Kidney disease is a major health problem in the United States and around the world. Nearly 75,000 Americans are on the waiting list for a lifesaving kidney transplant, and 341,000 rely on a dialysis machine to keep them alive. Recent studies indicate that the disease is on the rise and as many as 26 million Americans currently have chronic kidney disease. Because symptoms may not appear until the kidneys are actually failing, millions of people with kidney damage remain unaware and are not taking steps to protect the health of their kidneys.

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF), a major voluntary non-profit health organization, is dedicated to preventing kidney and urinary tract diseases, improving the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by these diseases and increasing the availability of all organs for transplantation. Through its affiliates and divisions nationwide, the NKF conducts extensive public and professional education aimed at promoting early detection and improving patient care, provides vital patient and community services, including free screenings for those at risk, advocates for patients through legislative action and supports kidney research to identify new treatments.

The NKF relies on individual and corporate donations, foundation and government grants and revenue from special events to support its range of programs, services and initiatives. To make a contribution that will help further our lifesaving efforts, visit www.kidney.org or call the foundation at 800.622.9010.

2008 RESEARCH REPORT AND DIRECTORY

Table of Contents

Commemorating 40 Years................................................................................................................... 1
Research Areas of Study ..................................................................................................................... 6
National Research Awards/Spotlight on Our Researchers .............................................................. 9
Affiliate Research Awards.................................................................................................................. 21
Spotlight on a Donor .......................................................................................................................... 24
How to Apply for NKF Grants .......................................................................................................... 25
How to Support NKF Research......................................................................................................... 25
NKF RESEARCH MILESTONES

- First 13 NKF research fellowships awarded: 1968
- NKF annual research grants pass $1 million mark: 1975
- Medicare coverage of treatment for kidney failure begins, enabling thousands of Americans to benefit from dialysis and transplantation: 1978
- Research grant programs instituted by NKF’s Councils for nurses, dietitians and social workers: 1980
- Peritoneal dialysis approved for use by kidney patients in the U.S.: 1983
- NKF Research Endowment established: 1984
- Cyclosporine approved by FDA for use as anti-rejection drug, enabling thousands more to benefit from kidney transplantation therapy: 1985
- First NKF Young Investigator Grants awarded: 1987
- Gene for polycystic kidney disease identified: 1990
- NKF annual research funding passes $2 million mark: 1994
- First NKF Clinical Scientist Award granted to Lisa Guay Woodford of the University of Alabama: 1997
- NKF annual research funding passes $3 million mark: 1997
- NKF launched Dialysis Outcomes Quality Initiative, establishing clinical practice guidelines to improve patient care in key areas: 1997
- NKF Clinical Research Committee convened for the first time: 2003
- Five-year doubling of National Institutes of Health Research Budget begins: 2008
- NKF announced plans to double the research budget over the next five years: 2008
Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Recognizing the urgent need to stimulate medical research to serve the needs of kidney patients, the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) instituted a program to fund the training of research fellows 40 years ago. The goal was to launch careers that would be dedicated to the study of kidney disease and, ultimately, to improve patient care and outcomes.

Building on the success of that pioneering initiative, in 1987 NKF added the Young Investigator Grant program to assist new medical school faculty members in nephrology programs. In 1994, NKF expanded the scope of its grants once again to embrace clinical scientists engaged in kidney research later in their careers.

A visionary program that started with 13 modest awards has grown over four decades to a multi-million dollar annual investment in kidney disease research. Funding for more than 1,000 researchers and scientists has helped bring about significant progress in kidney disease identification and treatment, especially in dialysis therapy and organ transplantation procedures.

Commemorating 40 Years of Funding

This 2008 Research Report and Directory, marking NKF’s 40 years of research funding, highlights the work of the investigators whom NKF is currently supporting. It also salutes donors, like the Schneider family of Strides for IgA Nephropathy, who have made possible cumulative research awards totaling more than $73,000,000 since 1968.

As part of the commemoration of the 40th anniversary report, we are spotlighting a former NKF Research Fellow, William Henrich, MD, who is now Dean of the Medical School of the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio. His illustrious career epitomizes the lifetime of leadership and scientific contributions NKF’s research grants have helped to initiate. Dr. Henrich represents all the individuals whom NKF has supported with research funding over the past 40 years, and who have contributed to our ever-expanding understanding of the diseases of the kidney and urinary tract. Ultimately, these individuals enhanced quality of care for Americans with kidney and related diseases.

During the period from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, NKF and its local affiliates and divisions will spend approximately $3.4 million on research awards and grants. The studies supported by these awards explore new insights in NKF’s major areas of research focus: chronic kidney disease (CKD); dialysis and transplantation; diseases that accompany CKD, including diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease; and pediatric kidney disease. The studies also investigate research questions identified by the NKF clinical practice guideline development program, Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (KDOQI)TM.
NKF Plans to Double Research Support

As the prevalence of CKD has increased in the United States to an estimated 26 million American adults, NKF is proud to announce plans to double the amount of research funds it makes available to candidates over the next five years. This includes support for Research Fellowships, Young Investigator Grants and Clinical Scientist Awards, in addition to the research grants provided by the NKF Professional Councils, including the Council of Nephrology Social Workers, the Council of Nephrology Nurses and Technicians and the Council on Renal Nutrition.

In announcing the plans to double research support, NKF Immediate Past Chairman Chuck Fruit explained that, “Our Board of Directors expects a new reorganization plan to bring additional success and financial resources to the NKF. We plan to dedicate a significant portion of those new funds to our most important scientific priority: the funding of research. I believe research is actually an important patient service. It helps patients today and those who may not have to be patients tomorrow.”

We invite the giving public to help make this expansion a reality, and the medical community to make the best use of this additional funding. We also welcome your comments on NKF research support and our future plans for the research program.

We appreciate your generous support and continuing interest in our ongoing and growing effort to find new ways to assist those affected with kidney disease.

