



# PRESS RELEASE

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## KIDNEYCURE ANNOUNCES 2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

### *Highlights*

- *KidneyCure, the largest kidney-focused private research funder, is proud to support a cohort of 45 investigators with \$3.2 million in 2025 funding.*
- *The 23 new KidneyCure grantees added in 2025 represent the future leaders of nephrology and science working at some of the most prestigious academic research institutions in the United States.*
- *In uncertain times for kidney research, the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) is committed to building on its over \$50 million investment in the kidney research pipeline with new research and innovations.*

**Washington, DC (July 1, 2025)** — KidneyCure today announced the addition of 23 new grant recipients for 2025, each of whom will receive much needed funding to continue their work in groundbreaking kidney research. The 2025 grant recipients, listed below, join an accomplished cohort of KidneyCure grantees who are making discoveries that will improve the lives of people with kidney diseases.

KidneyCure supports a broad pipeline of future leaders of nephrology and science including pre-doctoral students, fellows, early career investigators, and educators. The research interests of these individuals range from basic to clinical science, from striving to slow the progression of kidney diseases to discovering better treatments for kidney failure.

Together these 23 new grantees join a cohort of 22 continuing grantees and represent a total investment of \$3.2 million by KidneyCure into the nephrology research pipeline in 2025 alone.

“With tens of billions of dollars at risk of being removed from the U.S research pipeline, now more than ever it is imperative that we support early-stage investigators across the kidney research spectrum,” said Deidra Crews, MD, ScM, FASN, Chair of the KidneyCure Board of Directors. “This year’s KidneyCure grant recipients represent not only the best

and brightest minds working in nephrology, but also our unyielding commitment to a world without kidney diseases.”

Since its inception, KidneyCure has provided over \$50 million in support to more than 400 investigators who have achieved considerable success in their careers, assuming key roles as medical directors, division chiefs, industry leaders, and ASN Presidents.

**Transition to Independence Grants Program**

The Transition to Independence Grants Program helps young investigators achieve independent research careers and is supported by contributions provided by ASN, Akebia Therapeutics, Inc., Otsuka and Visterra, and individual donors.

Annabel Biruete, PhD  
Purdue University  
*Dietary Fiber in Chronic Kidney Disease*

Robert Bronstein, PhD  
Stony Brook University  
*Fosl2 Control of Epigenomic and Splicing Dynamics in Crescentic Glomerulopathies*

Denver Brown, MD  
Children's Research Institution/Children's National Hospital-George Washington University  
*Metabolic Acidosis and Growth in a Heterogeneous Pediatric CKD Population: A Target Trial Emulation Study*

Monica Chang-Panesso, MD  
Washington University in St. Louis  
*Elucidating the Role of Metabolic Reprogramming in the Repair Capacity of the Aged Kidney*

Caroline Hsu, MD, MS  
Tufts Medical Center  
*Peritoneal Dialysis in Hospitals and Skilled Nursing Facilities*

Gabriel Loeb, MD, PhD  
University of California San Francisco  
*Identifying Novel Drivers of Kidney Disease Using Human Genetics*

Jonathan Nelson, PhD  
University of Southern California  
*Defining the Physiological Actions of the Interstitium*

Balaji Karthick Subramanian, PhD  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
*Tissue Chip System to Study Normal and Disease Podocyte Behaviors*

Hengcheng Zhang, MD, PhD  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
*The Role of Intrarenal T Follicular Helper Cells in Mediating Graft Dysfunction After Kidney Transplantation*

**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., Vantive, and the PKD Foundation.

Joshua Carty, MD  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
*Dissecting Energy Metabolism in the Regulation of Water Homeostasis*

Bernhard Dumoulin, MD  
University of Pennsylvania  
*Novel Approaches to Target B Cells in Chronic Kidney Disease*

Ali Etemadi, MD  
Stanford University  
*A Precision Medicine Approach to Optimizing Beta-Blocker Therapy in Hemodialysis*

Kashvi Gupta, MD, MPH  
University of California San Francisco  
*Towards Better Blood Pressure Management Among Chronic Dialysis Patients*

Stephanie Lapierre-Nguyen, PhD  
University of Colorado, Denver  
*Inspiratory Muscle Strength Training for Improving Cerebrovascular and Cognitive function in Midlife and Older Adults with Chronic Kidney Disease*

Melina Messing, PhD  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
*Immune Mechanisms Underlying Efficacy of Ketogenic Metabolic Therapy in Polycystic Kidney Disease*

Brona Moloney, MB Bch BAO

Brigham and Women's Hospital

*Novel Volume Assessment Techniques for Predictive Cardiorenal Outcomes in High-Risk Cardiovascular Chronic Kidney Disease Patients in an Ambulatory Setting*

Ayodeji Oteyola, PhD, MS

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

*Atypical FAT1 Cadherin and Vascular Calcification in Chronic Kidney Disease*

Magdalena Riedl Khursigara MD, PhD

Broad Institute

*Elucidating the Role of TMED7 in Trafficking of Misfolded Protein Mucin 1*

Elena Zion, MD

Boston Children's Hospital

*AAV-based Gene Replacement Therapy in Mouse Models of RCAD Due to Hnf1b Loss*

#### **KidneyCure Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program**

The KidneyCure Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program provides funding to early career-stage PhD students to conduct original research projects and make contributions to the understanding of kidney biology and disease.

Joanna Cunanan, MSc, BSc

University Health Network

*Mice With a Pax2 Missense Mutation are More Susceptible to Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis and Display Impaired Glomerular Repair*

Isaac Karel, BA

The Ohio State University

*A Novel Approach to Kidney Function Monitoring*

Amanda Suda, MS

University of Pittsburgh

*Epithelial-derived miR-17~92 Regulates Jak/Stat, Serving in Female Renoprotection From Acute Kidney Injury*

#### **William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars 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.

Sophia Ambruso, DO

Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center, University of Colorado School of Medicine

*ABC Kidney - Development, Implementation and Assessment of a Gamified, Interactive Kidney Physiology Tutorial for Undergraduate Medical Education*

To learn more about the 2025 recipients, please visit [KidneyCure.org](https://KidneyCure.org).

*KidneyCure was established in 2012 and funds the Transition to Independence Grants Program, the Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program, the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program, the KidneyCure Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program, and the American Society of Nephrology-Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program. Since ASN began funding grants in 1996, the society and the foundation have awarded more than \$50 million in funding for cutting edge research. For more information on KidneyCure or its grant programs, please visit [www.kidneycure.org](https://www.kidneycure.org) or contact [grants@asn-online.org](mailto:grants@asn-online.org) or 202.640.4660.*

**About the American Society of Nephrology (ASN)**

*Since 1966, ASN has been leading 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. ASN has nearly 22,000 members representing 141 countries. For more information, visit [www.asn-online.org](https://www.asn-online.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).*

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