

ERA Long-Term Research Fellowship Project

IWG & YNP

Project's key info

Title of the project	Classification Criteria of Kidney Diseases (CCKDs): Anti-GBM Disease
Working Group involved in the project	IWG (Immunonephrology Working Group) and YNP (Young Nephrologists' Platform)
Principal Investigator(s) of the project	Andreas Kronbichler Vanja Ivković
Duration	12 months
Fellowship Grant	34.495,00 €
Start of the fellowship	Within 6 months after notification of the grant award to the fellow.

Receiving Institute

Name of receiving institute	Medical University Innsbruck
Supervisor's name	Andreas Kronbichler
Supervisor's e-mail address	Andreas.kronbichler@i-med.ac.at

Project's detailed description

Project description
Anti-glomerular basement membrane (anti-GBM) disease is an ultra-rare, severe autoimmune condition that frequently presents with acute kidney injury and often progresses to end-stage kidney disease. Diagnosis is challenging and commonly delayed, and no formal, validated classification criteria currently exist. This represents a major gap for research, clinical trials, and future therapeutic development, especially as new treatments (such as avacopan and upcoming trial results) emerge.
This project aims to develop the first-ever international classification criteria for anti-GBM disease. Building on large European and international registries (including DCVAS, the Anti-GBM registry, and CRESCENDO), the study will systematically identify and evaluate clinical, laboratory, imaging, and histopathological features that best distinguish anti-GBM disease from key mimickers, particularly ANCA-associated vasculitis.
The work will combine:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic literature reviews to identify candidate diagnostic features, • Expert consensus methods (Delphi surveys and nominal group techniques), • Case vignettes and multicriteria decision analysis to define and weight criteria, • Refinement and validation using large retrospective cohorts and prospective international data.
The final classification criteria will be validated for sensitivity and specificity and disseminated through high-impact nephrology journals, providing a standardized framework to support future research, clinical trials, and international collaboration. The project will also offer advanced

training in rare-disease registry science, methodology, and consensus-based guideline development within a broad European expert network.

Goals of the project

This project aims at:

- Developing the first-ever classification criteria for anti-glomerular basement membrane (anti-GBM) disease in nephrology.
- Establishing uniform disease definitions to ensure homogeneous recruitment for future clinical trials and observational studies.
- Leveraging existing databases, including DCVAS, to identify well-defined anti-GBM cases and vasculitis mimics and to generate standardized case vignettes.
- Testing, refining, and validating the proposed classification criteria using prospective anti-GBM cohorts and patients meeting adjusted DCVAS inclusion criteria.

Qualifications and/or expertise required to the fellow

The candidate should be motivated to work in an international team of researchers and have basic interest in statistical analyses, ideally with prior experience in working with the P (patient/population), I (intervention), C (comparison) and O (outcome) framework required to perform the systematic literature review or the conduct of systematic literature reviews in the past. The candidate should have published in nephrology journals before and must have interest in glomerular diseases.