Dolph Chianchiano, JD, MPA
Senior Vice President for Health Policy and Research

2008 NKF RESEARCH GRANTS BY STUDY AREA
“The research program is truly a point of pride for NKF, having launched so many careers in clinical and basic research that are ultimately touching the lives of thousands of patients.”
Dr. William Henrich welcomes a challenge. He chose the field of nephrology because the physiology of the kidney is the hardest to understand of any organ in the body. “That’s precisely what made the field so appealing to me,” says Henrich, 61, with a smile. “I guess I’m a glutton for punishment.” As a medical student at Baylor College of Medicine in the early 1970s, he was deeply influenced by three brilliant professors who helped “unlock the mystery of renal physiology, making the challenge an incredibly fun experience.”

Shortly after graduating, Henrich received his first Research Fellowship grant—a gift from the National Kidney Foundation. This award enabled him to spend two formative years from 1976–78 in the lab conducting one of the first studies ever to highlight the effect of non-steroidal analgesics (NSAIDs) on kidney blood flow and filtration rate. While learning about the impact of over-the-counter (OTC) painkillers on the kidney, Dr. Henrich learned something very important about himself—that he would never stop doing biomedical research, no matter how high up the professional ranks he climbed.

Perhaps one of the reasons he came to that conclusion is because his research had such a gratifying outcome. Before he began, most medical experts thought NSAIDs were benign in terms of affecting kidney function. His study showed that readily-available OTC painkillers can cause kidney failure under very common conditions. He identified patients who were most at risk for developing analgesic-induced kidney failure, including the elderly and people with heart and liver problems.

Over the years, Henrich continued studying the issue. He even caught the attention of the FDA who invited him to draft language for the packaging insert of numerous OTC painkillers, warning doctors and patients of the threat of kidney damage. “It’s wonderful to see the tangible link between the physiology I observed in the laboratory and have it be relevant in the prevention of kidney failure.”

Immediate Past President of the American Society of Nephrology and currently Dean of the School of Medicine and VP of Medical Affairs at University of Texas Health Science Systems, Henrich jokes that even while administrative duties conspire to take over his life, he has truly never abandoned his love of research. Despite being the lone doctor in a family of lawyers, this soon-to-be grandfather is still passionate about nephrology for the same reasons he entered the field so many years ago. He recently led a large study on analgesics that was published in a major medical journal.

Henrich credits the NKF grant with setting him on a course of biomedical investigation that has been sustained throughout his career. “I will always be very grateful to NKF for the support I received at the beginning of my career. At that time, NKF was the go-to place for research support for fellows. NKF has set a leading example that other major organizations have since followed. . . . the research program is truly a point of pride for NKF, having launched so many careers in clinical and basic research that are ultimately touching the lives of thousands of patients.”
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is very common in people with chronic kidney disease (CKD). In fact, Americans receiving dialysis treatment for kidney failure are up to 30 times more likely to develop CVD than non-dialysis patients. The traditional risk factors for CVD such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol levels do not fully explain the increased rates of CVD in CKD patients.

Because CVD is the leading cause of death in CKD patients, it is important to identify other factors that may play a role in increasing the risk for CVD in these patients. In addition to average blood pressure level, variability in blood pressure may lead to CVD. Blood pressure tends to vary in dialysis patients because of changes in the heart and blood vessels, and because of variations in the amount of body fluids during and between dialysis treatments.

NKF researchers plan to measure blood pressure variations over time in hemodialysis patients, and to assess whether these are associated with an increase in CVD. These findings may lead to new blood pressure treatments to reduce the burden of CVD in dialysis patients.
INFLAMMATION AND CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

Both CKD and inflammation in the body are important risk factors for overall mortality and CVD. Establishing a link between inflammation and early declines in kidney function might lead to new ways to detect and treat inflammation in early CKD. NKF researchers are studying the relationship between changes in markers of inflammation over time and corresponding levels of cystatin C, a new marker of kidney function. These findings could confirm the importance of detecting and treating inflammation in early kidney disease.
To receive hemodialysis treatment, patients must have an access, or entrance, to their bloodstream. An arteriovenous access is created by minor surgery, usually in the patient’s arm, by connecting an artery and a vein. Two types of arteriovenous hemodialysis accesses are available—an arteriovenous fistula (AVF) or a graft. AVFs are the preferred type of access because of significantly lower rates of complications such as infection.

Less than half of U.S. dialysis patients have a functioning AVF. The major reason for this is that 20–55 percent of new AVFs fail to mature, meaning that the blood vessels used to create the AVF do not undergo the changes necessary to support the hemodialysis blood circuit.

Tal Kopel, MD, an NKF Research Fellow at Boston University School of Medicine, is currently evaluating blood vessel function before fistula creation and measuring fistula blood flow after surgery. Dr. Kopel hopes to elucidate the mechanisms underlying fistula maturation failure.

In addition, she hopes to determine whether fistula maturation failure can be identified much earlier. The ultimate goal is to increase the number of hemodialysis patients with functioning AVFs and improve the health of these patients.

