2020 Grant Recipients Announced

Congratulations to the 25 new investigators joining the esteemed roster of KidneyCure grant recipients this year. These talented researchers are making vital contributions to our understanding and treatment of kidney diseases, including acute kidney injury and repair, home dialysis health care policy, and post kidney transplant cardiovascular care. The announcement can be found here. Be sure to click each recipient's name to link to their Kidney News Online profile.

Donor Spotlight: William and Sandra Bennett

The William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program was established in 2013 through a generous gift from former ASN President William M. Bennett, MD, FASN, and his wife Sandra with the goal of producing the next generation of clinician educators.

Learn more about Dr. and Mrs. Bennett, including how they first got involved with ASN, what motivates them to give, and their other interests here.

Grant Recipients at Work

Past KidneyCure grant recipients, working across the research spectrum, continue to advance our understanding and treatment of kidney diseases beyond their initial grant period. Find highlights of recent works and publications as submitted by former KidneyCure grant recipients here.

If you have any questions, please contact us at kidneycure@asn-online.org or 202-640-4660.

Make a Donation
Donor Spotlight: William and Sandra Bennett

The William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program was established at KidneyCure (the ASN Foundation) in 2013 through a generous gift from former ASN President William M. Bennett, MD, FASN, and his wife Sandra with the goal of producing the next generation of clinician educators. In the following interview recorded in July 2020, Dr. and Mrs. Bennett share more about their motivations and interests.

How did you first get involved with the American Society of Nephrology (ASN)?

WILLIAM “BILL” M. BENNETT, MD, FASN: I was training in nephrology at Mass General and I went to an ASN meeting in 1968. It was in Washington, DC and I drove down with another fellow from my program. We went to the meeting and decided nephrology was for us, so joined the ASN.

I was the first elected councilor to the ASN Council. Before that, new councilors were selected by those who were already in office. They opened it up for an election and I was one of three people on the ballot. I got elected, surprisingly. I say it was a surprise at the time because I was a regular kidney doctor and not a basic investigator. I spent years on the Council and became ASN President in 1998.

Your generous commitment in 2013 established the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program. What motivated you to make this gift and why do you think it is important to support clinician educators?

BILL: My wife and I were at a place in life where our kids were all doing okay and we were looking at our investments, retirement, and other assets. It is Sandra’s goal to give all the money away.

SANDRA S. BENNETT: I told him if he kept working past the age of retirement, I was going to give away all of his salary.

BILL: I worked at Oregon Health and Sciences University from 1970 through 1999, so I got retirement from the state of Oregon, and as Sandra said, she wanted to give everything else away. We started picking favorite charities and causes and I picked the ASN Foundation (it wasn’t called that then). I saw the need within academic medicine across all divisions of nephrology for clinicians who actively saw patients and could inspire the next generation. It used to be that most of the leaders in nephrology were basic researchers who weren’t always good teachers or clinical role models. I wanted to fund a mechanism to support clinician educators.

In your opinion, what is the most important work that KidneyCure (the ASN Foundation) does?

BILL: I think all the initiatives that are supporting research, innovation, and training of the next generation of nephrologists for the ‘real world’ are important for the survival of our discipline and the betterment of the health of the population. There are so many innovations that it’s hard to pick out one.
I think it’s wonderful how recent leaders of ASN and the foundation, such as Ron Falk, Sharon Moe and Tom Coffman, have had the vision to ramp up programming and take a broader look beyond funding basic research grants.

What are some other causes and organizations you support?

SANDRA: It’s a long list. We have a required minimum distribution (RMD) from Bill’s retirement account every year, which can be spent on charitable donations. We typically distribute the required minimum RMD to a variety of charities every year, which is a fun thing to do. The balance of the RMD is put into a Vanguard Charitable donor-advised fund so we can distribute funds later. Besides KidneyCure, we’ve contributed to the Children’s Home Society of Washington, Donate Life Northwest, Hillsdale College, Judicial Watch, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Parent TV Council, PKD Foundation, Salvation Army, Good Samaritan Foundation for the Bennett Chair in Transplant Medicine and more. It’s pretty varied, but many have to do with supporting children in the US and internationally.

BILL: We are also very involved in drug prevention and education. In 1986, we tragically lost our oldest son at age 22 when he was a student at the University of Oregon from a drug related incident which caused a fatal cardiac arrest. It was a life-changing event and since then we’ve been fighting against the legalization of illicit psychoactive and addictive drugs. Sandra is also devoted to drug prevention education towards children. It’s a difficult subject due to societal changes. The media often portrays drug use as innocent fun, but the toll on families that lose children is enormous. And until you experience it, you can’t really understand it.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

BILL: I am very passionate about baseball and we have a one-year old puppy. I also read a lot.

