

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, *Kidney International*

International Society of Nephrology

POSITION DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

The term of the current Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of *Kidney International* (KI), Pierre Ronco, MD, PhD, will end on December 31, 2026. The International Society of Nephrology (ISN), through its KI Editor-in-Chief Search Committee (Committee), is recruiting a new Editor-in-Chief with a view to interviewing candidates in January 2026 and executing a contract with the selected candidate by April 15, 2026. The new editorial team will start receiving submissions in September 2026 and will officially take the helm on January 2, 2027.

The deadline for applications is November 3, 2025. Self-nominations will be considered.

KI is the flagship journal of ISN, with a 2024 Impact Factor of 12.6. It is one of the most authoritative journals in nephrology, covering cutting edge basic research and clinical medicine. For more information, please visit <https://www.kidney-international.org> or <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/kidney-international>. The journal, along with *KI Reports* and *KI Supplements*, is published by Elsevier.

The Committee is seeking applications from outstanding academic leaders in nephrology with a record of research excellence as evidenced by publication record (quality and quantity), H-index, research impact, and service on editorial boards. Applicants should have demonstrated their ability to build and lead highly effective teams, and to work collaboratively with others.

Applicants should demonstrate a compelling and creative strategic vision for the journal's continuing growth and development that aligns editorial development with the evolving publishing ecosystem and economy; a plan to continue differentiating the journal from others in the field; excellent communication skills; a collaborative leadership style including a commitment to working with the Editors-in-Chief of KI's sister journals; a strong commitment to the vision and values of ISN, including ISN's global remit; a commitment to ISN's principles of diversity and inclusion; a clear understanding of trends in scientific journal publishing, including journal economics, challenges to research integrity and new formats for disseminating journal content; the contextual and relative value of Journal Impact Factor; an international network of colleagues; and deep editorial experience.

The workload of the KI EIC is approximately 15 – 20 hours per week. Applicants should indicate how they will accommodate that time commitment and that their employer is fully supportive.

SCOPE AND STRUCTURE

Kidney International aims to inform the researcher, the clinical investigator, and the practicing nephrologist on all aspects of kidney research. These include the latest clinical and research studies on emerging developments in nephrology and the highest level of original research studies in clinical, translational, and basic kidney research.

KI's first issue was published in January 1972, and the journal has published monthly since the beginning. In 1972, it published 800 pages. Today, KI publishes around 2,500 pages annually. It also publishes the highly cited KDIGO Guidelines as supplementary issues, as well as occasional supplements from other organizations. Close collaboration with the KDIGO team is a necessity for the EIC of KI.

KI's 2024 Impact Factor (Clarivate) is 12.6, placing it 5th of 133 in the Urology & Nephrology category (Quartile 1, JIF Percentile 96.6).

The foundational content for the journal is Original Research Articles and Review Articles, and ISN's publishing agreement with Elsevier stipulates that KI must publish a certain volume of "Key Performance Indicator" articles each year. KI currently also publishes a number of additional features, including *Commentaries*, *Landmark Communications*, *Nephrology Digest*, *Research Letters*, *Editorials*, *Nephrology sans Frontières*, *In-depth reviews*, *Controversies in Nephrology*, *Nephrology Images*, *Policy Forum* and *Journal Club*. More information on these features is available at the KI website

The Editor-in-Chief is supported by a full Editorial Team:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/kidney-international/about/editorial-board>. An expectation is that the incoming EIC will build her or his own team during the Q2-3 2026.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

General Scope of Responsibilities

The Editor-in-Chief (EIC) shall strive to:

- Publish the most authoritative, innovative and highest quality basic, translational and clinical studies from the global community of authors across the entire field of nephrology and renal medicine
- Identify emerging areas of clinical and scientific importance and actively solicit the best work being done in those areas
- Ensure that ISN's global scope and remit as well as the principles of diversity, inclusion, access and equity are considered in all journal-related activities and relationships
- Select sufficient volume of content for publication to meet ISN's and Elsevier's general and specific targets
- Drive innovation in how the journal's content is presented and consumed—leading continued digital transformation with creative use of multimedia, social platforms, and emerging formats that resonate with a modern, global and diverse audience

