William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program

Application Instructions

Applicants and sponsors **must** have a current American Society of Nephrology (ASN) membership when the application cycle closes on **Thursday, November 19, 2026**. Check your membership status online here.

Applicants may only submit one application during a 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.

William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Grants are not renewable and previous recipients are not eligible for a second grant.

Purpose

The goal of the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program is to produce the next generation of clinician educators by allowing applicants to improve teaching skills through the acquisition of education tools and by supporting aspiring nephrology educators to conduct or develop a project to advance all facets of nephrology education and teaching.

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.

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.

Program and Project Expectations

Applicants may submit a proposal that examines, supplements, and/or strengthens any aspect of nephrology education. Project proposals should address a gap in nephrology education with an impact beyond the applicant's institution. Examples of proposed projects can include (but are not limited to) curricular reform, innovations in education, new education methods, evaluation of new assessment tools for competency-based learning and assessment, professional development, or professionalism.

For the 2027 grant application cycle, KidneyCure's Board of Directors is particularly interested in projects that address the following areas:

- Enhance competence and confidence of nephrologists caring for patients on home dialysis treatment.
- Educate and prepare teams caring for patients with increased risk of kidney diseases due to climate change.
- Enhance competence and confidence of nephrology Advanced Practice Providers (APPs).
- Educate and prepare nephrologists seeking to advocate and strengthen US Government policies to improve kidney health.

Applicants may propose projects outside of the above areas. The proposed project must have appropriate metrics for evaluation, implementation, and dissemination. Grant recipients are expected to publish and

disseminate project information at national meetings and credit the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program of KidneyCure for its support.

Additionally, recipients are expected to acquire teaching skills. For example, they are encouraged to complete a formal (such as earning a master's degree in medical education) or semiformal education (such as Stanford University School of Medicine's Faculty Development Program for Clinical Teaching) during the KidneyCure-funded years, or other similar programs and experiences.

Eligibility

To apply for the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program, a candidate must:

I. Hold an MD, DO, PhD, or the equivalent degree.
II. Complete the clinical portion of their training program by the time of award activation.
III. Must be within 10 years of initial faculty appointment at the time of the award activation (appointments prior to July 1, 2017, will be considered with approval of an extension request).
IV. Hold ASN membership at the time of the application and throughout ASN funding.
V. Work in North, Central America, or the Caribbean during the funding period.
VI. Commit a minimum of 25% time to the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program during the funding period. A statement of commitment must be provided by the Division Chief or Department Chair.
VII. Consider completing additional formal or semiformal educational training during the KidneyCure-funded years.

Extension Requests

KidneyCure will accept extension requests to the 10-year eligibility window on a case-by-case basis. Applicants must submit supporting documentation for requests, which can include family care responsibilities, medical concerns, disability, natural disasters, and active-duty military service.

An automatic 12-month extension will be applied per childbirth during the initial faculty appointment. All parents, including those who adopt, are eligible for this particular extension.

To be submit an extension request, please email grants@asn-online.org prior to the application deadline.

Previous or Current Funding Allowed

Applicants are allowed to have currently, or have had previously, extramural (NIH or KidneyCure) mentored career development grant funding (e.g., NIH K08). However, total grant funding, including the Bennett Clinical Scholars Grant, cannot exceed $250,000 in annual direct costs. \The amount of the KidneyCure grant will be reduced as appropriate if total funding exceeds this amount at any time during the funding period of the grant.

Funding and Stipulations

- The award will provide each recipient with $50,000 per year for up to two years, to begin on July 1, 2027. Funds cannot be used for indirect costs.
- A progress report and a financial report are required for non-competitive renewal of the grant for the second year. Final reports are also required at the end of the funding period. The award is for continuous support, and interruptions in the period of support will require prior written approval KidneyCure.

- Recipients shall acknowledge KidneyCure's support in publications resulting from their proposed work.
- Grants may be transferred from one institution to another only with the prior approval of KidneyCure.

Application and Document Formatting

An application for the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program must include:

