



# PRESS RELEASE

**ASN Contact:** Christine Feheley  
(202) 640-4638 | [cfeheley@asn-online.org](mailto:cfeheley@asn-online.org)

## KIDNEYCURE ANNOUNCES 2026 GRANT RECIPIENTS

### *Highlights*

- *KidneyCure, the ASN Foundation for Kidney Research, is the largest private funder of kidney research and is proud to support a cohort of 56 investigators with over \$4 million in 2026 funding.*
- *The 34 new grantees represent the sharpest scientific minds and most promising researchers in the kidney community.*
- *In uncertain times for biomedical research, KidneyCure is committed to building on its over \$60 million investment in the kidney research pipeline and supporting the careers of future independent kidney researchers who are essential to improving kidney health.*

**Washington, DC (July 1, 2026)** —*The 2026 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 kidney health leaders including pre-doctoral students, post-docs, early career investigators, and educators. These individual's research interests range from basic to clinical science and from slowing the progression of kidney diseases to better future treatments for kidney failure.

Together these 34 new grantees join a cohort of 22 continuing grantees and represent a total investment of more than \$4 million by KidneyCure into the kidney research pipeline in 2026 alone.

“As cultivating a career in academic research becomes more daunting, KidneyCure is excited to help grow these promising investigators into the leaders of tomorrow,” said Prabir Roy-Chaudhury, MD, PhD, FASN, Chair of the KidneyCure Board of Directors. “This is an exciting time to be a kidney doctor, and the future of kidney health depends on the discoveries and innovations pioneered by our grantees.”

Since its inception, KidneyCure has provided over \$60 million in support to more than 400 investigators who have gone on to become outstanding basic scientists, transformational

physician scientists, medical directors, division chiefs, industry leaders, and ASN Presidents.

**Transition to Independence Grant Program**

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

Laith Al-Rabadi, MD

University of Utah Health

*HTRA1-Mediated Disruption of Complement Factor H Recruitment as a Mechanism of Glomerular Basement Membrane Injury in Membranous Nephropathy and Related Complementopathies*

Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant

Juan Pablo Arroyo Ornelas, MD, PhD

Vanderbilt University

*Dissecting the Function of Kidney-Expressed Vasopressinase: Insulin Regulated Aminopeptidase (IRAP) in the Association Between Water Balance and Insulin Resistance*

Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant

Fabian Bock, MD, PhD

Vanderbilt University

*Rac1 and the Actin Cytoskeleton in Multicystic Kidney Dysplasia*

Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant

Michaela A. A. Fuchs, PhD

Weill Cornell Medicine

*Targeting CYP24A1 in the Parathyroid Glands as a Novel Treatment of Secondary Hyperparathyroidism in Chronic Kidney Disease*

Joseph V. Bonventre Career Development Grant

Ashima Gulati, MD, PhD, FASN

Children's National Research Institute

*Defining Immunomodulatory Mechanisms in Autosomal Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease*

Norman Siegel Research Scholar Grant

Ashley R. Jackson, PhD

Nationwide Children's Hospital

*Do Urothelial Mechanoreceptors Trigger Nephroprotective Adaptations?*

Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant

Sherry Mansour, MD, MS

Yale University

*Integrating Clinical Modeling and Vascular Biology to Understand Cardiovascular Risk After Kidney Transplantation*

John Merrill Grant in Transplantation

Robert E. Van Sciver, PhD

University of Alabama at Birmingham

*Unraveling Ciliary Signaling Defects in Polycystic Kidney Disease*

Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant

Jing (Jason) O. Wu, PhD

University of Arizona

*Determinants of PFAS Nephrotoxicity and Elimination in Chronic Kidney Disease*

Norman and Sandra Coplon Research Scholar Grant

**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, Vantive, and the PKD Foundation.

Simon Correa, MD, MS, MSc

Brigham and Women's Hospital

*Magnesium Deficiency and Kidney Disease: Exploring Novel Pathways of CKD Progression*