SANDRA: I write and do other computer-based activities for my work in drug prevention education. And I garden.

BILL: We also like to visit our children and grandchildren (when we can), who live in Hawaii, Seattle, Portland, and the Philippines.

SANDRA: We have a very large, diverse family: a garden of nations.
Grant Recipients at Work

Highlights of recent works and publications as submitted by former KidneyCure grant recipients. Grant award year is indicated in parentheses.

David Askenazi, MD, MS, FASN (2011)
- Prevalence of acute kidney injury (AKI) in extremely low gestational age neonates (ELGAN)
- AWAKEN-Ing a New Frontier in Neonatal Nephrology

Massimo Attanasio, MD (2010)
- Innate Immune Signaling Contributes to Tubular Cell Senescence in the Glis2 Knockout Mouse Model of Nephronophthisis

Amandeep Bajwa, PhD (2017)
- FTY720 Regulates Mitochondria Biogenesis in Dendritic Cells to Prevent Kidney Ischemic Reperfusion Injury

Ulf Beier, MD, DrMed (2017)
- Tissue Metabolic Profiling Shows that Saccharopine Accumulates During Renal Ischemic-Reperfusion Injury, While Kynurenine And Itaconate Accumulate in Renal Allograft Rejection
- Vecuronium- and Esmolol-Induced Pseudohypernatremia Due to Drug Interference With Ion-Selective Electrodes
- HDAC10 Deletion Promotes Foxp3+ T-Regulatory Cell Function

Steven C. Borkan, MD (2008)
- Cross Organelle Stress Response Disruption Promotes Gentamicin-Induced Proteotoxicity
- T95 Nucleophosmin Threonine 95 Phosphorylation as a Novel Mediator and Marker of Cell Death in Acute Kidney Injury

Dorin Bogdan Borza, PhD (2003)
- Maternal Alloimmune IgG Causes Anti-Glomerular Basement Membrane Disease in Perinatal Transgenic Mice That Express Human Laminin α5

Patrick Brophy, MD (2002)
- Children with Vesicoureteric Reflux Have Joint Hypermobility and Occasional Tenascin XB Sequence Variants.
- A Prospective Multi-Center Quality Improvement Initiative (NINJA) Indicates a Reduction in Nephrotoxic Acute Kidney Injury in Hospitalized Children
- Prevalence of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) in Extremely Low Gestational Age Neonates (ELGAN)

Wei Chen, MD, MS, FASN (2017)
- Three-dimensional Imaging Provides Detailed Atherosclerotic Plaque Morphology 1 and Reveals Angiogenesis after Carotid Artery Ligation
- Veverimer for Treatment of Chronic Metabolic Acidosis in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease
Emilie Cornec-Le Gall, MD (2015)
• Clinical Spectrum, Prognosis and Estimated Prevalence of DNAJB11-nephropathy

Jie Cui, MD (2013)
• Atorvastatin Reduces in Vivo Fibrin Deposition and Macrophage Accumulation Improves Primary Patency Duration and Maturation of Murine Arteriovenous Fistula
• Changes in Interventional Radiology Practice in a Tertiary Academic Center in the United States during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Paul DeCaen, PhD (2017)
• Molecular Dysregulation of Ciliary Polycystin-2 Channels Caused by Variants in the TOP Domain
• Structure And Function of Polycystin Channels in Primary Cilia

Zheng Dong, PhD, FASN (2001)
• Protein Kinase C-δ Mediates Kidney Tubular Injury in Cold Storage-Associated Kidney Transplantation

Paul Drawz, MD, MS (2015)
• Association of 24-Hour Ambulatory Blood Pressure Patterns with Cognitive Function and Physical Functioning in CKD

Nwamaka Eneanya, MD, MPH, FASN (2013)
• Caring for Older Patients with Advanced Chronic Kidney Disease and Considering Their Needs: A Qualitative Study
• Prioritizing Equity in A Time of Scarcity: The COVID-19 Pandemic

Anil Karihaloo, PhD (2007)
• Prognostic Imaging Biomarkers for Diabetic Kidney Disease (Ibeat): Study Protocol

