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Novel Biomarkers for Renal Diseases? None for the moment (but One)

CHICAGO – In the August 2016 issue of the *Journal of Biomolecular Screening* (JBS), authors Giorgio Gentile and Giuseppe Remuzzi present a comprehensive review of novel biomarkers for renal disease in a number of different clinical conditions, including acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease, autosomal polycystic kidney disease, kidney transplant, diabetic nephropathy and other glomerulopathies.

The authors highlight the appalling reality that, despite an impressive number of research projects focused on identifying novel biomarkers for renal disease, nearly all of them have failed to provide additional information over and above established and inexpensive biomarkers, such as proteinuria. The only remarkable exception is the successful implementation of anti-phospholipase A2 receptor antibodies as a diagnostic and prognostic biomarker of membranous nephropathy.

Giorgio Gentile and Giuseppe Remuzzi identify the most likely explanations for this disappointing scenario, including the fact that previous research has mostly focused on single serum and urinary biomarkers, rather than a combination of different biomarkers. The authors stress the need for novel and broad data integration approaches that might deal with the huge amounts of information generated by the "omics" tools, and conclude with a message of hope in a future breakthrough in the management of kidney diseases over the next few decades, thanks to several ongoing international collaborative projects that are assessing diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic biomarkers in renal diseases.

About one in ten people are affected by renal diseases worldwide. Chronic kidney disease, the most common one, increases the risk of cardiovascular complications, dialysis and death, and puts a huge burden on health care systems.

JBS is one of two MEDLINE-indexed scientific journals published by SLAS (Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening). Visit JBS Online at http://jbx.sagepub.com/content/21/7 to read "**Novel Biomarkers for Renal Diseases? None for the Moment (but One)**." For more information about SLAS and its journals, visit www.slas.org/publications/scientific-journals.

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SLAS GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS
100 Illinois Street, Suite 242
St. Charles, IL 60174, USA
P: +1.630.256.7527
US Toll Free: +1.877.990.SLAS (7527)
slas@slas.org
www.SLAS.org

SLAS ASIA OFFICE
asia@slas.org
www.Asia-SLAS.org

SLAS EUROPE OFFICE
europe@slas.org
www.Europe-SLAS.org

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