

**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

**Contacts:** Kurtis Pivert • (202) 699-0238 • [kpivert@asn-online.org](mailto:kpivert@asn-online.org)  
Bob Henkel • (202) 557-8360 • [bhenkel@asn-online.org](mailto:bhenkel@asn-online.org)

## **KIDNEY HEALTH INITIATIVE SEEKING PATIENT, FAMILY INPUT INTO DEVELOPMENT OF NEW THERAPIES**

*Patient preference to inform design of new devices and therapies for kidney disease*

### **Highlights**

- The Kidney Health Initiative (KHI) is hosting a new workshop on August 12 and 13 to gather input from patients with kidney disease and their family members on future treatment options.
- The KHI workshop—*Understanding Patients' Preferences: Stimulating Medical Device Development in Kidney Disease*—will help inform development of therapeutics and devices for kidney disease, which affects more than 20 million Americans.

*KHI is a public-private partnership between ASN and the FDA to advance kidney health issues*

**Washington, DC (June 24, 2015)** — The Kidney Health Initiative (KHI) is seeking input from patients and their families on new treatment options to reduce the burden of kidney disease, which affects more than 20 million Americans. The KHI workshop—*Understanding Patients' Preferences: Stimulating Medical Device Development in Kidney Disease*—will be held on August 12 and 13 in Linthicum Heights, MD.

During the workshop, patients, their families, scientists, physicians, nurses, technicians, and companies will come together to hear what is important to patients, and think about how those ideas can be utilized in the development of new medical devices. Participants will learn about the FDA's role in device development, and how the agency will use their ideas to help guide new devices that meet patient needs. The workshop aims to balance education and teaching with small group discussion.

"Patients and care partners share their lives with their devices nearly every day, yet often are not involved in the design, development and testing processes for new medical devices." said Celeste Castillo Lee, a patient, Chair of the KHI Patient and Family Partnership Council, and member of the KHI workgroup hosting the forum. "This workshop will provide a platform for patients and their families to learn about how devices are developed and approved, and how to share their voices on what they like and will work best for them.

The workshop will also explore the idea of risk versus benefit, allowing all stakeholders to begin understanding how patients and care providers assess preference in the kidney space. “Equally important, this workshop highlights KHI’s continued efforts to become more engaged with patients and the issues that matter most to those living with kidney disease,” Castillo Lee added.

The *Patient Preference* workshop will be held at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport in Linthicum Heights, MD, and will take place on:

**Wednesday, August 12:** 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. EDT

**Thursday, August 13:** 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. EDT

To participate, interested individuals must register by completing a brief registration form on the KHI website. Registration is free but required as space is limited and is available at <http://www.asn-online.org/khi/patients.aspx?ID=3>

Patients, family members, and their care partners are eligible for financial travel assistance to participate in the workshop. The deadline for applications is **Friday, July 3**, and interested individuals can apply at <http://asn.kdny.info/OJBf5>.

Workshop organizers are coordinating with several dialysis organizations, including FMC and DaVita, to coordinate treatments and supplies while in Baltimore. The KHI website—<http://www.kidneyhealthinitiative.org>—will continue to be updated as more information becomes available.

Established in 2012, KHI’s mission is to advance scientific understanding of the kidney health and patient safety implications of new and existing medical products and to foster development of new therapies. More than 70 KHI member organizations and companies represent all major stakeholders in the field of kidney disease, including patient and health professional organizations, pharmaceutical companies, device manufacturers, dialysis providers, research institutions, and federal agencies.

For further information on the patient preference webinars or KHI, visit <http://www.kidneyhealthinitiative.org> or email [khi@asn-online.org](mailto:khi@asn-online.org).

*Established in 2012, the Kidney Health Initiative (KHI) is a public-private partnership between ASN and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to advance kidney health issues through a collaboration of patients, health care professionals, scientists, and industry.*

*Founded in 1966, and with more than 15,000 members, the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) leads the fight against kidney disease by educating health professionals, sharing new knowledge, advancing research, and advocating the highest quality care for patients.*

###

The American Society of Nephrology®, ASN®, Kidney Week®, CJASN®, JASN®, NephSAP®, and ASN Kidney News® are registered trademarks of ASN

Tweet: KHI will host new Patient Preference Workshop for kidney health on August 12-13. Learn more & apply at <http://asn.kdny.info/OJCgt>

Facebook: The Kidney Health Initiative announces a new Patient Preference Workshop for new devices to improve kidney health. To learn how you can participate, visit <http://asn.kdny.info/OJCgt>.