Malgorzata Kasztan, PhD (2016)
• High Molecular Weight Kininogen Contributes to Early Mortality and Kidney Dysfunction in a Mouse Model of Sickle Cell Disease
• Diurnal Control of Blood Pressure Is Uncoupled From Sodium Excretion
• Sex Differences in the Trajectory of Glomerular Filtration Rate in Pediatric and Murine Sickle Cell Anemia

Farrukh M. Koraishy, MD, PhD, FASN (2012)
• Outcomes Associated with the Use of RAAS Blockade in Hospitalized Patients with SARS-Cov-2 Infection
• Prescription Patterns of Opioids and Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs in the First Year After Living Kidney Donation: An Analysis of U.S. Registry and Pharmacy Fill Records
• Telenephrology: An Emerging Platform for Delivering Renal Health Care
Fangming Lin, MD, PhD, FASN (2006)
- Molecular Regulation and Function of Foxo3 in Chronic Kidney Disease
- Role of Pediatric Nephrologists in Managing Adults with AKI Due to COVID-19
- Restraining Lysosomal Activity Preserves Hematopoietic Stem Cell Quiescence and Potency

Alicia A. McDonough, PhD (2009)
- Electrolyte and Transporter Responses to Angiotensin II Induced Hypertension in Female and Male Rats and Mice
- Potassium Homeostasis and Management of Dyskalemia in Kidney Diseases: Conclusions from a Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Controversies Conference
- Report of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Working Group on Hypertension: Barriers to Translation

Javier Neyra, MD, MS, FASN (2014)
- Use of Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors/Angiotensin Receptor Blockers and Acute Kidney Disease after an Episode of AKI: A Multicenter Prospective Cohort Study
- Continuous Versus Intermittent Infusion of Vancomycin and the Risk of Acute Kidney Injury in Critically Ill Adults: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
- Impact of Protocolized Diuresis for De-Resuscitation in the Intensive Care Unit

Rulan S. Parekh, MD, MS, FASN (2000)
- Association of Time-Varying Blood Pressure with Chronic Disease Progression in Children
- Prediction of Short and Long-Term Outcomes in Childhood Nephrotic Syndrome
- Regional Patterns and Association Between Obesity and Hypertension in Africa: Evidence From the H3Africa CHAIR Study

Farzana Perwad, MD (2012)
- α-Lipoic Acid (ALA) Improves Cystine Solubility in Cystinuria: Report of 2 Cases
- Association Between Chronic Kidney Disease–Mineral Bone Disease (CKD-MBD) and Cognition in Children: Chronic Kidney Disease in Children (CKiD) Study

Aaron J. Polichnowski, PhD (2017)
- Pathophysiology of Unilateral Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury: Importance of Renal Counterbalance and Implications for the AKI-CKD Transition

Michael I. Rauchman, MD (2004)
- Pharmacologic Inhibition Of RGD-Binding Integrins Ameliorates Fibrosis and Improves Function Following Kidney Injury
- The Core SWI/SNF Catalytic Subunit Brg1 Regulates Nephron Progenitor Cell Proliferation and Differentiation

Timo Rieg, MD (2010)
- An Inducible Intestinal Epithelial Cell-Specific NHE3 Knockout Mouse Model Mimicking Congenital Sodium Diarrhea
Meghan E. Sise, MD, MS (2013)
- Remdesivir in Patients with Acute or Chronic Kidney Disease and COVID-19
- Acute Kidney Injury and Electrolyte Abnormalities After Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-Cell (CAR-T) Therapy for Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma
- Direct-Acting Antiviral Therapy Slows Kidney Function Decline in Patients with Hepatitis C Virus Infection and Chronic Kidney Disease

Leonidas Tsiokas, PhD (2010)
- Loss of Polycystins Suppresses Deciliation via the Activation of the Centrosomal Integrity Pathway

Robert H. Weiss, MD, MS, FASN (2001)
- A High-Throughput Screening Platform for Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) Drug Repurposing Utilizing Murine and Human ADPKD Cells
- Plasma Metabolites and Lipids Associate With Kidney Function and Kidney Volume in Hypertensive ADPKD Patients Early in the Disease Course
- Anti-Cancer Activity of PAK4/NAMPT Inhibitor and Programmed Cell Death Protein-1 Antibody in Kidney Cancer

Rabi Yacoub, MD, FASN (2014)
- The Gastrointestinal Microbiome in Chronic Renal Diseases
- The Presence and Location of Podocytes in Glomeruli as Affected by Diabetes Mellitus

Alan S. L. Yu, MBChB (1998)
- Claudin-2 Deficiency Associates with Hypercalciuria in Mice and Human Kidney Stone Disease