By coincidence two recent papers published in two very prestigious journals have cast some doubt on the positive role of the renin–angiotensin system blockade on the progression of chronic kidney disease.

The first article is a recent meta-analysis by Casas et al. published in the Lancet at the end of 2005 and the second one is by Suissa et al. published in Kidney International in 2006.

In view of the controversy of this topic and the potential confusion that these articles could cause to our readership, we found it appropriate to ask well-known authorities in the field to write editorial comments on both articles. On the other hand, in order to remain fair to the authors of these papers, we asked both Dr Casas and Dr Suissa to reply to these comments.

Both editorials and their respective replies are published together in this issue of NDT. We hope our readers will appreciate this initiative and we look forward to some correspondence on this extremely important topic.

N. Lameire
Editor-in-Chief