Governance

The EIC reports to the ISN Executive Committee,

<https://www.theisn.org/about-isn/governance/executive-committee/>

The EIC has total responsibility for the content of the journal within the article budgets and KPI article criteria agreed in the ISN-Elsevier publishing agreement. The EIC is completely free of executive oversight regarding which individual articles are selected for publication. The ISN Executive Committee ensures there is strategic alignment between the journal and ISN.

Editorial Responsibilities

The EIC, upon the advice of the Editorial Board, shall have complete and final authority for the selection, editorial modification and quality of all materials published. Specific responsibilities of the EIC include:

- a. Establishing the Editorial Board for the journal (Deputy Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors), consisting of distinguished international researchers, scientists and practitioners across the field. The EIC will demonstrate commitment to the principles of diversity, inclusion, access and equity in terms of editorial and reviewer recruitment and author relations, and work within the budget allocated for the editorial board.
- b. Working with ISN and the Publisher to develop strategies for editorial development of *KI*, including deploying electronic features available through the publisher's journal website and other avenues, developing plans and strategies to attract impactful international science, and attending strategy and planning meetings arranged by the Society and the Publisher.
- c. Engaging the Editorial Board in discussing continuous improvement and development of the journal and improving their understanding of criteria for selecting papers and expanding coverage in new areas.
- d. Arranging appropriate, timely and efficient peer-review procedures for the contributions submitted for publication in the journal and utilizing the manuscript tracking system provided by the Publisher and working with the *KI* Editorial Office as provided by the Society.
- e. Focusing on offering world-class service to authors, including peer reviews that can help papers meet the bar for acceptance in *KI*, speed of editorial decision-making, and, in concert with the publisher, fast online publication.
- f. Preparing annual reports to the ISN Executive Committee and Council, showing the acceptance rate, rate of submission, origin of submitted and accepted papers, time lag to first decision and final decision and other metrics that will indicate the health of the journal.
- g. Ensuring that his or her conduct conforms to the highest standards of professional conduct and scientific integrity, including strict adherence to the ISN conflict of interest policies; is consistent with all applicable laws, regulations and publication standards and reflects positively on ISN; and promotes the same standards of conduct by the Deputy EIC and Associate Editors.
- h. Securing from the Deputy EIC and Associate Editors annual conflict of interest disclosures and submitting his or her own conflict of interest statement annually to the Executive Director of ISN and securing from all authors appropriate conflict of interest disclosures.

Term

The EIC will serve a single one-time term of five (5) years, commencing January 1, 2027, and ending December 31, 2031, with the possibility of one additional 5-year term with mutual agreement of the EIC and the ISN. There will be an overlap period with the outgoing EIC, starting in September 2026, with the exact timing to be determined depending on the pipeline of articles in process heading into 2027.

Honorarium

ISN will pay the EIC an annual honorarium as approved by the ISN Executive Committee.

Editorial Budget

The EIC must adhere to the ISN editorial budget, which includes the honoraria for the Deputy EIC and Associate Editors and approved expenses. The EIC must notify ISN staff in August of any requested changes to the established budget for the following year.

Office Support

ISN provides a full-time Managing Editor and support staff.

Further Information

Additional information on the journal's submissions, citations/impact factor, readership and activities can be found in the attached Fact Sheet.

