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## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY

### *Position Statement*

The following statement on *Academic Freedom* was prompted by the concerns of the Society's Council, officers and other members regarding recent and disturbing world events.

We believe that *Academic Freedom* catalyzes the development, maturation and translation of ideas and knowledge into benefits shared by all people from all nations. Free and unfettered intellectual discourse insures that investigators and clinicians maximize their efforts to discover and implement findings that enhance our understanding and treatment of disease for all people. *Academic Freedom* promulgates the exchange of ideas and strengthens collaborations in medicine across all borders. Indeed, the disbursement and implementation of new ideas creates a product that far exceeds the sum of the individual thoughts and all humankind benefits from this revered and sacrosanct process.

Recently censorship of *Academic Freedom* has become entwined in the political process. Any limitation on the free exchange of scientific knowledge deprives everyone of potential benefits of new ideas and serves no just cause. Science must not be held hostage by political ferment which stifles intellectual achievement. The preservation of *Academic Freedom* ensures that scholarship, medicine and science will always remain insulated from changing political climates.

The American Society of Nephrology strongly condemns any limitation of *Academic Freedom*, on the basis of political ideology, race, religion or country of origin.