“Having a strong passion for my patients’ well-being, I chose to go into clinical research because it allows me to investigate compelling, tangible issues that will hopefully lead to improved patient care and understanding of disease mechanisms. The NKF grant is helping me to accomplish my goal of improving the health of those with end stage kidney failure who depend on hemodialysis as life-sustaining therapy.”
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007

Named Fellowships

SATELLITE DIALYSIS FELLOWSHIP OF THE NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION

Steven M. Brunelli, MD
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
Philadelphia, PA
Title of Project: Blood Pressure Variability in Hemodialysis Patients
Sponsor: Harold I. Feldman, MD, MSCE

NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION STRIDES FOR IgA NEPHROPATHY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Celine Berthier, PhD
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI
Title of Project: Molecular Stratification of Human IgA Nephropathy
Sponsor: Matthias Kretzler, MD

Jennifer Harder-Krans, MD
Regents of the University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI
Title of Project: Trafficking of Crumbs3 Isoforms
Sponsor: Benjamin L. Margolis, MD

Ishir Bhan, MD
The General Hospital Corp DBA
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA
Title of Project: Role of hCAP18/LL37 and Vitamin D in Dialysis Mortality
Sponsor: Ravi Thadhani, MD

Leslie S. Gewin, MD
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN
Title of Project: TGF-Beta Receptor Modulates Response to Renal Injury
Sponsor: Roy Zent, MD, PhD

Michael A. Ferguson, MD
Children’s Hospital Boston
Boston, MA
Title of Project: Urinary Biomarkers in Pediatric Acute Kidney Injury
Sponsor: Joseph V. Bonventre, MD, PhD

Jennifer Harder-Krans, MD
Regents of the University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI
Title of Project: Trafficking of Crumbs3 Isoforms
Sponsor: Benjamin L. Margolis, MD

Andrea Havasi, MD (Third Year)
Boston Medical Center
Boston, MA
Title: The Role of Hsp27 in Akt Activation and Apoptosis
Sponsor: Steven C. Borkan, MD

Jeffrey B. Hodgin, MD, PhD
Columbia University
New York, NY
Title of Project: Molecular Profiling of Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis by Gene Expression Analysis of Laser-Captured Glomeruli
Sponsor: Vivette D. D’Agati, MD

Tambi Jarmi, MD
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL
Title of Project: Role of HO-1 in the Pathogenesis of Lupus Nephritis
Sponsor: Anupam Agarwal, MD

Christopher Ryan Keller, MD
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Title of Project: Linking Inflammatory Biomarkers with Kidney Disease
Sponsor: Michael G. Shlipak, MD

Leslie S. Gewin, MD
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN
Title of Project: TGF-Beta Receptor Modulates Response to Renal Injury
Sponsor: Roy Zent, MD, PhD

Jennifer Harder-Krans, MD
Regents of the University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI
Title of Project: Trafficking of Crumbs3 Isoforms
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Christopher Ryan Keller, MD
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Title of Project: Linking Inflammatory Biomarkers with Kidney Disease
Sponsor: Michael G. Shlipak, MD
Puneet Khandelwal, PhD
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA
Title of Project: Role of Rab 11a in Stretch-Induced Exocytosis of Bladder Uroepithelium
Sponsor: Gerard Apodaca, PhD

Tal Kopel, MD
Boston University School of Medicine
Boston, MA
Title of Project: Determinants and Predictors of AV Fistula Maturation
Sponsor: Laura M. Dember, MD

Sun Woo Lim, PhD
University of Maryland, Baltimore
Baltimore, MD
Title of Project: Regulation of TonEBP by Small Ubiquitin-Like Modifiers
Sponsor: Hyug Moo Kwon, PhD

Douglas Linfert, MD
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Title of Project: Role of T Cells in the Recovery from Ischemic Acute Kidney Injury
Sponsor: Hamid A. Rabb, MD

Zhen Liu, PhD
UT Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, TX
Title of Project: Role of WNK1 in Renal K+ Secretion
Sponsor: Chou-Long Huang, MD, PhD

Sandra Malakauskas, MD, PhD
Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC
Title of Project: Collectrin’s Role in Amino Acid Transport and Cell Growth
Sponsor: Thu Huy Le, MD

Ethan Marin, MD
Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, CT
Title of Project: Increased Endothelial Nitric Oxide Synthase Activity by a Dominant Negative Caveolin
Sponsor: William Sessa, PhD

Radhika Medipalli, MD
Medical College of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, WI
Title of Project: Study to Identify the Source of BK Virus Infection
Sponsor: Sundaram Hariharan, MD

Uzma Mehdi, MD
UT Southwestern
Dallas, TX
Title of Project: Proteomic Biomarkers and Outcome in Diabetic Nephropathy
Sponsor: Robert Daniel Toto, MD

Odyssé Guillaume Spiros Michos, PhD
The Trustees of Columbia University
New York, NY
Title of Project: Regulation of Ureteric Bud Outgrowth and Branching
Sponsor: Franklin D. Costantini, PhD

Joo-Seop Park, PhD (Third Year)
Harvard University
Boston, MA
Title: Identification of Wnt/b-Catenin Targets in Nephrogenesis
Sponsor: Andrew P. McMahon, PhD

Pei-an Betty Shih, PhD
University of California at San Diego
San Diego, CA
Title of Project: Twin Studies of Cardio-Renal Disease Risk: Polymorphism, Pleiotropy, Epistasis and C-Reactive Protein
Sponsor: Daniel Thomas O’Connor, MD

Lara Anne Skelton, PhD
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, OH
Title of Project: Identifying Proximal Tubular CO2 Signaling Proteins
Sponsor: Walter F. Boron, MD, PhD
Kerri Cavanaugh loves blending the comforting logic of hard science with the glorious messiness of human behavior. Cavanaugh, 34, got hooked on the human psyche while at Dartmouth, from which she graduated cum laude with a degree in chemistry and a minor in psychology. As part of a psych class assignment, she hit the streets with a questionnaire and asked strangers about “their sun care behavior.” Sound a shade on the light side of science? To Cavanaugh, it was invaluable training and it has served her well.

Now at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Cavanaugh is passionate about being a nephrologist. “It’s a fantastic sub-specialty,” she says. “It involves a complex disease, multiple treatments, an ever-changing field . . . it’s very exciting! And, as a nephrologist, I can establish very deep relationships with patients.”

Cavanaugh recently received a National Kidney Foundation Young Investigator Award to study health literacy and numeracy. Translation: How patients’ reading and math skills help or hinder their ability to manage a complex disease. She is using the NKF grant to understand how dialysis patients control the amount of fluid they drink between dialysis sessions.

