



ASN

Foundation for
Kidney Research



Annual
Report

2018



The following report was excerpted from the ASN 2018 Annual Report. To view the full report, visit www.asn-online.org.

ASN leads the fight to prevent, treat, and cure kidney diseases throughout the world by educating health professionals and scientists, advancing research and innovation, communicating new knowledge, and advocating for the highest quality care for patients .



Table of Contents

2018 Highlights	4
2018 Grant Recipients	5
Founders Circle	7
Supporters	8
Grant Recipient Spotlight	10

ASN Foundation for Kidney Research

Our Mission is to Prevent and Cure Kidney Diseases Through Research and Innovation

Established in 2012, the ASN Foundation for Kidney Research provides \$3,000,000 annually to fund the ASN Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award Program, the Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program, the Career Development Grants Program, the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program, and the American Society of Nephrology-Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program Award.

2018 Highlights

Securing the Future Campaign Endows Five Grants

At Kidney Week 2018, the foundation announced that the *Securing the Future Campaign* to endow the Career Development Grants Program raised more than \$22,600,000 in gifts and pledges, including those from ASN, Akebia Therapeutics, Amgen, Keryx Biopharmaceuticals, and individual donors. These funds endowed five career development grants in 2018, including one Joseph V. Bonventre Career Development Grant, two Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grants, one John P. Merrill Grant in Transplantation, and one Norman J. Siegel Research Scholar Grant.

Expanding the ASN-Amos Medical Faculty Development Program

To address the shortage of scholars from historically disadvantaged backgrounds with academic and research appointments in nephrology, ASN partners with the Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Foundation to administer the ASN-Amos Medical Faculty Development Program (ASN-AMFDP) award. The program offers four-year postdoctoral research awards. The first recipient is continuing his work on gene discovery in African Americans with familial focal segmental glomerulosclerosis.

ASN and RWJ announced a second ASN-AMFDP award recipient to be honored in 2019: Rasheeda K. Hall, MD, MS, whose research aims to develop an evidence-based approach to deprescribe potentially inappropriate medications for older dialysis patients.



Rasheeda K. Hall, MD, MS
ASN-AMFDP 2019
Award Recipient

Launching the ASN Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award Program

The ASN Foundation for Kidney Research launched the ASN Pre-Doctoral Fellowship program, which will award five two-year fellowships to nephrology PhD students annually.

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The ASN Foundation for Kidney Research congratulates the talented group of researchers and educators who were awarded grants in 2018.

Career Development Grants Program

The program invests \$100,000 a year per investigator for two years to foster independent research careers and ensure a pipeline of innovative research in the field of nephrology. The Career Development Grants Program is supported by contributions provided by ASN, Akebia Therapeutics, Amgen, Keryx Biopharmaceuticals, and individual donors.

Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grants

Alexander Grabner, MD
Duke University
The Role of FGF23 and FGFR4 in Cardio-Renal Syndrome

Hana A. Itani, PhD, FASN
American University of Beirut
New Immune Mechanisms in Hypertension

David E. Leaf, MD, FASN
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Hepcidin, Dysregulated Iron Homeostasis, and Anemia in Human Acute Kidney Injury

Ali Poyan-Mehr, MD
Kaiser Foundation Research Institute
Metabolic and Molecular Predictors of Acute Kidney Injury in Humans and Their Clinical Response to NAD⁺ Augmentation

Roderick J. Tan, MD, PhD
University of Pittsburgh
Tubular-to-Glomerular Crosstalk in Proteinuric Chronic Kidney Disease

Brandi M. Wynne, MS, PhD
Emory University
Renal Dendritic Cell-Derived Interleukin 6 Increases Sodium Reabsorption and Blood Pressure

John Merrill Grant in Transplantation

Nicholas Zwang, MD, FASN
University of Illinois at Chicago
Defining STAT3- and BCR-mediated Signaling and Activation Mechanisms in Human Transitional B Cells

Joseph V. Bonventre Career Development Grant

Nishank Jain, MBBS, MPH, FASN
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
A Mechanistic Study in Patients with Non-Dialysis Chronic Kidney Disease to Investigate Altered Platelet Response to Antiplatelet Therapy (CKD-Platelet Study)

Norman Siegel Research Scholar Grant

Meghan Pearl, MD
University of California, Los Angeles
Understanding the Interface of Allo and Auto-Immunity: The Impact of Angiotensin II Type 1 Receptor Antibodies in Pediatric Kidney Transplant Recipients

Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program

Funding 10 new research applicants and 10 continuing projects annually, the program distributes \$50,000 a year per fellow for two years to conduct original, meritorious research. The Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program is fully endowed by contributions provided by Fresenius Medical Care, ASN, the American Renal Patient Care Foundation, Inc., Amgen, Baxter, and the PKD Foundation.