Joseph A. Carlucci Research Fellowship

Courtney Giannini, MD, PhD

University of Colorado

*Large Scale Discovery of Novel Gene Environment Interactions in Pediatric and Adult Chronic Kidney Disease*

Donald E. Wesson Research Fellow

Mohona Gupta, PhD, MS

University of California San Francisco

*Mechanism-Guided Corrector Discovery for ADPKD: From Defining the PC1/PC2 Ciliary Ca<sup>2+</sup> Axis to Small-Molecule Rescue*

Jared J. Grantham Research Fellowship

Sarah Haeger, MD, PhD

University of Washington  
*Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Chronic Heart Failure-Induced Kidney Injury*  
Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship

Taylor C. Kress, PhD  
Duke University  
*Cooperative Actions of Myeloid RelA and Twist1 to Disrupt Hypertension Pathogenesis*  
KidneyCure Research Fellowship

Chenyu Li, PhD  
University of Pennsylvania  
*Toward a Virtual Kidney: Foundation Models for Translational Kidney Biology*  
Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship

Kenji Matsui, MD, PhD  
Washington University in St. Louis  
*Dissecting NFAT5 Regulation of Failed-repair Proximal Tubular Cells in the Transition from Acute Kidney Injury to Chronic Kidney Disease*  
Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship

Kavita Mistry, MD, PhD, FASN  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
*Mechanisms of Acute Tubulointerstitial Nephritis in Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor-Treated Patients*  
Sharon Anderson Research Fellowship

Shivani Sharma PhD, MSc  
Washington University in St. Louis  
*Role of Mitochondrial Pyruvate Complex in Chronic Kidney Disease Injury*  
Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship

Melissa S. Zhou, MD  
Stanford University  
*Association Between Acute Kidney Injury and Brain Perfusion and Structure in Preterm Infants*  
Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship

**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.

Ronald Canlla

University of Pennsylvania  
*Engineering Remote Control Over Human Kidney Branching Morphogenesis*

Qing Li, MS  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
*Blocking FGF23-FGFR4 Signaling in a Mouse Model of Nephrotic Syndrome Protects from Cardiac Hypertrophy*

Srishti Sahu, MS, MSc  
University of Montreal  
*Deciphering Complement Pathway Activation Mechanisms in Childhood IgA Nephropathy*

**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.

Fatima Ayub, MD, FASN  
Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System  
*Empowering the Kidney Workforce: An Integrated Educational Model for Nephrology Nurse Practitioners*

**Bridge Grant Pilot Program**

The Bridge Grant Pilot Program provided support to kidney researchers whose National Institutes of Health R01 applications were unfunded because of changes to the federal grant structure.

Subhashini Bolisetty, PhD  
University of Alabama at Birmingham

David A. Drew, MD, MS  
Tufts Medical Center

Tarek M. El-Achkar, MD, FASN  
Indiana University

Ronald Falk, MD, FASN  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Chou-Long Huang, MD, PhD  
University of Iowa

Moe Mahjoub, PhD  
Washington University in St. Louis

Aline Martin, PhD, MS  
Northwestern University

Hiroyuki Nakai, MD, PhD  
Oregon Health & Science University

Michelle C. Starr, MD, MPH, FASN  
Indiana University

Lei Wang, PhD  
University of South Florida

Kenneth E. White, PhD  
Indiana University

To learn more about the 2026 recipients, please visit [KidneyCure.org](https://KidneyCure.org).

### **About KidneyCure**

*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 \$60 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 more than 20,000 members representing 138 countries. For more information, visit [www.asn-online.org](https://www.asn-online.org) and follow us on Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram, Threads, and Bluesky. # # #*

*For more information, visit [www.asn-online.org](https://www.asn-online.org) and follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/asnonline), [X](https://twitter.com/asnonline), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/asn-online), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/asnonline).*

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