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ASN INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPMENT OF CLINICAL STUDIES INITIATIVE

Washington, DC (March 12, 2003) — The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) applauds the National Institutes of Health (NIH)'s National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)'s willingness to partner with the ASN to enhance clinical research, by broadening the mechanisms utilized to stimulate clinical investigation.

NIDDK has recently developed a new program, the Kidney Disease Clinical Studies Initiative, to provide concept development funds to investigators. The funds will allow investigators with ideas for observational or interventional clinical studies to gather data and plan strategies for initiating clinical studies. This initiative and the concept development funding mechanisms will be overseen by a committee chaired by Drs. John Stokes and John Sedor of the ASN.

“The ASN has been instrumental throughout the development of this initiative, under the leadership of ASN members Drs. Roland Blantz, Bill Mitch and Eric Neilson, who persisted in their efforts to establish, develop and promote this significant program,” said Dr. Norman Siegel, President of the American Society of Nephrology. “I am also grateful to Drs. Tom Hostetter and Josephine Briggs at the NIDDK who dedicated themselves to launching this vital initiative.”

By providing the mechanisms for investigators to utilize these concept development funds, the ASN and NIDDK hope to stimulate clinical research and develop more innovative and effective clinical studies and trials. The details on applying for these funds are available on the NIDDK website at <http://www.niddk.nih.gov/fund/divisions/kuh/concept-development.htm>.

The ASN is a not-for-profit organization of 8,900 physicians and scientists dedicated to the study and practice of nephrology and committed to providing a forum for the promulgation of information regarding the latest research and clinical findings on kidney diseases. For more information on the association, please visit the ASN website at <http://www.asn-online.org>.

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