



# PRESS RELEASE

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## KIDNEYCURE ANNOUNCES 2024 GRANT RECIPIENTS

### *Highlights*

- *KidneyCure (the ASN Foundation) is honored to continue its support of investigators committed to advancing kidney health. Building on decades of success, KidneyCure makes it possible to improve knowledge and treatment by identifying and funding high-impact projects.*
- *Investigators funded by KidneyCure are making a difference in key areas that impact care for millions. KidneyCure is proud to support excellence and innovation, and to extend the advances that the foundation has propelled since its inception.*

**Washington, DC (June 27, 2024)** — *The 2024 grant recipients, listed below, will extend this trajectory of achievement, and continue to improve quality of life for those living with kidney diseases.*

### **ASN-Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program**

Aiming to increase diversity among future leaders, the American Society of Nephrology Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program provides four years of research and career development support to a nephrologist from a historically disadvantaged background.

Jordan Gabriela Nestor, MD, MS, FASN  
Columbia University

*Utilizing Temporal Electronic Health Record (EHR) for Early Detection of Collagen Type IV-Associated Nephropathy (COL4A-AN)*

### **ASN Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program**

The ASN 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.

Bengucan Gunen, MSPH  
Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health

*Addressing Disparities in Renal Diet Adherence: Leveraging Social Support to Improve Dietary Behaviors Among End Stage Kidney Disease Patients With Obesity*

Arvin Halim

Indiana University School of Medicine

*Modulating the Focal Adhesion Pathway with KL1 to Inhibit Cardiac Fibrosis in CKD*

**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.

Jessica Bahena-López, MD, PhD

Oregon Health & Science University

*Exploring Dual Polarization of CaSR in the Distal Convoluted Tubule: Implications for GPCR Signaling and Sodium Salt Regulation*

Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Award

Ryoichi Bessho, MD, PhD

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

*Dissecting Mitochondrial Electron Transport Function in Renal Fibrogenesis*

Sharon Anderson Research Fellowship Award

Meghana Eswarappa, MD

University of California, San Francisco

*Evaluating Racial Disparities in Chronic Kidney Disease Severity and Treatment in Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease*

Jared J. Grantham Research Fellowship Award

Chenjian Gu, PhD

Washington University in St. Louis

*Novel Regulation of Autophagic Flux for the Treatment of Uromodulin-associated Nephropathy*

Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Award

Robin Lo, MD

Stanford University

*Studying Mechanisms of Tubular Remodeling – Implications for Physiology*

KidneyCure Research Fellowship Award

Samer Mohandes, MD

University of Pennsylvania

*Alternative Splicing in Chronic Kidney Disease*  
Joseph A. Carlucci Research Fellowship Award

Megan L. Noonan, PhD  
Washington University in St. Louis  
*The Role of Alternative Splicing Factor Srsf7 in Diabetic Kidney Disease Progression*  
Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Award

Poornima Dilhani Ekanayake Weerasinghe Mudiyansele, PhD  
Washington University in St. Louis  
*Chronic Neuroinflammation, Neuropathology and Neurocognitive Dysfunction After Acute Kidney Injury*  
Donald E. Wesson Research Fellowship Award

**Transition to Independence Grant 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.

David P. Al-Adra, MD, PhD  
University of Wisconsin  
*Delivery of a Novel Immune Inhibitory Transgene to Kidneys During Normothermic Preservation to Decrease Rejection After Transplantation*  
John Merrill Grant in Transplantation

Jeffrey A. Beamish, MD, PhD  
University of Michigan  
*Control of Proximal Tubule Metabolism by Pax8 in Ischemic Kidney Injury*  
Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant

Andrew S. Beenken, MD, PhD  
Columbia University  
*Structural Mechanisms of Ligand Binding by Cubilin in the Proximal Tubule*  
Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant

Maria Castañeda-Bueno, PhD  
Salvador Zubiran National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition  
*Novel Insights Into the Physiology of the Distal Convoluted Tubule*  
Joseph V. Bonventre Career Development Grant

Scott M. Krummey, MD, PhD  
Johns Hopkins University  
*Role of CD43 Signaling on Effector CD8+ T Cells in Acute Rejection*

Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant

Jennifer Lai Yee, MD, MPH, PhD

University of Michigan

*Precision Medicine in Kidney Disease: Functionally Classify Variants of Nephrotic Syndrome Genes Using a Multiplex Approach*

Norman Siegel Research Scholar Grant

Kyle McCracken, MD, PhD

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

*FOXI1-dependent Genetic Mechanisms of Human Intercalated Cell Development*

Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant

Jennifer A. Schaub, MD

University of Michigan

*A Systems Biology Approach to Identify Cortical and Medullary Gene Regulatory Networks Related to Hypoxia Inducible Factor-1A*

Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant

Nicholas J. Steers, PhD

Columbia University

*Elucidating the Role of T-follicular Like Helper Cells Promoting the Activation of B-cells in IgA Nephropathy*

Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant

### **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.

Sayna Norouzi, MD

Loma Linda University

*Online Glomerular Diseases Fellowship Program: Engaging and Interactive Learning*

To learn more about the 2024 recipients, please visit [KidneyCure.org](https://www.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 ASN 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](http://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](http://www.asn-online.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).*

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