



# PRESS RELEASE

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## KIDNEYCURE ANNOUNCES 2022 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 (July 1, 2022)** —*The 2022 grant recipients, listed below, will extend this trajectory of achievement, and continue to improve quality of life for those living with kidney diseases.*

### **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., and individual donors.

#### **Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grants**

Leo Buckley, PharmD

The Brigham and Women's Hospital

*Pharmacoproteomic Investigation of Colchicine Pharmacology in Chronic Kidney Disease*

Florian Buerger, MD, PhD

Boston Children's Hospital

*Delineating the Role of Secreted Semaphorin 3G in Monogenic and Acquired Glomerulopathies and Studying its Potential Protective Effect for the Kidney's Glomerular Filtration Barrier*

Eman Gohar, MSc, PhD

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

*Intrarenal Estrogen Biosynthesis as a Novel Regulator of Renal Sodium Handling*

Vivek Kasinath, MD  
The Brigham and Women's Hospital  
*Targeted Nanotherapeutics for Renal Cell Carcinoma*

Kenneth Lim, MD, PhD, MPhil, FASN  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
*Translating Biological Discoveries in Klotho into a Therapeutic Strategy for CKD-associated Cardiac Fibrosis*

Sandhya Thomas, MD, FASN  
Baylor College of Medicine  
*SIRP $\alpha$  Mediates Insulin/IGFI Receptor Signaling in CKD-Induced Cardiomyopathy*

Clintoria Williams, PhD  
Wright State University  
*Renoprotective Properties of Zinc Supplementation in Chronic Kidney Disease*

**Norman Siegel Research Scholar Grant**

Jeannine Basta, PhD  
Washington University in St. Louis  
*Investigation of Nephron Maturation and Cessation in a Mouse Model that Disrupts Sall1/NuRD Interaction*

**Joseph V. Bonventre Career Development Grant**

Chengguo Wei, PhD  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
*HCK is a Key Regulator for Macrophage Polarization in Kidney Fibrosis*

**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.

**Joseph A. Carlucci Research Fellowship Award**

Bethany Birkelo, DO  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
*The Role of Tubular Secretory Clearance in the Kidney Elimination of Piperacillin-Tazobactam*

**KidneyCure Research Fellowship Award**

Orhan Efe, MD

Massachusetts General Hospital  
*Selective Regulatory T Cell Expansion by a Novel IL-2 Mutein as a Glucocorticoid  
Minimizing Strategy in Glomerulonephritis*

**Ben J. Lipps Research Fellows**

Michael Granda, MD, MS  
University of Washington  
*Scintigraphic Tubular Assessment of Renal Transplant Secretion*

Benjamin Lidgard, MD  
University of Washington  
*Medical Rate Versus Rhythm Control for the Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation in Dialysis  
Patients*

Jeffrey Pressly, PhD  
University of Miami  
*Oxysterol-Binding Protein Like 7 in Chronic Kidney Disease*

Johnny Bou Saba, MD  
University of Pittsburgh  
*Harnessing the Role of Reparative Tregs in Limiting Early Inflammation after  
Transplantation*

Sho Sugahara, MD, PhD  
Vanderbilt University  
*The Role of Cyclin G1/CDK5 in Maladaptive Dedifferentiation*

**Sharon Anderson Research Fellow**

Esther Oh, PhD  
University of Colorado  
*Vascular Function and Sex Hormones in Women with Chronic Kidney Disease*

**Jared J. Grantham Research Fellow**

Le Xiao, PhD  
Boston Children's Hospital  
*Elucidating the Mechanism of TMED9 and MUC1-fs-mediated Mucin 1 Kidney Disease  
(MKD)*

**Donald E. Wesson Research Fellow**

Qandeel Soomro, MD  
NYU Grossman School of Medicine  
*Phenotyping of Heart Failure in Chronic Kidney Disease using 12-lead ECG-identifying  
Features for Early Identification*

### **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.

Abilash Koratala, MD

Medical College of Wisconsin

*Implementation and Assessment of Longitudinal Stimulation-based Point-of-care Ultrasonography Training for Nephrology Fellows and Medical Residents*

### **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.

Xinyu Dong, MS

Vanderbilt University

*Integrin-related Scaffold Alpha-Parvin Regulates Actin Turnover to Facilitate Kidney Ureteric Bud Development*

Jacqueline Emathingier, BS

Oregon Health and Science University

*Elucidating the Protective Role of Proximal Tubule ACE2 in Acute Kidney Injury*

Yuting Zeng, MS

University of Washington

*Podocyte Inflammation Accelerates Parietal Epithelial Cell Injury in the Aged Kidney*

To learn more about the 2022 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 \$46 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.*

*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 131 countries. For more information, please visit [www.asn-online.org](http://www.asn-online.org) or contact the society at 202-640-4660.*

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