APPLICATIONS

Applications should include:

- Full CV
- A letter summarizing your strategic and creative vision and goals for growth for *KI* 2027 – 2031. Please include your thoughts on how you would assemble your “dream team” of senior editors to ensure that your own strengths are fully complemented and supported by your Deputy and other editorial team members. And as noted above:
Applicants should demonstrate a compelling and creative strategic vision for the journal's continuing growth and development, a plan to continue differentiating the journal from others in the field; excellent communication skills; a collaborative leadership style including a plan for working with the Editors-in-Chief of KI's sister journals; a strong commitment to the vision and values of ISN, including ISN's global remit; a commitment to ISN's principles of diversity and inclusion; a clear understanding of trends in scientific journal publishing, including journal economics, challenges to research integrity and new formats for disseminating journal content; the contextual and relative value of Journal Impact Factor; an international network of colleagues; and deep editorial experience.
- 2 letters of recommendation from your peers.

Completed applications should be sent via email by **Monday, November 3, 2025**, to the Chair, *KI* Editor-in-Chief Search Committee, c/o ISN Executive Director (Charu Malik cmalik@theisn.org).

***Kidney International*: FACT SHEET, SEPTEMBER 2025**

International Society of Nephrology

Overview

Kidney International (KI) is owned by the International Society of Nephrology (ISN), <https://www.theisn.org>. It has been published by Elsevier for the last 10 years and will continue to be published by Elsevier through 2035. The journal's inaugural issue was published in January 1972, and the journal has published monthly since the beginning. In 1972, it published 800 pages. Today, *KI* publishes around 2,500 pages annually. It also publishes the highly cited KDIGO Guidelines as supplementary issues, as well as occasional supplements from other organizations.

In addition, companion journal *KI Supplements*, see <https://www.kisupplements.org>, publishes sponsored, topical content of interest to the nephrology community. The Editorial team for *KI* also handles peer review for *KI Supplements*. The 2024 Impact Factor of *KI Supplements* was 89.6.

KI Supplements:

Pages published/year in *KI Supplements*

Year	Volume	Pages Published
2018	8	163
2019	9	81
2020	10	185
2021	11	187
2022	12	75
2023	13	-
2024	14	151
2025 YTD	15	134

Sister-journals, also published by Elsevier, include *KI Reports* (<https://www.kireports.org>) and *KI Case Reports*, a new journal which will launch in December 2025. Both *KI Reports* and *KI Case Reports* are fully Open Access. *KI* is a hybrid subscription/open access journal. Articles rejected by *KI* may be cascaded to *KI Reports* or *KI Case Reports*, with author consent.

Contract with Elsevier

The contract with Elsevier for *KI*'s next decade contains binding agreements regarding the number of articles *KI* will publish each year in the categories of Subscription Article Key Performance Indicators (SA-KPI) and Open Access Key Performance Indicators (OA-KPI). In the last decade, we have seen the natural movement toward open access result in a changing balance of subscription and OA KPI articles. In order to maintain *institutional subscriptions*, which remain a major source of journal revenue, and which ensure that researchers in universities around the world have access to important nephrology research findings, we need to keep a steady hand on the number of subscription revenue-generating articles, which means

maintaining a minimum of 125 published KPI-SA per year. In recent years, the journal has published at the level of over 150 per year.

Over the 10-year renewal term, we project a required publication volume that increases Open Access-KPI articles in KI from 110 in 2026 to 162 in 2035, while maintaining a steady **125 published KPI Subscription Articles/year**. From an editorial decisioning perspective, this means that there will need to be an increase in the acceptance rate for basic research and clinical Full-Length Articles (FLAs). An increase in acceptances is conducive to maintaining a healthy level of published content, including the SA-KPI minimum, and will further encourage authors, including ISN members, to submit to the journal, and, in addition, will not artificially limit the distribution of new original research. The ISN journals portfolio is a critical part of ISN's strategic and business priorities. The Editor-in-Chief of KI will support ISN's strategic priorities through abiding by contractually agreed terms with the publisher, helping to guarantee the Society minimum annual royalties that are essential for the ongoing wellbeing of our globally diverse membership and activities, including the journal portfolio.