I. Contact Information, project title, and three keywords.
II. Biosketche (using the NIH Biosketch format)
    a. Each applicant must upload the candidate's biosketch and mentor's biosketch as **one** document (maximum of 1 MB).
        i. The biosketch should include a detailed list of all academic and training positions with corresponding months and years. Each biosketch must include a short personal statement relevant to the proposed project, list relevant publications (no more than 15) by the applicant and exact order of authorship as well as prior, current, and pending grant support (include grant number and agency; contact PI and role; award start and end date; title; and specific aims) (maximum of five pages).
III. Project Plan using the ASN provided template (Maximum of seven pages total, excluding cited literature.)
    a. Abstract (Half page maximum)
    b. Project Objectives (One page maximum)
    c. Project Description (Three page maximum)
        i. If applicable, may include background information, including any prior work, significance and relevance to nephrology education, as well as an explanation of how this award will help overcome challenges faced when implementing education projects.
    d. Career Roadmap and Additional Educational Training (One page maximum)
        i. The Career Roadmap and Additional Educational Training must describe the candidate's background, career goals, career development, as well as additional educational training this grant would provide. It may be no more than one page, single spaced.
    e. Mentorship Plan and Candidate's view of the Institutional Commitment to the Candidate (One page maximum)
        i. This section must be written by the applicant.
    f. Dissemination Plan (Half page maximum)
        i. In application, discuss how the work produced (articles, new technology, etc.) will be distributed to have an impact beyond the applicant's institution.
    g. References (i.e. cited literature) (No page limit)
    NOTE: The Project Plan does not need to include a proposed budget.
IV. Letter from Department Chair
    a. The letter must provide assurance that the candidate:
        i. Holds a full-time faculty appointment (including date of first full-time faculty appointment and a description of the track).
        ii. Will have at least 25% protected time devoted to the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program during the funding period.
        iii. Will use the award for the proposed project.
        iv. Will have appropriate space and access to necessary equipment (if applicable).
    Please note the institutional commitment to the candidate is an important factor in assessing these grants.
    b. The letter should be signed and on institutional letterhead.
V. Three (3) Reference Letters
    a. Reference letters should be written by persons familiar with the candidate's interests and abilities. Letters are submitted blindly and can be addressed to the KidneyCure William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program Review Committee.
    b. One reference letter must be provided by the applicant's designated mentor.

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

- 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 ½" 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.

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

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

Application Process

Applicants for the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program must be current, active ASN members. To become a member, please visit the ASN Membership webpage.

I. To begin an application, visit the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program webpage. Click "Application" and log-in using ASN ID and password.
II. Download all templates and documents needed to complete your application (Biosketch and Project Plan).
III. Prepare all documents for your application (Biosketches, Project Plan, Letter from Department Chair, and email addresses for three references).
IV. Enter contact information, including project title and three keywords. Once submitted, these cannot be edited by the applicant.
V. Upload candidate's and mentor's biosketch as one document (maximum of 1 MB).
VI. Upload the Project Plan using the KidneyCure provided template (maximum of 1 MB).
VII. Upload the letter from the Department Chair (maximum of 1 MB).
VIII. Enter the email address of three (3) references. Each reference will receive an email with a link to upload a letter of reference to the application. The applicant will be copied on each email. One reference letter MUST be from the designated mentor.
IX. Once you enter all reference contacts and send the emails, click submit.
X. You will receive a notice that your application has been submitted.
XI. Applications are not considered complete until all documents, including reference letters, are uploaded.

Editing an Application Before the Deadline

Application fields may be edited at any point before the deadline by visiting the KidneyCure Grants webpage, signing into the 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).

Clicking submit will save the application.

Applications cannot be edited after the deadline.

Application Checklist

- ✓ Downloaded all templates needed for submitting the application.
- ✓ Completed contact information, project title, and keywords.
- ✓ Uploaded candidate's and mentor's biosketch as one document.
- ✓ Uploaded Project Plan using the KidneyCure provided template (Maximum of seven pages total, not including cited literature)
    - Abstract (half page maximum)
    - Project Objectives (one page maximum)
    - Project Description (three page maximum)
    - Career Roadmap and Additional Educational Training (one page maximum)
    - Mentorship Plan and Candidate's view of the Institutional Commitment (one page maximum)
    - Dissemination Plan (half page maximum)
    - References (i.e. cited literature) (No page limit)
- ✓ Uploaded letter from Department Chair
- ✓ Sent emails to three references for letters of support (Reminder: One reference letter MUST be from the designated mentor.)

Evaluation Criteria

The KidneyCure William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Review Committee will consider the potential of the applicant to develop as a productive and independent educator and the proposed project's impact on advancing all facets of nephrology education and teaching, and the projects potential to have an impact beyond the applicant's institution.

Assessment will include the qualifications of the applicant with respect to prior training, the candidate's productivity and career goals, qualifications of the candidate's mentor and mentorship plan, and the merit of the proposed project. The institutional commitment to the development of the applicant as a clinician educator will also be assessed.

Notification of Award

In April, all applicants will receive an email from KidneyCure announcing that their application status has changed. The email will contain a link that will redirect the user to the ASN website. Once logged in, the applicant will be redirected to the KidneyCure Grant Submission Panel. From this page, an applicant can view the funding decision and download the reviewer comments. All documents in the applicant's KidneyCure Grant Submission Panel will remain live for 30 days after the funding notification.

Contact

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