results: Increased levels of MMP-10 (Mean (SD): 473 (274) pg/ml patients vs 332 (153) pg/ml controls; p<0.01) and TIMP-1 (Mean (SD): 573 (296) ng/ml patients vs 375 (317) ng/ml controls; p<0.001) were observed in DM2 with respect to controls (Figure 1). Furthermore a progressive increase in both markers was found in diabetic patients with advanced nephropathy (Figure 1). An increase in MMP-10 and TIMP-1 was also found with increasing levels of urine AER (p<0.0001).

conclusions: Serum MMP-10 and TIMP-1 levels play a major role as early predictors of nephropathy in type 2 diabetes mellitus patients. MMP-10 emerges, therefore, as a new biomarker and potential therapeutic target in these patients.