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Korean GN registry network

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Glomerulonephritis (GN) is one of common causes of end-stage renal disease in Korea as well as in the world, and incidence and prevalence of GNs are different according to periods and countries. However, it is underdiagnosed as a cause of chronic kidney disease and underestimated in influence on national health status.

The Korean GlomeruloNEphritis sTudy Group (KoGNET) have been approved by the Korean Society of Nephrology in 2017 and started several actions to progress clinical and translational researches in glomerulonephritis in Korea.

The first action was development of a retrospective GN cohort including 21,426 patients with renal biopsy, participated by 18 centers throughout the nation during 2017-2019, initiated by Ho Jun Chin, MD, PhD. This project had been completed and showed overview of GNs in Korea published in several papers.

The second is a multicenter prospective cohort of renal biopsy for glomerular disease research, so called Korea Renal Biobank Network System toward Next generation analysis (KONERSTONE), started at 2019. The KORNERSTONE is a prospective multicenter observational biobank, databank and digital pathology repository of patients with glomerular disease in Korea (NCT 03929887 at http://www.clinicaltrials.gov). Nephrologists working in six clinical centers in the major university-affiliated hospitals, pathologists, and pediatricians are participating in this study. This project has been sponsored by Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and initiated by professor Dong Ki Kim MD PhD from Seoul National University Hospital and Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea.

The third one is the Establishment and Operation of the Clinical Research Network for Rare Glomerular Diseases sponsored by Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and initiated by professor Jung Tak Park MD PhD from Yonsei University Hospital and Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea, started at 2019. In this project, 17 centers are participated and bio-samples such as serum, urine, and digital files from pathologic slides will be collected.

The last one is a project for computational image analysis in glomerular disease sponsored by the Korean Society of Nephrology and by the National Information Society Agency, initiated by Hajeong Lee MD, PhD and professor Kyung Chul Moon, MD, PhD from Seoul National University Hospital, started at 2021. They will collect clinical data and digital pathologic data transformed from renal biopsy samples, focused on the disease of IgA nephropathy, membranous nephropathy, allograft rejections and normal controls.
Several meaningful research results from these projects have already published and will be progressed in the future, also. We hope we could understand clinical characteristics of GNs, analyze the digital pathologic images, integrate relationships between biomarkers, clinical findings, and pathologic findings, find new pathophysiologic mechanisms, and, finally, develop better strategies to manage GNs by these projects.