

Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program

Application Instructions

Applicants and sponsors **must** have a current American Society of Nephrology (ASN) membership when the application cycle closes on **Thursday, November 20, 2025**. Check your membership status online [here](#).

A maximum of two applications per sponsor/mentor/principal investigator will be accepted during any given application cycle.

KidneyCure will make an Award solely in accordance with KidneyCure policies, payment, and schedule regulations as described in the original Notice of Award and Grant Stipulations.

Purpose

The goal of the Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program is to fund nephrology fellows to conduct original, meritorious research projects. This program will foster the training of fellows, under the direction of a sponsor, who are highly motivated to make contributions to the understanding of kidney biology and disease. This Fellowship serves to establish the beginnings of an independent research career.

Applicants interested in clinical and basic science may submit a proposal that examines any aspect of the entire spectrum of kidney biology and disease.

Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program grants are not renewable and previous recipients are not eligible for a second grant. Applicants may only submit one application during a cycle.

KidneyCure invites applications from individuals whose personal backgrounds or life experiences may contribute valuable perspectives to nephrology, particularly those who have encountered barriers to entry in the field.

Eligibility

Please note that the eligibility criteria have been updated.

KidneyCure grants are available to non-US Citizens so long as they are working in North or Central America, or the Caribbean during the grant term.

To apply for a Research Fellowship, a candidate:

1. Must hold an MD, DO, PhD, or equivalent degree.
2. **Must be an active member of ASN (Membership Type: Fellow/Trainee) when the application cycle closes on Thursday, November 20, 2025. The sponsor and all co-sponsors of the candidate must also be an active member of ASN when the application cycle closes on Thursday, November 20, 2025.**

- 37 3. May not have completed more than five years of research training after the completion of MD, DO or
38 equivalent degree, or three years of postdoctoral research training after the PhD degree, at the time of
39 the activation of the award, July 1, 2026.
- 40 4. Cannot have or have had at any time a nephrology-related or basic science faculty position at any
41 academic institution; **instructor-level positions are permitted.**
- 42 5. Must complete research under the direction and mentorship of a sponsor. However, the research
43 objectives proposed by the candidate must clearly be different than the research of the
44 sponsor/mentor/principal investigator.
- 45 6. Cannot hold another full individual fellowship award such as another foundation fellowship or grant, or a
46 post-doctoral research fellowship from the National Institutes of Health at the time of award activation
47 (July 1, 2026). However, a candidate's institution may supplement the support provided by KidneyCure.
- 48 7. Must be working in North or Central America, or the Caribbean during the fellowship period.
- 49 8. Must commit a minimum of 75% time to research during the fellowship period.
- 50 9. Must not exceed the maximum number of two applications from a single sponsor/mentor/principal
51 investigator during any given application cycle.

52 53 **Extension Requests**

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55 KidneyCure will accept extension requests for the five-year and three-year eligibility windows on a case-by-
56 case basis. Applicants must submit supporting documentation for requests, which can include family care
57 responsibilities, medical concerns, disability, natural disasters, and active-duty military service.

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59 An automatic 12-month extension will be applied per childbirth during the postdoctoral training period. All
60 parents, including those who adopt, are eligible for this particular extension.

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62 To be submit an extension request, please email grants@asn-online.org prior to the application deadline
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64 **Funding and Stipulations**

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66 • The Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program provides each nephrology fellow with \$50,000 annually
67 for up to two years, to begin on July 1 of the award year. Payments will be made to the fellow's
68 institution and must be used only for salary support, including fringe benefits. Funds cannot be used for
69 project costs, travel expenses, or overhead costs.
- 70 • Research must begin on July 1, 2026; **research start dates cannot be deferred.**
- 71 • Recipients cannot hold another training grant or be included on an institutional training grant.
72 Institutional support of the applicant sufficient to complete the project is permitted and expected.
- 73 • A progress report and financial report are required for non-competitive renewal of the grant for the
74 second year. Final reports are also required at the end of the funding period. The award is for
75 continuous support, and interruptions in the period of support will require written approval from
76 KidneyCure.
- 77 • Recipients shall acknowledge KidneyCure's support in publications resulting from their proposed work.
- 78 • Grants may be transferred from one institution to another only with the prior approval of KidneyCure.

79 80 **Application Process**

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82 Applicants for the Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program must be current, active ASN Fellow/Trainee
83 members to begin an application. To become a member, please visit the [ASN Membership webpage](#).

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85 I. To begin an application, visit the [Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship webpage](#). Click "Application" and
86 log-in using an ASN ID and password.
- 87 II. Download all templates and documents needed to complete your application (applicant biosketch,
88 sponsor's biosketch, and research plan).

