# IN BRIEF

## PROTEINURIA

Analysis of a mean of 8.6 years' follow-up data from 8,574 participants in the Dutch community-based PREVEND study shows that microalbuminuria is an independent risk factor for venous thromboembolism. After adjustment for various confounding factors, urine albumin excretion of >300 mg/24 h was associated with a 2.82 times greater risk of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism than urine albumin excretion of <15 mg/24 h.

**Original article** Mahmoodi, B. K. *et al.* Microalbuminuria and risk of venous thromboembolism. *JAMA* **301**, 1790–1797 (2009).

## ANEMIA

The theory that hepcidin could be responsible for erythropoietin resistance in renal failure has been dealt a blow by the findings of a UK study. Levels of the hormone—which inhibits cellular iron export and is metabolized by the kidney—were elevated in patients with chronic kidney disease ($n = 138$), but correlated inversely with erythropoietin dose. Furthermore, hepcidin levels declined markedly after initiation of erythropoietin.

**Original article** Ashby, D. R. *et al.* Plasma hepcidin levels are elevated but responsive to erythropoietin therapy in renal disease. *Kidney Int.* **75**, 976–981 (2009).

## TRANSPLANTATION

The cardiovascular risk profile of obese individuals is not exacerbated by kidney donation, say US researchers. In a retrospective study of 98 donors, the 15 individuals who were obese (BMI ≥30 kg/m$^2$) at the time of donation had an increased risk of hypertension and lipid abnormalities; however, their risk of developing these conditions was no higher than that of similarly obese individuals who did not donate a kidney.

**Original article** Tavakol, M. M. *et al.* Long-term renal function and cardiovascular disease risk in obese kidney donors. *Clin. J. Am. Soc. Nephrol.* doi:10.2215/CJN.01350209

## TUBULAR DISEASE

An autosomal-recessive syndrome comprising childhood-onset epilepsy, ataxia, sensorineural deafness, salt-wasting tubulopathy and normotensive hypokalemic metabolic alkalosis has been identified. Linkage analysis and genetic sequencing reveals that 'EAST' syndrome is associated with homozygous missense mutations in the *KCNJ10* gene, which encodes a potassium channel found in the inner ear, brain and kidney.

**Original article** Bockenhauer, D. *et al.* Epilepsy, ataxia, sensorineural deafness, tubulopathy and *KCNJ10* mutations. *N. Engl. J. Med.* **360**, 1960–1970 (2009).