Submissions Data

KI Total Submissions 2018 – 2024

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total articles received	1842	1775	2276	2167	1952	1784	1930
Accepted	283	414	519	451	399	397	391
Acceptance Rate	15%	23%	23%	21%	20%	22%	20%
Average Days to First Decision of all MS	14	13	12	13	16	19	15
Average Days to Acceptance (from original submission)	98	90	68	81	97	73	114

KI Submissions by Country (Top 15)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
United States	460	451	507	481	366	374	362
China	225	220	358	333	437	388	531
Japan	120	131	148	160	119	115	115
France	101	84	147	163	102	92	92
United Kingdom	101	99	132	121	79	75	76
Germany	84	81	84	120	115	83	102
Taiwan	77	69	66	67	61	59	50
Canada	65	48	68	51	65	62	73
Australia	63	64	77	58	62	64	54
Korea (the Republic of)	63	80	69	66	60	75	59
Netherlands	58	76	74	61	75	50	56
Italy	49	40	62	50	43	38	33
India	43	28	55	47	51	26	34
Spain	41	52	71	65	32	34	37
Belgium	38	32	36	35	27	25	30

KI Acceptances by Country

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
United States	158	177	175	185	116	124
China	20	12	10	24	21	15
Japan	28	28	25	25	17	18
France	34	29	60	57	35	28
United Kingdom	30	24	41	37	18	15
Germany	34	29	28	35	45	20
Taiwan	4	5	1	1	5	2
Canada	13	12	13	8	15	15
Australia	20	16	28	12	25	14
Korea (the Republic of)	2	3	5	4	4	7
Netherlands	10	21	18	13	17	11
Italy	11	10	13	10	12	11
India	9	4	6	5	6	3
Spain	3	10	6	10	6	6
Belgium	23	15	20	14	9	18

2024 Acceptances by Country data will be available in Q4 2025.

Peer Review Process

KI operates a single, anonymized review process. All contributions are initially assessed by the Editor(s) for suitability in the journal. Submissions deemed suitable are then typically sent to two independent expert reviewers to aid in the assessment of the article's scientific quality. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for all decisions regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor-in-Chief's decisions are final. As a member of COPE, KI endorses the COPE [ethical guidelines for peer reviewers](#). Reviewers should be constructive and professional, and provide fair, honest and unbiased assessments of manuscripts. If a review does not meet these objectives, the Editor-in-Chief may edit or omit reviewer's comments from the decision letter at the Editor's discretion. Editors are not involved in decisions about papers that they have authored, have a conflict of interest, or relate to products or services in which the Editor has a financial interest. Such submissions are subject to the journal's usual policies and procedures, wherein peer review is handled independently by a different member of the editorial team and the conflicted Editor is excluded.

Decision Times

Submission to first decision: 18 days, includes editorial rejects (7 days)

Reviewed manuscripts: 35 days from submission to first decision

Submission to acceptance: (1/1/2025 – 8/27/2025): 114 days (vs.204 days in Calendar 2024)

Acceptance to publication online (median):

	FY2024	YTD2025
Median Speed: Acceptance to First Online	29.5 days	29 days
Median Speed: Acceptance to Final Publication	105 days	105 days

Impact Factor

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Editorial Board

The Editor-in-Chief is currently supported by a full Editorial Team:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/kidney-international/about/editorial-board>. An expectation is that the incoming EIC will build her or his own team during the Q2 - 3 2026. The Executive Committee has established the budget for remuneration of the Editorial Team, and the EIC's contract will require adherence to that budget.

Guide for Authors

KI has an extensive Guide for Authors, which includes detailed descriptions of the current article types, see <https://www.kidney-international.org/content/authorinfo#types-of-articles-2-1>. You are encouraged to examine this Guide in detail.

Abstracting and Indexing of KI

Index Medicus/Medline, Science Citation Index, Current Contents/Life Sciences, Current Contents/Clinical Medicine, SciSearch, BIOSIS, Chemical Abstracts, EMBASE, Reference Update, CABS, Biological Abstracts, Global Health, Adonis, PASCAL, Scopus