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COPIC Medical Foundation Pledges \$25,000 to Support Kidney Patients

Denver, CO – COPIC Medical Foundation has awarded a \$25,000 grant to the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) to support kidney disease patients in the Denver metro area.

The COPIC Medical Foundation grant will be used to launch a new program in the metro area called Kidney Care Kits. The aim of this program is to ensure that locals with kidney disease receive critical information that will help them navigate the complexities of kidney disease and kidney failure.

"We are grateful to COPIC Medical Foundation for its investment in the local kidney community," said Shannon Clark, Executive Director of the National Kidney Foundation serving Colorado. "These Kidney Care Kits will positively impact patient outcomes. People with kidney disease live longer, healthier lives if they have the information that allows them to make informed choices."

Kidney disease is at alarming levels in the United States. Over 26 million American adults have kidney disease -- and most don't know it. Furthermore, 1 in 3 American adults is currently at risk for developing kidney disease due to high blood pressure, diabetes, a family history of kidney failure or being over age 60.

In Colorado, about 4,200 people are receiving dialysis for kidney failure. There are also 1,938 people registered on the waitlist for a lifesaving kidney transplant.

The purpose of Kidney Care Kits is to provide reliable resources for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD or kidney failure) patients in order to increase care compliance with doctors' recommendations and well-established best practices. These materials will help patients understand their treatment options and participate in better management of their own care.

"It was important for us to equip providers with tools to help them manage and treat their patients with CKD," said Dr. Brian Harrington, Chair of the COPIC Medical

Foundation Grants Committee and a primary care physician from Steamboat Springs. "We are confident this pilot program will bring additional awareness to patients and empower them to make decisions on their personal care plan."

As part of the program, partnerships will be created with kidney care providers in the Denver metro areas to equip 500 CKD and ESRD patients with educational materials, interactive resources, and access to a robust ecosystem of National Kidney Foundation programming.

"COPIC Medical Foundation has consistently backed forward-thinking programs that result in better lives for patients across Colorado," Clark said. "Together, we are working to empower patients to take measures to slow the progression of kidney disease and reduce complications."

Kidney Disease Facts:

- 1 in 3 American adults is at high risk for developing kidney disease today.
- High blood pressure, diabetes, a family history of kidney failure and being over 60 are major risk factors for developing kidney disease.
- 1 in 9 American adults has kidney disease -- and most don't know it.
- Early detection and treatment can slow or prevent the progression of kidney disease.
- Kidney disease risk can be reduced by controlling blood pressure and blood sugar, quitting smoking, regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, and avoiding excessive use of pain medications.

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The **National Kidney Foundation** is the leading organization in the U.S. dedicated to the awareness, prevention and treatment of kidney disease for hundreds of thousands of healthcare professionals, millions of patients and their families, and tens of millions of Americans at risk. For more information, visit www.kidney.org.

Established in 1992, the **COPIC Medical Foundation** supports improved outcomes through grant funding focused on patient safety, quality of care, reducing medical errors, and disease management and transitions in care. The Foundation has provided more than \$5 million in grants and directed donations. It also recognizes physicians for volunteer medical/community service each year and funds scholarships for medical students.



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