“This is very important because patients who take in too many fluids and gain too much weight have a higher risk of dying than those who control their intake of fluids,” she says. The research will tell her where the breakdowns occur. For example, do patients understand clearly how much fluid they are allowed to drink, why the limits exist and what happens if they overdo it? Solutions might include an education class geared specifically to that one crucial aspect of health management.

Cavanaugh, who also sees patients and teaches, recently gave birth to her second son. His 2-year-old brother was already keeping her and her surgeon husband well-occupied. Still, she remains tireless in seeking creative and effective ways for kidney patients to take control of their care. “For complex diseases such as kidney disease, this can be quite challenging,” she says, “but if we can help patients not simply stay alive, but enjoy a good quality of life, well, that’s extremely rewarding.”
National Kidney Foundation Fellowships

American Society of Transplant Surgeons and The National Kidney Foundation Folkert Belzer, MD Research Award

Andrew J. Vardanian, MD
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA
Title: The Role of Type 1 and Type 2 Interferons in Liver Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury and Transplantation

Center For Clinical Practice Guideline Development And Implementation at Tufts-New England Medical Center Research Fellows

Martin Wagner, MD
Guideline Development Project: KDIGO Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Care of the Kidney Transplant Recipient
Nephrology Project Mentors: Katrin Uhlig, MD, MS; Ethan Balk, MD
Thesis Project: Mycophenolic Acid (MPA) Versus Azathioprine (AZA) for Immunosuppression in Kidney Transplantation—A Systematic Review of the Literature and Meta-Analysis
Thesis Mentors: Katrin Uhlig, MD, MS; Ethan Balk, MD; Christopher Schmid, PhD

Ranjani Moorhi, MD, MPH
Guideline Development Project: KDIGO Clinical Practice Guidelines for the CKD-MBD Disorders
Nephrology Project Mentor: Katrin Uhlig, MD, MS
Thesis Project: Mineral Metabolism and Access Failure in Patients Undergoing Hemodialysis
Thesis Mentors: Dana Miskulin, MD; Andrew Levey, MD
Statistical mentor: Robin Ruthazer, MPH

Named Young Investigator Grants

Fresenius Medical Care, North America/Young Investigator Grant Of The National Kidney Foundation

David J. Askenazi, MD
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL
Title of Project: Acute Kidney Injury in the Premature Neonate
Mentor: Mark Benfield, MD

Shaul G. Massry, MD Young Investigator Grant of The National Kidney Foundation

Vivek Bhalla
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Title of Project: Isoform-Specific Roles for 14-3-3 in Sodium Transport
Mentor: David Pearce, MD

George E. Schreiner, MD Young Investigator Grant of The National Kidney Foundation

Richard Bouley, PhD
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA
Title of Project: Heterologous Down-Regulation of the Vasopressin Receptor Type 2 by Transferring
Mentor: Dennis Brown, PhD

Satellite Dialysis Young Investigator Grant of The National Kidney Foundation

Kerri Cavanaugh, MD
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN
Title of Project: Literacy and Numeracy Impact on Self-Management in ESRD
Mentor: Talat Alp Ikizler, MD

George E. Schreiner, MD Young Investigator Grant of The National Kidney Foundation

Jeffrey John Fadrowski, MD, MHS
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Baltimore, MD
Title of Project: Role of Lead/Cadmium Exposure in CKD in Children
Mentor: Susan L. Furth, MD, PhD

Victor Chaltiel Young Investigator Grant of The National Kidney Foundation

Sandeep Gupta, MD
Regents of the University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
Title of Project: The Renal Stem Cell Niche
Mentor: Mark E. Rosenberg, MD
From the time she was a little girl, Celine Berthier loved “very small things” from blades of grass to bugs. She was a budding researcher even then, destined to peer at very small things under a microscope. But the dye wasn’t cast until she was 19, and as part of her school curriculum in Bordeaux, France, Berthier interned with a pediatric geneticist.

“I was so impressed with her and I asked, ‘What can I do to work as you do?’” recalls Berthier, 33. “She answered that I shouldn’t become a doctor—’We have plenty of those! We need biologists and scientists. They are the ones who really help people!’” That inspiring doctor died a short time later from breast cancer, but she lives on in Berthier who earned her PhD in biochemistry/molecular biology from Bern in Switzerland in 2006.

Thanks to her strong background in molecular biology and nephrology, where she described novel, regulated pathways in chronic renal transplant failure and polycystic kidney disease, Berthier is now concentrating her considerable talents on exploring the molecular mechanism of IgA nephropathy, using tissue taken from people who have the progressive and incurable disease that results in the destruction of the kidney filters through inflammation.

There is virtually no treatment, and those who have IgA nephropathy eventually end up on dialysis. What’s more, there has been very little research into this disease. Enter the NKF and Berthier. “We know virtually nothing about this disease,” says Berthier. “I really want to understand why it happens and then find out how to detect it earlier. Now, we only know it exists when it is already destroying the kidneys. I could not do this work without this grant.”

Berthier, who is single, spends most of her time in the lab, but she also dotes on her cat, Ungaro, and loves attending her Wednesday night French Talk get-togethers. She misses her family and hopes to eventually return to Switzerland, which she finds “peaceful and quiet,” and where she loves to hike in the snow. In the meantime, she’s knitting scarves, and trying to rally during icy and windy midwestern winters. “Waiting for the bus,” Berthier says wryly, “is sometimes not easy.”
National Kidney Foundation Clinical Scientist Award

John Bower, MD Clinical Scientist Award of The National Kidney Foundation

Reza Abdi, MD
Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Boston, MA
Title of Project: The Joint Role of RAS and TGF-β1 in CKD

Professional Council Research Grants

Council on Renal Nutrition

Jackie Carder, MS, RD, CDE and Kay Taylor, RD, CDE
Dialysis Center of Lincoln
Lincoln, NE
Title of Project: Comparison of Predicted Resting Metabolic Rate to Measured Resting Metabolic Rate in Maintenance Dialysis Patients

