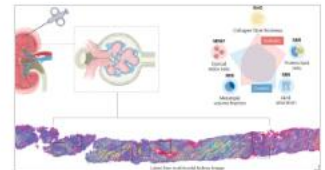
Liam McLaughlin



## **A label-free optical analysis for molecular nephrology**

In this Tools of the Trade article, Fung and Shi describe a label-free optical imaging platform to capture the spatial molecular landscape of same-slide kidney tissue pathology.

Anthony A. Fung & Lingyan Shi

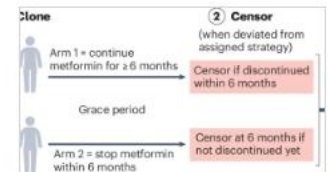


## **Reference-trial-informed design to explore treatment effects in trial-underrepresented subgroups**

Paris J. Baptiste

## **Improving the quality of pharmacoepidemiological studies using the target trial emulation framework**

Emilie Lambourg



# Summary

- Review journals act as a **filter** of the research literature
- Our authors provide **essential insight** and disseminate ideas
- We help authors **chart a course** for their review article
- Editors, not referees, take the **ultimate responsibility** for decisions
- Our editors will make sure your article is **clear and compelling**
- Our artists will make your **graphics shine**
- We also have a role to ensure that **diverse views** are amplified



# Thank you

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The story behind the image



## **Antarctica meltdown could double sea level rise**

Researchers at Pennsylvania State University have been considering how quickly a glacial ice melt in Antarctica would raise sea levels. By updating models with new discoveries and comparing them with past sea-level rise events they predict that a melting Antarctica could raise oceans by more than 3 feet by the end of the century if greenhouse gas emissions continued unabated, roughly doubling previous total sea-level rise estimates. Rising seas could put many of the world's coastlines underwater or at risk of flooding and storm surges.

**nature portfolio**