



# PRESS RELEASE

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

## **AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY AWARDED GRANT FROM THE COUNCIL OF MEDICAL SPECIALTY SOCIETIES TO ADDRESS RACIAL DISPARITIES IN KIDNEY CARE**

**\$100,000 Grant Will Support Clinical Education Program to Boost Adoption of Recently Revised eGFR Clinical Algorithm**

**Washington, DC (November 28, 2023)** — The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) today announced that it has been awarded a \$100,000 grant by the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS) to promote the “Use and Understanding of the new eGFR Clinical Algorithm,” a core diagnostic tool to measure kidney function, recently updated to eliminate the racial disparities inherent in and perpetuated in the original algorithm. Aimed at promoting the rapid adoption of the revised, race-free algorithm in clinical practice, the grant will support a multifaceted clinical education campaign targeting more than 21,000 ASN members who are nephrologists and other kidney health professionals.

The estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) clinical algorithm was established more than 20 years ago to help diagnose and determine the severity of kidney diseases by measuring serum creatinine relation to age, sex, and race (defined in this context as Black or non-Black). In 2020, a joint task force between ASN and the National Kidney Foundation examined the impact of race in the eGFR on perpetuating systemic bias in kidney care.

After careful consideration and expansive research, the task force recommended the widespread adoption of the new race-free algorithm, reflecting the fact that is a purely social construct, not a biological factor. The new race-free algorithm was introduced in 2021 to provide a more accurate assessment of kidney function to better diagnose, monitor progression, and inform care decisions for 37 million Americans living with kidney diseases.

“We cannot create a world without kidney diseases if we do not first address the racial disparities that affect the accuracy of diagnosis and the administration of care for everyone,” said Tod Ibrahim, ASN Executive Vice President. “The new eGFR clinical algorithm is a powerful clinical tool that provides a more accurate representation of kidney health by eliminating race from the calculus. The CMSS grant will help accelerate our efforts to provide nephrologists and other kidney health professionals with the latest information about eGFR and equip them to discuss the new metric with their patients with kidney diseases. We hope our efforts will inspire other medical societies to establish long-established standards of care to identify and eliminate race-based disparities.”

CMSS, a coalition of 51 specialty societies representing more than 800,000 physicians, promotes diagnostic excellence across the field of medicine. After funding nine medical specialty societies in the first round, CMSS awarded grants to 11 medical specialty societies (including ASN) to support the development and dissemination of resources and programs to improve the timeliness, accuracy, safety efficiency patient-centeredness and equality of diagnostic outcomes for patients in the United States. CMSS grants were funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and reviewed by an independent external advisory committee.

ASN will utilize the CMSS grant to create and disseminate point-of-care tools and resources for nephrologists and other kidney health professionals. This work complements efforts to drive adoption of the new algorithm among commercial testing laboratories. Today, more than 50% of the clinical commercial laboratories in the United States use the race-free equation to calculate and report kidney function.

“With the generous support of our funders, 20 specialties are actively engaging their members in diagnostic excellence,” said Helen Burstin, MD, MPH, MACP, CEO of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies. “The legacy of the CMSS grant program will be greater awareness, attention, and action to prevent avoidable diagnostic harm across medicine.”

###



### **About 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 21,000 members corresponding 140 countries. For more information, visit [www.asn-online.org](http://www.asn-online.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).*



The Council of Medical Specialty Societies is the national organization of specialty societies representing more than 800,000 physicians across the house of medicine. CMSS works to catalyze improvement across specialties through convening, collaborating, and collective action to address emerging issues that influence the future of healthcare and the patients we serve. For more information, visit [www.cmss.org](http://www.cmss.org).



The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation fosters path-breaking scientific discovery, environmental conservation, patient care improvements and preservation of the special character of the Bay Area. Visit [www.Moore.org](http://www.Moore.org) or follow @MooreFound.