Joyce Vergili, MS, RD
Columbia University Teachers College
New York, NY
Title of Project: Nutritional Practices of Renal Dietitians in Hemodialysis Centers throughout the United States

Council of Nephrology Social Workers

Mary Beth Callahan, ACSW, LCSW
Dallas Transplant Institute
Dallas, TX
Title of Project: Kidney Transplant Patient Employment Potential: Revaluation of an Important Outcome Measure by Use of New Methodologies

Caroline Jennette, MSW
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC
Title of Project: Renal Replacement Therapy and Barriers to Choice: The Patient’s Perspective

Joseph Merighi, PhD
Boston University School of Social Work
Boston, MA
Title of Project: A Nationwide Survey of Kidney Transplant Social Workers’ Job Roles, Responsibilities and Occupational Well-Being

Council of Nephrology Nurses and Technicians

Robert W. MacKinnon, RN, CNN
Caritas St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center
Brighton, MA
Title of Project: The Impact of Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT) Staffing and Technique on Nursing Resource Utilization, Quality of Care and Patient Safety
No matter what the objective, you always want Christopher Keller on your side. His favorite sport is rock climbing because it requires teamwork and trust. He’s earnest, smart, empathetic and driven. Oh, and extremely loyal. He loves his pharmacist wife and will do almost anything to help her, including spending hours at the mall because his social 9-month-old son Jack sobs at home, but smiles nonstop in Nordstrom’s.

“So, it’s perfectly in character that Keller chose to specialize in the kidney over such organs as the heart or brain. “The kidneys are so challenging and complicated and fascinating, just like human beings,” says Keller, 30, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California at San Francisco. The human beings Keller is determined to help are those with kidney disease. “They are the sickest of patients and they count on you, so you want to do everything you can for them.”

Keller’s clinical research focuses on the associations between inflammation, heart disease and early kidney disease. “We know that inflammation is a key cause of atherosclerosis [hardening of the arteries], leading to heart attacks and strokes,” he explains.

“We are concerned that inflammation may also lead to kidney damage. We are looking to see if people who have evidence of early markers of inflammation in the body also have evidence of faster progression of kidney disease than people who do not have evidence of inflammation. None of these people have advanced kidney disease because we are trying to identify predictors of kidney function decline before it actually occurs.”
## EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006

### Named Fellowship

**National Kidney Foundation/American Society of Transplant Surgeons Folkert Belzer Fellowship**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Au H. Bui, MD</td>
<td>UCLA Medical Center</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title of Project:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Toll-Like Receptor (TLR) System in</strong></td>
<td><strong>the Pathophysiology of Ischemia/Reperfusion Injury (IRI) in Liver Transplantation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sponsor:</strong></td>
<td>Jerzy W. Kupiec–Weglinski, MD, PhD</td>
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### National Kidney Foundation Fellowships

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William S. Asch, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Yale University School of Medicine</td>
<td>New Haven, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title of Project:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Identification of WNK4 Protein Interactions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sponsor:</strong></td>
<td>Richard P. Lifton, MD, PhD</td>
<td></td>
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| Cristina Cebrian, PhD | Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons | New York, NY |
| **Title of Project:** | **Modulation of Kidney Development by Pea3 and Erm** |
| **Sponsor:**         | Frank Costantini, PhD              |              |

| Andy Choi, MD         | University of California, San Francisco | San Francisco, CA |
| **Title of Project:** | **HIV Antiretroviral Therapy in Chronic Kidney Disease** |
| **Sponsor:**         | Ann Margaret O’Hare, MD              |              |

| Scott Cohen, MD       | George Washington University        | Washington, D.C. |
| **Title of Project:** | **Effect of a Social Support Intervention in ESRD Patients** |
| **Sponsor:**         | Paul Kimmel, MD                     |              |

| Maite Courel, PhD     | University of California, San Diego | San Diego, CA |
| **Title of Project:** | **Catecholamine Storage Vesicle Formation: Role of Chromogranin A** |
| **Sponsor:**         | Laurent Taupenot, PhD              |              |

| Julie Goodwin, MD     | Yale University School of Medicine | New Haven, CT |
| **Title of Project:** | **Acute Glucocorticoid-Mediated Hypertension** |
| **Sponsor:**         | David S. Geller, MD, PhD           |              |

| Akio Kobayashi, PhD   | Harvard University                 | Cambridge, MA |
| **Title of Project:** | **Molecular Dissection of Kidney Development and Repair** |
| **Sponsor:**         | Andrew P. McMahon, PhD             |              |

| Stefanie Krick, MD    | Mount Sinai School of Medicine     | New York, NY |
| **Title of Project:** | **Role of Peroxisomal Proteins in Oxidative Stress Pathways in Diabetic Nephropathy** |
| **Sponsor:**         | Erwin Bottinger, MD                |              |

| Roy Matthew, MD       | University of California, San Diego | San Diego, CA |
| **Title of Project:** | **Role of Urinary Kallkrein as Marker of Renovascular Dysfunction in Acute Kidney Injury** |
| **Sponsor:**         | Ravindra Mehta, MD                  |              |

| Luis Fernando Menezes, MD, PhD | Johns Hopkins University | Baltimore, MD |
| **Title of Project:** | **Use of Perturbation Analysis to Study Gene Regulatory Networks in Renal Development** |
| **Sponsor:**         | Gregory G. Germino, MD           |              |

| Martin Senitko, MD    | University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center | Dallas, TX |
| **Title of Project:** | **TLR4 Regulated Genes in Acute Ischemic Renal Injury** |
| **Sponsor:**         | Christopher Y. Lu, MD              |              |
With three kids under age two, Steven Brunelli has discovered that the best way to help his scientist wife and attend to his own work is to take their newest family member, two-month-old insomniac, Tyler, to the lab at night.

