ADVANCING AMERICAN KIDNEY HEALTH IS FOCUSING ON PATIENT CHOICES; IMPROVING THEIR CHOICES TO HAVE MORE HOME DIALYSIS THERAPIES, MORE TRANSPLANTS. We know from the research that quality of life does improve with these treatments. I really think we can move the field forward in terms of improving the lives of patients with kidney disease.

Nwamaka D. Eneanya, MD, MPH, FASN
2013 Sharon Anderson Research Fellow
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA
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Established in 2012, KidneyCure provides $3 million annually to fund the ASN Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program, the Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program, the Transition to Independence Grants Program, the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program, and the American Society of Nephrology-Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program Award.

In July 2019, the ASN Foundation for Kidney Research launched a major rebranding initiative. The new name, KidneyCure, focuses all foundation efforts toward improving treatments and finding cures for the approximately 850 million people worldwide living with kidney diseases. KidneyCure will continue funding current grant programs while exploring new avenues to support.

The foundation granted $3 million in support of 46 leading kidney researchers in 2019, including 27 new projects and 19 projects continuing from 2018.

Our mission is to prevent and cure kidney diseases through research and innovation.
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Director

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Director
KIDNEYCURE GRANT
RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT

Grant Program: Transition to Independence
Recipient: Tomokazu Souma, MD, PhD
Project Title: Harnessing Antioxidative Stress Pathways in Renal Epithelial Progenitors To Prevent AKI-to-CKD Transition

HOW WOULD YOU SUM UP YOUR RESEARCH IN ONE SENTENCE?
My research primarily focuses on understanding cellular stress adaptive pathways in kidneys with the ultimate goal to harness these pathways for therapeutic uses to prevent kidney disease progression in patients.

PROVIDE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH YOU WILL CONDUCT WITH HELP FROM THE GRANT.
The goal of my project is to investigate the functions of antioxidative stress pathways in the transition of acute kidney injury (AKI) to chronic kidney disease (CKD). We will use multiple transgenic mouse lines to address this research aim.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO FOCUS YOUR RESEARCH IN THIS AREA?
The kidney has always been my favorite organ to study. I was fascinated when I first learned the beautiful structure and functions of kidneys. I cannot forget the excitement I got when I observed the intricate network of renal erythropoietin-producing cells. My prior clinical and research training has inspired me and guided me to focus on the cellular stress adaptation pathways in kidneys.

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR CHALLENGES FACING NEPHROLOGY RESEARCH TODAY?
The current technological advancements are so rapid and transformative. However, partly based on the complexity of renal structure and function, we have not utilized the newest revolutionizing technologies well. Multidisciplinary collaboration with scientists in other fields would facilitate our discoveries.

WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU MOST ABOUT YOUR CAREER?
I have been so fortunate to meet multiple great scientists throughout my early career. All the encounters shaped my career path and provided me incredible opportunities. I would like to thank Dr. Mitchell Halperin, Dr. Susan Quaggin, Dr. Myles Wolf, Dr. Jing Jin, Dr. Brigid Hogan, Dr. Masayuki Yamamoto, and my excellent colleagues.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO APPLY FOR THIS GRANT FUNDING?
This is an excellent mechanism for supporting early career investigators in nephrology toward research independence. I encourage all eligible early career scientists to apply for this prestigious award.
KidneyCure congratulates the talented group of researchers and educators who were awarded grants in 2019.

**Transition to Independence 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 Transition to Independence Grants Program is supported by contributions provided by ASN, Akebia Therapeutics, Amgen, and individual donors.

**Carl W. Gottschalk Award Recipients**

Subhashini Bolisetty, PhD  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
*Targeting Ferritin in Sepsis-Associated Acute Kidney Injury*

Louise Evans, PhD  
University of Minnesota  
*Pathological Role of T-Cells in Salt-Sensitive Hypertension*

Naoka Murakami, MD, PhD  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital  
*Roles of Immune Checkpoint Signaling in Autoimmune Kidney Diseases*

Sagar Nigwekar, MD, MMSc  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
*Novel Determinants of Calcific Uremic Arteriolopathy*
Carl W. Gottschalk Award Recipients (continued)

Tengis Pavlov, PhD
Henry Ford Health System
Mechanism and Role of ATP Release in Polycystic Kidney Diseases

Tomokazu Souma, MD, PhD
Duke University
Harnessing Antioxidative Stress Pathways in Renal Epithelial Progenitors to Prevent AKI-to-CKD Transition

(Not Pictured)
Fahad Saeed, MD
University of Rochester
Pilot Testing of a Communication Intervention to Promote Shared Renal Replacement Therapy Decision Making in Older Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease (RRT-SDM Trial)

John Merrill Grant in Transplantation Recipient

Sarah Panzer, MD
University of Wisconsin Madison
Impact of B Cell Survival Cytokines on Transplant Glomerulopathy
Norman Siegel Research Scholar Grant Recipient

Brian Becknell, MD, PhD
The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital
*Therapeutic Urothelial Remodeling: A Novel Strategy to Limit Obstructive Kidney Injury*

Oxalosis and Hyperoxaluria Foundation (OHF)-KidneyCure Grant Recipient

Dylan Dodd, MD, PhD
Stanford University
*Gut Microbiota Modulation of Oxalate*
Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program
The Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program supports nephrology fellows who will advance the understanding of kidney biology and disease and is fully endowed by contributions provided by Fresenius Medical Care, ASN, the American Renal Patient Care Foundation, Inc., Amgen, Baxter, and the PKD Foundation. The program distributes $50,000 a year per fellow for two years.

