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BOOK REVIEW

**Kerstin Amann**

# "Renal fibrosis" by M.S. Razzaque

## Karger, Basel, 2003 (ISBN 3-8055-7568-8)

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Dear Sirs, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to review the recently published book on renal fibrosis, edited by Claude Ronco, in the famous series, Contribution to Nephrology.

Due to recent advances in cell biology and animal pathophysiology, renal fibrosis has emerged as one of the most important and interesting issues in kidney research. Not only has it been shown that the extent of interstitial fibrosis is the most important determinant of kidney function, but we have also learned that various injuries to the kidney may end directly or indirectly in the common pathway of glomerular or interstitial fibrosis. In addition, several clinically important therapeutic agents in renal transplantation, such as cyclosporin A and FK506, are known to induce tubular damage and interstitial fibrosis, which have emerged as major players in long-term graft survival. This specific and clinically most relevant topic is nicely addressed in a separate chapter in the above-mentioned book.

The textbook on renal fibrosis is certainly focused on recent developments in the basic understanding of the pathogenesis of interstitial fibrosis, with a particular focus on causative factors, such as proteinuria, the molecular mechanisms underlying cell injury, the important roles and regulation of TGF-$\beta$, chemokines, signaling cascades via NF-kappa B, the role of oxidant stress and the regulation of extracellular matrix metabolism.

What one may possibly miss, however, is a chapter on other non-traditional factors that are known to be important in fibrosis and, in particular, in renal fibrosis, such as endothelin-1, for which excellent experimental and clinical evidence exists. Moreover, potential roles of other profibrogenic factors, such as CTGF or BMP-7 and its downstream signaling cascade, could have been discussed.

Personally, I would prefer to see some of the excellent schematic drawings in color. In addition, as a pathologist, I would like to encourage some of the authors to contact their pathologist to possibly help improve the quality of their photomicrographs.

Certainly, the book is written by leading experts in the field and is most interesting and worthwhile reading, in particular for those who have a deep interest in the pathogenesis of the mechanisms of renal fibrosis in general, but also in some specific disease conditions. As written in the preface, topic selection was performed according to the level of necessary information on the molecular basis of renal fibrosis (and this may explain the lack of more figures to illustrate the findings).

Given the complexity of the topic and the abundance of new information that has emerged in recent years on this particular field, I feel that the book has undertaken an enormous effort to bring together recent experimental in vitro and in vivo data and to clearly define what is important and what is probably only circumstantial. I would, therefore, highly recommend the book to all clinicians and scientists who are interested in a more detailed understanding of renal fibrosis than what is written in the current textbooks of either nephrology or pathology.

K. Amann (✉)
Department of Pathology,
University of Erlangen,
Krankenhausestrasse 8–10, 91054 Erlangen, Germany
e-mail: kerstin.amann@patho.imed.uni-erlangen.de