In the wee hours, Brunelli bounces his boy on his knee while analyzing data and explaining his passion to uncover why dialysis patients have such a high incidence of cardiovascular disease—tenfold to thirtyfold higher than the general population. “I’m disappointed in him,” quips Brunelli, 33. “He’s not very good at statistics.” That’s o.k., his dad has more than enough knowledge and dedication for the both of them.

Brunelli grew up in West Philadelphia with a probation officer father whom he recalls, “told me I wanted to be a doctor when I was very young. Not being very imaginative, I became a doctor.” Dialysis patients should be grateful. “Doing research that will improve the life expectancy and health of people on dialysis is my life’s work!” says Brunelli, Instructor of Renal, Electrolyte and Hypertension at the University of Pennsylvania. “That’s what this NKF grant is allowing me to do.”

Brunelli is focusing on the relationship between cardiovascular disease (CVD) and blood pressure fluctuations, which are far more frequent and dramatic in their ups and downs in dialysis patients than in others. More than half of dialysis patients die from CVD, which includes heart attacks and strokes. That risk goes down dramatically after kidney transplant when blood pressure becomes less volatile. “I have come to believe that there is something about dialysis that is causing this burden of cardiovascular disease,” says Brunelli.

Using data from more than 10,000 patients who started dialysis between 2004 and 2005, he already has completed a study of long-term blood pressure fluctuations, those that occur over days to weeks. Now, he will begin to analyze these same factors for minute-to-minute fluctuations that occur during dialysis treatments. “If they have committed themselves to undergoing dialysis 12–15 hours a week, which is no picnic,” says Brunelli, “then I can certainly commit myself to making their burden lighter!”
Edward Siew, MD  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Nashville, TN  
Title of Project: Role of Insulin Resistance on  
Hypercatabolism in Acute Kidney Injury  
Sponsor: Alp Ikizler, MD

Akira Suzuki, MD, PhD  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
Dallas, TX  
Title of Project: The Role of Beta-Catenin in PKD  
Sponsor: Peter Igarashi, MD

Ildiko Toma, MD  
University of Southern California,  
Keck School of Medicine  
Los Angeles, CA  
Title of Project: Metabolic Control of Renin Release  
Sponsor: Janos Peti-Peterdi, MD, PhD

Patricia Liu Weng, MD  
Mount Sinai School of Medicine  
New York, NY  
Title of Project: Genetic Determinants of  
Vesicoureteral Reflux  
Sponsor: Ali G. Gharavi, MD

National Kidney Foundation Young Investigator Grants

Ira Greifer, MD Young Investigator Grant of  
The National Kidney Foundation

Clemens Bergwitz, MD  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, MA  
Title of Project: Role of the Renal Sodium-Phosphate  
Cotransporter NaPi-IIc in Phosphate Homeostasis

National Kidney Foundation/National Kidney Foundation of Greater New York  
Young Investigator Grant

Markus Bitzer, MD  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Bronx, NY  
Title of Project: Urinary Markers for  
Progressive Renal Fibrosis

Franklin McDonald, MD/Fresenius Medical Care  
Clinical Research Young Investigator Grant of  
The National Kidney Foundation

Mona Doshi, MD  
Wayne State University  
Detroit, MI  
Title of Project: Impact of Cardiovascular Screening  
and Revascularization Procedures in Patients with ESRD

American Society of Nephrology Young Investigator Grant of The National Kidney Foundation

Dmitry Grigoryev, MD  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, MD  
Title of Project: Genomic Basis of Acute  
Renal Failure Induced Lung Injury

Amgen Young Investigator Grant of  
The National Kidney Foundation

Adriana Hung, MD  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Nashville, TN  
Title of Project: Effect of an IL-1 Receptor Antagonist  
on Inflammation and Metabolism in ESRD

DaVita Young Investigator Grant of  
The National Kidney Foundation

Ivan Maya, MD  
University of Alabama  
Birmingham, AL  
Title of Project: Stent vs. Angioplasty for Treatment of  
Thrombosed AV Grafts: Long-Term Outcomes
Jeffrey Fadrowski, an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center, spends 80 percent of his time investigating the link between chronic kidney disease (CKD) in kids and their exposure to the heavy metals lead and cadmium. But, it’s what he does with the remaining 20 percent of his professional time that fuels his passion for the rigors of research. “My patients,” he says, “are my inspiration and motivation!”

Previous research has shown that exposure to high levels of lead and cadmium is harmful to kidneys. Recently, many studies have also implicated exposure to low-level or non-toxic amounts of lead and cadmium with CKD and its progression. “As exposure to lead and cadmium occurs commonly, evidenced by almost the entire U.S. population having some measurable amount of these substances in their bodies, further research is important,” says Fadrowski, who in addition to being a doctor, holds a master’s degree in epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

“Without the support, a lot of interesting research ideas might not get investigated and many investigators might not be able to continue to pursue a career in research.”

He is grateful that the NKF understands that fact. “Without the support, a lot of interesting research ideas might not get investigated and many investigators might not be able to continue to pursue a career in research.”