- 89 III. Prepare all documents for your application (applicant biosketch, sponsor’s biosketch, research plan,
90 letter from sponsor and permission to submit letter combined document, and the email addresses for
91 two references).
- 92 IV. Enter contact information, including research proposal title and top three keywords. Once submitted,
93 these cannot be edited by the applicant.
- 94 V. Upload Applicant’s Biosketch (maximum of 1 MB).
- 95 VI. Upload Sponsor’s Biosketch (maximum of 1 MB).
- 96 VII. Upload the Research Project Plan using the KidneyCure provided template (maximum of 1 MB).
- 97 VIII. Upload the letter from the sponsor and permission to submit letter combined document (maximum of 1
98 MB).

NOTE: You cannot proceed without uploading these documents.

In order to give references ample time to submit letters of recommendation, it is suggested an applicant upload placeholder documents to proceed to the reference email section. Clicking submit will save the application.

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- 100 IX. Enter the email address of two (2) references. Each reference will receive an email with a link to upload
101 a letter of reference to the application. The applicant will not be copied on the reference request emails
102 as the letters should be submitted blindly. **Reference contacts cannot be changed once an**
103 **application is submitted. Please enter email addresses early in the application process to allow**
104 **references to submit letters prior to the deadline.**
- 105 X. Once you enter all reference contacts and send the emails, click submit.
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107 Application Checklist

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- 109 ✓ Ensure that everyone on the application is an ASN member
 - 110 ✓ Download all templates needed for submitting the application
 - 111 ✓ Complete demographic and project information
 - 112 ✓ Upload applicant’s biosketch
 - 113 ✓ Upload sponsor’s biosketch
 - 114 ✓ Upload Research Project Plan (Maximum of 7 pages total, not including resources)
 - 115 ○ Roadmap to Next Step in Research Career (2-page maximum)
 - 116 ○ Abstract (half page maximum)
 - 117 ○ Specific Aims (1-page maximum)
 - 118 ○ Preliminary Work, Proposed Research Strategy and Potential Problems (3 pages maximum)
 - 119 ○ References (e.g. cited literature)
 - 120 ○ Resubmission Defense (Half page maximum)
 - 121 ✓ Upload letter from sponsor and letter documenting permission to submit application
 - 122 ✓ Send emails to two references for letters of support
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124 Application and Document Formatting

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126 To apply for a research fellowship, an applicant must provide:

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- 128 I. Contact Information and Project Title
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- 130 II. Applicant Biosketch (using a modified NIH Biosketch format)
- 131 a. The biosketch should include a detailed list of all academic and training positions with
132 corresponding months and years. The biosketch must list relevant full-length publications or
133 articles in press (not abstracts or submitted publications) of the applicant and exact order of
134 authorship as well as prior, current, and pending research support (include grant number and
135 agency; contact PI and role; award start and end date; title; and specific aims). A link to the

136 complete list of published work in the applicant's bibliography can be included in Section C.
137 Contributions to Science (maximum of 5 pages).
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- 139 III. Sponsor(s) Biosketch (using a modified NIH Biosketch format) **More than one Sponsor is permitted**
140 **but not encouraged, so long as each sponsor's role is clearly defined and a primary sponsor is**
141 **identified.**
- 142 a. The biosketch should include a list of relevant full-length publications or articles in press (not
143 abstracts or submitted publications) and prior, current, and pending research support. A link to
144 the complete list of published work in the sponsor's bibliography can be included in Section C.
145 Contributions to Science. For applications with co-sponsors, please submit a biosketch for each
146 co-sponsor (maximum of 5 pages per sponsor).
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- 148 IV. Research Project Plan (Maximum of 7 pages total, not including references)
- 149 a. Roadmap to Next Step in Research Career (2-page maximum)
 - 150 i. The Roadmap to Next Step in Research Career must include the applicant's career plan
151 and goals (1 page) and sponsor's involvement (1 page). ***This must be written by the***
152 ***applicant.***
 - 153 1. Roadmap Prompts
 - 154 a. *How will you use funding to get you to your next career step?*
 - 155 b. *What areas are you interested in?*
 - 156 c. *Where do you see yourself going?*
 - 157 d. *How is the funding going to help you get there?*
 - 158 2. Sponsor's Involvement Prompts
 - 159 a. *How do you view your mentor's involvement in reaching the project goals*
160 *and in the development of your career?*
 - 161 b. *How do the proposed research objectives differ from the research of the*
162 *mentor/sponsor/principal investigator?*
 - 163 b. Abstract (half page maximum)
 - 164 i. The summary should include a brief discussion of the proposed research and an
165 indication of the potential benefits to a patient with kidney diseases. Scientific jargon,
166 abbreviations and complex discussions should be avoided, and be no more than 500
167 words single spaced.
 - 168 c. Specific Aims (1-page maximum)
 - 169 d. Preliminary Work, Proposed Research Strategy and Potential Problems (3 pages maximum)
 - 170 e. References (e.g., cited literature)
 - 171 f. Resubmission Defense (Half page maximum)
 - 172 i. **Mandatory if you are resubmitting a proposal from a previous cycle.**
 - 173 ii. Explain how you addressed the comments of the reviewers to improve your project or
174 proposal in no more than half a page single spaced.
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- 176 V. Letter of Support from Sponsor
- 177 **The letter from the sponsor should be written by the primary sponsor.** The letter should:
- 178 a. Describe the plans for the fellow both during and after the fellowship year(s), addressing:
 - 179 i. Whether the fellow is likely to become a faculty member at the sponsoring institution
 - 180 ii. Whether the fellow is likely to pursue a career in research
 - 181 b. Specify how the proposed research program will provide the applicant with the necessary skills
182 and training to pursue an independent investigative career upon completion of the training
183 period and the career expectations for the fellow. Describe how the candidate's proposed
184 research objectives are independent from those of the sponsor/mentor. The sponsor must
185 carefully and unequivocally detail previous training of the applicant in order to allow assessment
186 of eligibility and the potential for the applicant.
 - 187 c. Comment on the role of the candidate in preparing the proposal for KidneyCure funding, as the
188 process of applying for training support is itself part of the career development experience.
 - 189 d. Include a mentoring statement that describes the mentor's contribution to the research plan.

