

RESEARCH BENEFITS

What Investments in Research Can Buy

More advances in medicine are possible than at any time before thanks to human genome sequencing and other NIH-funded breakthroughs.

Yet NIH invests less in kidney research than research for many other major diseases such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, and heart disease.

NIH Research Funding by Disease¹

Disease (Prevalence)	2014 Budget	NIH Spending per Patient
HIV/AIDS (1 million)	\$2,978,000,000	\$2,978
Cancer (14 million)	\$7,957,000,000	\$568
Heart Disease (27 million)	\$1,645,000,000	\$61
Kidney Disease (20 million)	\$585,000,000	\$29

- ✓ **HIV**—once a death sentence—is now effectively a chronic disease.
- ✓ **Breast cancer** deaths have dropped dramatically in the past two decades, declining 35% between 1990 and 2011.²
- ✓ The death rate from all **heart diseases** is the lowest it has been in over a century.³

Kidney innovation lags far behind these fields, and some of the best proposals to improve outcomes for patients with kidney disease are **underfunded**:

1. Identifying risk for total kidney failure, which is essentially asymptomatic until patients need dialysis or a transplant.
2. Exploring novel genetic therapies for African-Americans with recently discovered genes (APOL1) associated with kidney failure risk.
3. Preventing kidney disease from causing heart disease.

1 http://report.nih.gov/categorical_spending.aspx

2 <http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/breast.html>

3 <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/news/spotlight/success/conquering-cardiovascular-disease>