Unlike many doctors, Fadrowski enjoys dealing not only with his patients, who range in age from infancy to 22 years, but with their parents too. “I chose to take care of kids because they’re extremely resilient,” says Fadrowski, who is single and loves to travel to such disparate and far-flung spots as Galapagos and Vietnam. “They rarely let their kidney disease define them. But, I also enjoy dealing with their parents, answering their questions, telling them the truth about what’s going on. Is that sappy?” Hardly.
Glaxo Smith Kline Young Investigator Grant of The National Kidney Foundation
Farzana Perwad, MD
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Title of Project: Molecular Regulation of P450c1a Gene by FGF-23

Named Clinical Scientist Award

Satellite Dialysis Clinical Scientist Award of The National Kidney Foundation
Jonathan Bret Jaffery, MD
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI
Title of Project: eHealth, Health Literacy, and Dietary Phosphorous Intake

National Kidney Foundation Clinical Scientist Award
Anil Chandraker, MD
Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Boston, MA
Title of Project: Effect of Quinolones on BK Virus in Transplant Patients

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005

Named Clinical Scientist Award

Dr. And Mrs. William E. Conrady Clinical Scientist Award of The National Kidney Foundation
Ali Gharavi, MD
Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons
New York, NY
Title of Project: Genetic Investigation of Renal and Urological Development Abnormalities

National Kidney Foundation Clinical Scientist Awards
Vaidyanathapuram Balakrishnan, MBBS
Tufts-New England Medical Center
Boston, MA
Title of Project: TGF-Beta 1 and Interleukin-6 Polymorphisms in CKD

Stephen I-Hong Hsu, MD, PhD
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL
Title of Project: “At Risk” Haplotypes for Renal and Urologic Diseases

Title of Project: The Role of Endothelial Function in Predicting Progression of Coronary Disease in Kidney Transplant Recipients

Title of Project: The Role of Endothelial Function in Predicting Progression of Coronary Disease in Kidney Transplant Recipients
Meredith Atkinson, MD, MHS  
Johns Hopkins University; Baltimore, Maryland  
“Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Anemia in Children with Chronic Kidney Disease”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Serena Bagnasco, MD  
Johns Hopkins University; Baltimore, Maryland  
“Proteomic Screening of Urinary Exosomes for Biomarkers in Renal Transplantation”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Prabhakar Baliga, MD  
Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston  
“Center of Excellence in the Transplant Division”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Rasheed Balogun, MD  
University of Virginia, Charlottesville  
“Screening for Depression in Elderly Hemodialysis Patients”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF THE VIRGINIAS

Deepa Chand, MD  
The Children’s Hospital – Cleveland Clinic  
Cleveland, Ohio  
“International Pediatric Fistula First Program”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF OHIO

Bryan Decker, MD, PharmD  
Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis  
“Intradialytic Drug Removal by Short-Daily Hemodialysis”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF INDIANA

Jeffrey John Fadrowski, MD, MHS  
Johns Hopkins University; Baltimore, Maryland  
“The Association of Lead; with Kidney Function in Children”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

David J. Hernandez, MD  
Johns Hopkins University; Baltimore, Maryland  
“Effect of Preconditioning on Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury in a Single-Kidney Porcine Model”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Michael K. Hise, MD  
University of Maryland; Baltimore, Maryland  
“Use of a Health Station”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Ross Isaacs, MD  
University of Virginia, Charlottesville  
“Comparison of Early Screening Results and CKD Measures across Ethnic Groups”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF THE VIRGINIAS

George Jarad, MD  
Washington University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, Missouri  
“Albuminuria Tubular Burden”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION SERVING EASTERN MISSOURI, METRO EAST

Hong Ji, MD  
Georgetown University Medical Center  
Washington, D.C.  
“Role of ACE2 in Estradiol Regulation of Tubulointerstitial Fibrosis”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Tiffany E. Kaiser, PharmD  
University of Cincinnati, Ohio  
“An Appropriate Assessment of Kidney Function in Patients with End Stage Liver Disease—Role of Cystatin C”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF OHIO

Sung Kim, PhD  
University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
“Role of Rho GTPases in Ambient High Glucose and TGF-B1-Induced Extracellular Matrix Production in Glomerular Mesangial Cells”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION SERVING THE ALLEGHENIES

Bellamkonda K. Kishore, MD, PhD  
University of Utah, Salt Lake City  
“Role of P2Y2 Receptor in Renal Escape from Vasopressin-Induced Antidiuresis”  
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF UTAH AND IDAHO
Donald E. Kohan, MD, PhD
University of Utah, Salt Lake City
“Proximal Tubule Endothelin in Proteinuric Kidney Disease”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF UTAH AND IDAHO

Douglas R. Linfert, MD
Johns Hopkins University; Baltimore, Maryland
“Role of T Cells in the Recovery from Ischemic Acute Kidney Injury”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Jun Liu, PhD
Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, D.C.
“Gonadal and Genetic Regulation of Renal Vasopressin V2 Receptors”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Manchang Liu, MD, PhD
Johns Hopkins University; Baltimore, Maryland
“Brain Changes in Acute Kidney Injury in the Mouse”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Weining Lu, MD
Boston University Medical Center, Massachusetts
“Role of NFIA Gene in the Pathogenesis of Vesicoureteral Reflux”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE & VERMONT

James Markmann, MD, Reza Abdi, MD, Mohamed Sayegh, MD, and Terry Strom, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, in collaboration with Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital and Brigham & Women’s Hospital
“Toward Tolerance in Islet Transplantation”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE & VERMONT

Sharon E. Maynard, MD
George Washington University Medical Center; Washington, D.C.
“Angiogenic Factors for Diagnosis and Risk Stratification in Preeclampsia”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Susan R. Medley, MD
University of Maryland; Baltimore, Maryland
“Impact of a Multidisciplinary Weight Reduction Intervention on Blood Pressure and Albuminuria in Obese Children and Adolescents”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Kenneth McMartin, MD
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Shreveport
“Development of Novel Citrates as Treatment for Hyperoxaluria”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF LOUISIANA

Hamid Moradi, MD
University of California at Irvine
“Effects of ApoA-I Mimetic, L4F in Chronic Kidney Disease”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Corina Nailescu, MD
James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children, Indianapolis, Indiana
“Optimizing Influenza Vaccination in Pediatric Kidney Transplant Recipients on Steroid-Free Protocol”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF INDIANA