Ben J. Lipps Research Fellows

Lakshmi Ganesan, MD, MAS
Stanford University
Pediatric Peritoneal Dialysis and Uremic Solutes

Kana Miyata, MD
University of Montreal Hospital Research Center
Novel Role of Heterogeneous Nuclear Ribonucleoprotein F (hnRNP F) in Regulation of Sodium-Glucose Cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) Expression in Diabetes

Nabin Poudel, PhD
University of Virginia
Pannexin1 and Acute Kidney Injury

Katherine Scovner, MD
Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Acid-Base Status of Hospitalized Patients on Maintenance Hemodialysis as a Predictor of Hospital Outcomes

Seyedmohammad Ebrahim Tahaei, PhD
University of Maryland, Baltimore
Illuminating the Mechanisms that Control Salt Balance in the Face of NCC Inhibition
Sharon Anderson Research Fellow

Sri Lekha Tummalapalli, MD, MBA
University of California, San Francisco
Screening Strategies for Chronic Kidney Disease in US Populations

George B. Rathmann Research Fellow

Michael Holliday, Jr., MD, PhD
Baylor College of Medicine
From Bedside to Bench: Gramoxone and Mesoamerican Nephropathy

Jared J. Grantham Research Fellow

Ken Sutha, MD, PhD
Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital
Patient-Derived Kidney Organoids

Donald E. Wesson Research Fellow

Xiao-Tong Su, PhD
Oregon Health and Science University
Dietary Potassium Causes Chloride-Induced Distal Hypertension

Dimitrios G. Oreopoulos Research Fellow

Aneta Przepiorski, PhD
University of Pittsburgh
Modeling Kidney Fibrosis and Testing Therapeutic Compounds in Human Kidney Organoids
William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Grant Program
The William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program provides funding to clinician educators to conduct a project to advance all facets of nephrology education and teaching. The program provides $50,000 a year for two years to one recipient annually.

(Not Pictured)
Tushar Chopra, MBBS, FASN
University of Virginia
Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) Curriculum
Development to Improve PD Prescription Writing Amongst Nephrology Trainees

American Society of Nephrology-Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program
The ASN-Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program aims to increase diversity among future leaders in nephrology by supporting the research and career development of a kidney scholar and future healthcare leader from a historically disadvantaged background.

Rasheeda Hall, MD, MS
Duke University
Establishing Evidence to Manage Geriatric Syndromes in Hemodialysis Patients
ASN Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program
The ASN Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program provides $10,000 a year per recipient for two years to early career-stage PhD students to conduct original research projects and make contributions to the understanding of kidney biology and disease.

Benjamin Bowe
St. Louis VA Health Care System
Identification of Inpatient Acute Kidney Injury and Phenotypes Using Large Scale Electronic Medical Records

Yijiang Chen
Case Western Reserve University
Computational Pathology Approach for Characterizing Kidney Biopsies and Predicting APOL1 Risk Variants

Pei-Ju Liu
SUNY Upstate Medical University
The Role of Myo1e- and Clathrin-Dependent Endocytic Trafficking in Podocyte Health and Disease

Franco Puleo
Boston University
Sympathetic Nervous System Regulation of the NCC in Salt Sensitive Hypertension

Annie Ryan
UT Southwestern Medical Center
Elucidating Vascular Signals in Nephron Formation Using Human Organoids
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KidneyCure gratefully acknowledges our Founders Circle Members for their generous contributions. With the help of our Founding Members, KidneyCure 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.

**Transition to Independence Grants Program Donors**

- **ASN**
  - $15,000,000

- **Akebia Therapeutics**
  - $1,000,000

**Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program Donors**

- **Fresenius Medical Care**
  - $10,000,000

- **ASN**
  - $6,500,000

- **American Renal Associates**
  - $1,000,000

- **Amgen**
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- **Baxter**
  - $1,000,000

- **PKD Foundation**
  - $500,000
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The Visionary Circle recognizes individuals who have donated, pledged, or made a bequest of $75,000 or more to the foundation or its programs.

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- William and Sandra Bennett
- Jonathan and Deb Himmelfarb
- Paula Messenheimer and Ray Harris
- William E. Mitch and Alexandra F. Mitch

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Donations to the *Securing the Future Campaign* support efforts to endow the Transition to Independence Grants Program.

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