Donald E. Wesson Research Fellow

Yuenting Diana Kwong, MD
University of California, San Francisco
*Identification of Sub-phenotypes in Sepsis
Associated Acute Kidney Injury*

Jared J. Grantham Research Fellow

Amar J. Majmundar, MD, PhD
Boston Children's Hospital
*Whole Exome Sequencing to Identify Novel
Monogenic Causes of Nephrolithiasis*

Joseph A. Carlucci Research Fellow

Ke Wang, MD
University of Washington
*Proximal Tubule Secretion: A Complementary
Marker to GFR in Kidney Disease*

Sharon Anderson Research Fellow

Rebecca C. Hjorten, MD
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Modeling APOL1 Disease in Drosophila Melanogaster

ASN Foundation for Kidney Research Fellow

Kaice A. LaFavers, PhD, MPH
Indiana University School of Medicine
*The Role of Uromodulin in Oxidant Stress
During Sepsis-Induced Kidney Injury*

William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program

Funded annually, the program provides \$50,000 a year for two years to a nephrology educator to conduct a project to advance all facets of nephrology education and teaching.

Georges Nakhoul, MD, FASN
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
*Shaping the Renal Curriculum of the Future:
Creating and Assessing a 3D-Augmented Reality
Platform of Nephron Function*

Ben J. Lipps Research Fellows

Mark Hepokoski, MD
University of California, San Diego
Mitochondrial Dysfunction in ARDS due to AKI

Jiahua Li, MD, PhD
Brigham and Women's Hospital
*Targeting Proximal Tubule Metabolism in AKI
to CKD Transition in Diabetic Nephropathy*

Kabir O. Olaniran, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital
*Risk Factors and Risk Modification for Chronic
Kidney Disease in Black Sickle Cell Trait Patients*

Jin Wei, PhD
University of South Florida
*Relaxin Receptor, Tubuloglomerular Feedback
and Preeclampsia*

Jie Zhang, PhD
University of South Florida
Renal Mechanism for Hypertension in Diabetes

ASN Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award Program

New in 2018: The ASN Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award Program provides funding to early career PhD students to conduct original research projects and make contributions to the understanding of kidney biology and disease.

Sunjae Bae
Johns Hopkins University
Tailored Immunosuppression for Kidney Transplant Recipients

Vasileios Gerakopoulos
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
An Essential Role of the Polycystin Complex in Ciliary Disassembly

Fatimah Khalaf
University of Toledo
Paraoxonase-1 Regulation of Renal Inflammation in Chronic Kidney Disease

Rhiannon Reed
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Evaluating the Implementation and Effectiveness of the Living Donor Navigator Program

Katherine Shipman
University of Pittsburgh
Megalin Traffic in Dent Disease

Founders Circle Members

The ASN Foundation for Kidney Research gratefully acknowledges our Founders Circle Members for their generous contributions. With the help of our Founding Members, the ASN Foundation is making great strides in supporting the next generation of nephrology clinicians, researchers, and educators who will fuel innovation and translate findings into improved quality of life for patients.

Career Development Grants Program Donors



\$15,000,000



\$1,000,000

Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program Donors



**FRESENIUS
MEDICAL CARE**

\$10,000,000



\$6,500,000



\$1,000,000



\$1,000,000



\$1,000,000



\$500,000

ASN Foundation for Kidney Research Supporters

Visionary Circle

The Visionary Circle recognizes individuals who have donated, pledged, or made a bequest of \$75,000 or more to the ASN Foundation or its programs:

Bob Alpern and Pat Preisig
William and Sandra Bennett
Jonathan and Deb Himmelfarb
Paula Messenheimer and Ray Harris
William E. Mitch and Alexandra F. Mitch



ASN Past President Eleanor D. Lederer, MD, FASN, recognizes Visionary Circle members for 2018. (From left) William and Alexandra Mitch, Eleanor Lederer, Deb and Jonathan Himmelfarb, William Bennett.

Securing the Future Campaign Donors

Donations to the Securing the Future Campaign support efforts to endow the Career Development Grants Program.

Benefactors (\$50,000+)

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2018 Career Development Grant Program Recipient Spotlight

HANA A. ITANI, PHD, FASN

For her project, “New Immune Mechanisms in Hypertension”

DESCRIBE THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE THROUGH THE ASN FOUNDATION.

This grant is a great opportunity to allow me to establish my independence and obtain preliminary data to secure extramural uninterrupted funding such as an NIH R01 and other funding mechanisms.

WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU MOST ABOUT YOUR CAREER?

I have been fortunate to receive exceptional training by outstanding mentors who provided me with great support and mentoring. Yet, as a woman scientist, it has been a challenge to achieve a successful career trajectory while maintaining an ideal work-life balance.

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER GOALS AT THE END OF THE GRANT PERIOD AND BEYOND?

My goal is to advance my academic career and mature as an independent, tenure-track investigator in inflammation-mediated cardiovascular and renal disease. This award will assist me in achieving my goals: (1) establish myself as an academic research scientist, (2) develop an independent research program, (3) compete for extramural uninterrupted funding (NIH R01 and other funding mechanisms), (4) continue to publish peer-reviewed manuscripts, and (5) continue to serve in professional societies.

SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME IS...

I have exemplified, as a female scientist and a single mom, a record of success, dedication, and commitment to a career as a research scientist despite all challenges in academia.

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