Rulan S. Parekh, MD, MS
Johns Hopkins University; Baltimore, Maryland
“Mineralization and Cardiovascular Disease Risk in an Incident Dialysis Cohort”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Roxanne Poole, RD
“Etiology of Malnutrition in Low Income Dialysis Patients”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Lorraine Racusen, MD and Sheng Yao, PhD
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland
“Cosignaling Molecule Expression in Glomerular Epithelial Cells and Proteinuria”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Ali Rizvi, MD
University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Columbia
“Diabetes Control and Kidney Disease”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
St. Patrick Hospital Dialysis Department
Denver, Colorado
“Biotin Status and its Relationship to Restless Leg Syndrome in Patients Receiving Chronic Dialysis: A Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Supplemental Biotin”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF COLORADO, MONTANA AND WYOMING

Kamalanathan Sambandam, MD
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, Missouri
“Hypertonic Saline and High Dose Furosemide for Diuretic Resistant Decompensated Congestive Heart Failure”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION SERVING EASTERN MISSOURI, METRO EAST

Dorry Segev, MD
Johns Hopkins University; Baltimore, Maryland
“Frailty as a Predictor of Kidney Transplant Outcomes”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Robert W. Schrier, MD
University of Colorado, Denver
“Sepsis and Acute Kidney Disease”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF COLORADO, MONTANA AND WYOMING

Prabhleen Singh, MD
University of California at San Diego
“Nephrion Function and Metabolism at the Onset of Chronic Kidney Disease”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF COLORADO, MONTANA AND WYOMING

Swasti Tiwari, PhD
Georgetown University Medical Center
Washington, D.C.
“Regulation of Renal Insulin Receptor and Early Signaling Proteins in Diabetic Rats”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

David A. Spector, MD
Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center; Baltimore, Maryland
“The Effect of Sodium Thiosulfate (STS) in Preventing and Treating Tissue Calcification in a Rat Model of Uremia”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Arohan R. Subramnaya, MD
University of Maryland School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland
“Novel Mechanisms of Hereditary Salt Wasting”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Sangeeta Sule, MD
Johns Hopkins University; Baltimore, Maryland
“Morbidity and Mortality in Pediatric and Adult Patients with ESRD and SLE”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Michael Sutters, MD
Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center
Baltimore, Maryland
“Polycystins and Endoplasmic Reticulum Function”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Eileen Wang Tsai, MD
University of California at Los Angeles
“Markers Correlating with CD20 and Renal Allograft Rejection”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Christina Turner, MD
University of Maryland, Baltimore
“The Effect of Chronic Hepatitis C Infection on Insulin Sensitivity and Secretion in Patients with End Stage Renal Disease”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Christof Westenfelder, MD
University of Utah, Salt Lake City
“Phase I Clinical Trial, Using Autologous, Bone Marrow-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells to Prevent and Treat Post-Operative Acute Renal Failure in Patients Who Electively Require On-Pump Cardiac Surgery”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF UTAH AND IDAHO

N. Ganesh Yadlapalli, MD
University of Cincinnati, Ohio
“Effect of Glucose Administration by Mouth and Peritoneal Cavity on Hormones Important in Blood Glucose Control in Peritoneal Dialysis”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF OHIO

David Woo, MD
University of California at Los Angeles
“Molecular Mechanism of Polycystic Kidney Disease Progression”
NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
If you want to get something done, give it to a mom to handle. Nearly four years ago, Bonnie Schneider’s tow-headed 13-year-old son Eddie told her his urine was the color of “coca-cola.” It was blood. Soon afterward, he was diagnosed with IgA Nephropathy, a progressive and incurable disease that results in the destruction of the kidney filters through inflammation. There is virtually no treatment for the disease, but a fairly clear and tragic trajectory. In most cases, the patient’s kidneys fail within a decade or so, requiring dialysis for survival.

For Bonnie, who along with her detective husband, Ed, lives in Wall Township, a New Jersey shore community, the final blow was learning that there was no ongoing research into the disease. “There really wasn’t anyone doing research on IgA Nephropathy—what causes it, how to prevent it or even how to diagnose it earlier, much less how to treat it,” says the mother of five, “I got a lot of shoulder-shrugging and head-shaking, but no answers. This was my kid. I had to do something!” Bonnie, 48, quit her marketing job in New York City and went to work to help Eddie and others like him. Within six months, she had put together a 5K Walk, where more than 1,000 participants raised $40,000. Schneider phoned the head of research at the National Kidney Foundation and said, “I have 40 grand burning a hole in my pocket and I want to bring it to you, but I want it earmarked specifically for IgA Nephropathy!” Who could argue with this mom? In May, Schneider will host the fourth annual walk, and for the first time runners will participate. So far, the event has raised $75,000 for IgA Nephropathy research.

Celine Berthier at the University of Michigan has been the recipient of a NKF Young Investigator Grant to study IgA Nephropathy. “I’m going to visit her in March,” says Schneider. “I don’t want to breathe down her neck. She knows what she’s doing. I just want to meet her and let her know that these aren’t just cells in a petri dish. This is a disease that affects Eddie!” For his part, at 16, Eddie is a high-achieving and beloved student at his parochial school. He loves to surf and longs to grow up and work for his hero, Apple founder Steven Jobs. “Everybody loves Eddie,” says his mom. “Teachers, parents, kids. And Eddie likes everybody. Except me. He’s not crazy about me right now. But, hey, he’s 16.”
HOW TO APPLY FOR NKF GRANTS

The next deadline for applicants for Fellowships, Young Investigator Grants and Clinical Scientist Awards is December 1, 2008. Instructions to applicants and application forms will be posted on www.kidney.org at least three months before the deadline date. For additional information, please call 800.622.9010, ext. 195.

HOW TO SUPPORT NKF RESEARCH

The National Kidney Foundation relies on individual and corporate contributions and grants to fund its research program. Donations can support the full range of our research initiatives. Contributions can also be earmarked for specific areas of investigation, and donations can be made as memorial gifts or through a planned giving program.

To learn more about the variety of opportunities available to support NKF research grants, please contact Geraldine Connors at 212.889.2210, ext. 215 or geraldinec@kidney.org