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- e. Provide a list of top 5 mentees with outcomes; co-mentorship encouraged if mentor is still establishing a training record.
- f. Provide a statement of the relationship between the proposed research plan and source of funding.

- VI. Letter from the institution documenting permission to submit application (this letter should be submitted by an institution of department official/representative, not the sponsor/mentor).
 - a. The letter should include a statement that the applicant's institution is aware of the program guidelines and has approved submission of the application.

NOTE: Items V. (Letter of Support from Sponsor) and VI. (Letter Documenting Permission to Submit) must be combined into one document for upload to the application. This document should be uploaded to the "Sponsor Letter" field. **Additional letters in addition to the required letters from sponsors and institutional support will not be reviewed.**

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- VII. Two (2) Additional Reference Letters
 - a. Reference letters must be submitted prior to the application deadline and once submitted cannot be edited.
 - b. Reference letters should be written by persons familiar with the candidate's scientific interests and abilities. Letters are submitted blindly and can be addressed to the KidneyCure Grants Review Committee. Applicants cannot submit the letters.

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Additionally, the proposal must follow NIH guidelines, including the following formatting guidelines:

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- Font size must be 11 points or larger. Smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams and charts is acceptable as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%. Recommended fonts include Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, and Palatino Linotype. A Symbol font may be used to insert special characters. Black text color is also recommended.
- Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per linear inch. Type may be no more than six lines per vertical inch. Use standard paper size (8 1/2" x 11"). Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages. No information should appear in the margins. Do not include additional headers or footers aside from those established in the provided templates.
- Uploaded files must be in PDF formats only. Documents may be prepared using a preferred editing software (e.g. Microsoft Word), but must be converted to PDF format before uploading to the application. Please note that some PDF conversion software may reduce font size. The final PDF document must comply with the font requirements listed above.
- Applications must follow the maximum page limits described in Sections II.-IV. to be considered eligible.

You must use the KidneyCure-provided Research Project Plan template. Please download it from the KidneyCure website.

Applications that do not adhere to the above instructions will be administratively withdrawn.

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Editing an Application Before the Deadline

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Many application fields may be edited at any point before the deadline by visiting the KidneyCure Grants webpage, signing into the ASN website, clicking "Application," and then clicking "View Status." The applicant may override documents by uploading new versions, resend reference letter invites, and view the number of reference letters submitted. Changes to the project title and keywords must be requested via email (grants@asn-online.org).

233 **Applicants should secure all references prior to submission as reference contacts cannot be changed**
234 **once an application is submitted.**

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237 Applications cannot be edited after the deadline.

238 **Overview of Review Process**

239 The review process is as follows:

- 240 1) Application opens (fall)
- 241 2) Application deadline (early winter)
- 242 3) Peer review process (winter)
- 243 4) Committee meeting (early spring)
- 244 5) Award notifications (spring)

245 **Notification of Award**

246 In May, all applicants will receive an email from KidneyCure announcing that their application status has
247 changed. The email will contain a unique link that will redirect the user to the KidneyCure Grant Submission
248 Panel. Once logged in, the applicant can view the funding decision and download the reviewer comments. All
249 documents in the applicant's KidneyCure Grant Submission Panel will remain live for 30 days after the funding
250 notification.

251 **Contact**

252 Please contact KidneyCure with any questions at grants@asn-online.org.