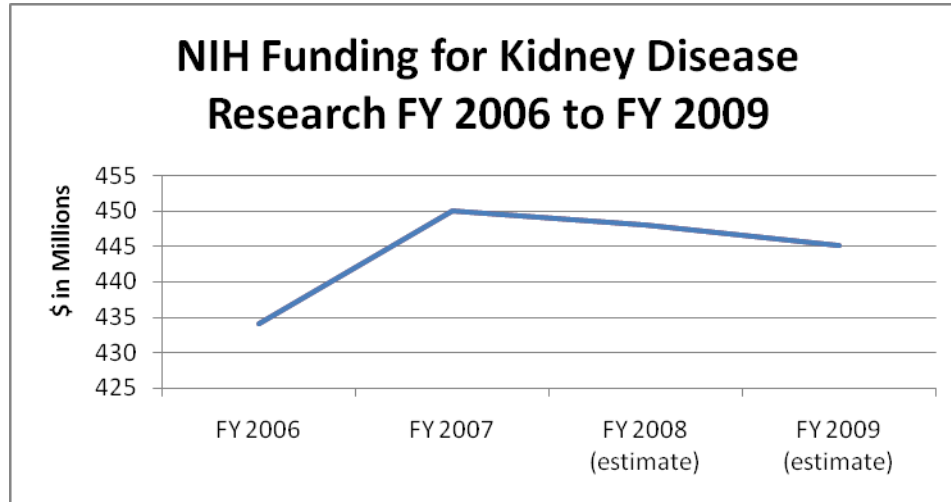




ASN Encourages Congress, NIH to Fully Support Kidney Disease Research in FY 2009

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) urges Congress to fully fund important research in kidney disease in fiscal year (FY) 2009. As the largest organization dedicated to the study and practice of nephrology—the branch of internal medicine devoted to studying kidney function and diseases of the kidney—the Society encourage Congress to **increase funding to the National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) by 6.7% in FY 2009**. The proposed increase is comparable with ASN’s recommendation for the overall National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget.

Under President George W. Bush’s FY 2009 budget request, funding for NIDDK remains relatively constant at \$1.86 billion, a \$1 million or 0.05% increase over FY 2008. However, once inflation is taken into account, the institute’s purchasing power decreases by \$64 million. In addition, \$150 million of the NIDDK allocation is directed to the congressionally mandated Type 1 Diabetes Initiative. According to NIH, the agency estimates awarding \$445 million to kidney disease research in FY 2009, a \$2 million, or 0.4% decrease, in funding from FY 2008, even without taking inflation into account.



To respond to the growing public health problem that chronic kidney disease creates, ASN encourages NIDDK to expand its kidney disease infrastructure through additional kidney research core centers that will facilitate collaborative research on a local, regional, and national level. The Society also recommends that NIDDK expand support for investigator-initiated research projects in five areas of clinical importance: acute kidney injury, diabetic nephropathy, hypertension, transplantation, and uremic cardiovascular toxicity.

Given the interrelationships between kidney disease and cardiovascular disease, immunologic disorders, aging, and imaging, several NIH institutes in addition to NIDDK can play a key role in funding relevant research in kidney disease. ASN therefore supports increased funding for kidney disease-related programs funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI); the National Institute on Aging (NIA); the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID); and the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB). These institutes should collaborate with NIDDK to fund studies on kidney disease and to ensure that clinical trials in related diseases consider the kidney function of enrollees in analysis.

ASN is a not-for-profit organization of 11,000 physicians and scientists dedicated to the study of nephrology and committed to providing a forum for the promulgation of information regarding the latest research and clinical findings on kidney diseases.