

Preface

Most textbooks of kidney diseases provide comprehensive information on etiology, epidemiology, physiology, pathology, pathogenetic mechanisms, symptomatology, investigation and management. While the importance of an understanding of the pathophysiology of disease is pivotal in our clinical practice, most physicians, fellows and medical residents value handy, updated, instructive, and evidence-based practical manual during their bedside duty. *A Practical Manual of Renal Medicine: Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation* is written explicitly for practising clinicians with primary emphasis on therapeutic approach.

The objective of this *Manual* is to provide a set of updated and well-accepted information to guide those who provide acute and long-term management to patients with kidney diseases. The topics covered include common problems in clinical nephrology such as electrolyte and fluid disturbance, acute renal failure, hypertension, urinary tract infection, glomerular diseases, pregnancy-related renal dysfunction and renal imaging. The sections on dialysis and transplantation place major emphasis on making correct clinical decision, appropriate therapeutic approach and step-by-step treatment protocols. With expert contributors from different countries, the recommended therapeutic approach will be gauged at an international standard applicable to most regional referral centers. These treatment protocols are by no means exhaustive but serve as an effective and accountable guide for patient management worldwide.

The absence of discussions of pathophysiology in most chapters is not meant to diminish its critical role in the understanding and practice of renal medicine. I feel that it is more important to conserve space for management thrust of this *Manual* while keeping down the size for this *Manual* to be carried in the pocket conveniently. For easy reading and rapid reference, bullet points, short

notes, tables and diagrams are used throughout the *Manual* instead of lengthy texts.

My sincere thanks to all contributing authors of this *Manual* not only because of their expertise in the science of medicine, but because they are physicians who are able to translate and apply their scientific knowledge in a practical way to allow for a systematic and evidence-based plan of therapy and treatment in the best interests of our patients.

Kar Neng LAI
MD, DSc, FRCPath, FRCP, FRACP
Yu Chiu Kwong Chair of Medicine and
University Chair of Nephrology
University of Hong Kong
February 2009