



Figure 1 Serum levels of biomarkers in the study groups: healthy controls, patients with diabetes, diabetic nephropathy (DN) and end-stage renal disease (ESRD) before and after haemodialysis (HD). Top and bottom horizontal lines of the boxplots indicate 25th and 75th percentiles respectively; lines within the box indicate median values (* $P < 0.01$, ** $P < 0.001$ versus control group; * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, * $P < 0.001$ versus diabetes group; ◻ $P < 0.01$, ◻◻ $P < 0.001$ versus DN group; ◊ $P < 0.05$, ◊◊ $P < 0.01$, ◊◊◊ $P < 0.001$ versus ESRD group before haemodialysis)**