

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL  
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## **NEW ASN-GWU REPORT EXAMINES KEY CHALLENGES FOR KIDNEY HEALTH WORKFORCE**

*Geographic distribution of nephrologists may not meet need for kidney care*

### **Highlights**

- The American Society of Nephrology (ASN), the world's largest organization of kidney health professionals, released the latest in a series of key analyses of the US nephrology workforce authored by George Washington University Health Workforce Institute researchers.
- Nephrology is a specialty in transition, driven in part by changes in the health care delivery system. Geographic maldistribution of nephrologists and the “all-in” nephrology fellowship Match policy are among the issues that could influence the specialty’s future.

*More than 20 million Americans have kidney disease, the 9th leading cause of death in the U.S.*

**Washington, DC (October 26, 2015)** — The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) released the latest in series of analyses of the nephrology workforce, which outlines current and future challenges to the specialty. Authored by researchers from the George Washington University (GWU) Health Workforce Institute, *The US Nephrology Workforce 2015: Developments and Trends* is available online at <http://www.asn-online.org/workforce>.

“This report enumerates opportunities and challenges for the critical specialty of nephrology,” said ASN President Jonathan Himmelfarb, MD, FASN. “The analysis helps inform ASN initiatives that ensure patients with kidney diseases continue to receive the high-quality specialized care only nephrologists can provide.”

The report is the third in a series produced in collaboration with the GWU Health Workforce Institute research team led by Edward Salsberg, MPA.

“Our review of recent developments and data, including from our survey of fellows, indicates that nephrology continues to be in transition,” said Salsberg. “While indications are that need for nephrologists is rising, it is not clear how changes in delivery and financing will impact on the specialty. Further, while the job market for new nephrologists is limited, the number entering the specialty is decreasing which may lead to more opportunities in the future. It will be important to continue to monitor developments impacting on the specialty.”

Among the findings:

- The increasing fragmentation of kidney care and trend for ceding common procedures to other specialties contribute to nephrology’s transitional state.

Press Release

- The current nephrology workforce is not evenly distributed across the United States, compared with the number of Americans needing specialized kidney care (measured using patients with end stage renal disease)
- The job market for new nephrologists remains limited according to the results of the 2015 Nephrology Fellow Survey
- Increased efficiencies and other health care delivery changes could reduce future demand for nephrologists
- The recent trend of declining interest among residents choosing nephrology fellowships has continued, according to the most recent data (academic year 2014–15)

As part of its commitment to ensure the highest quality care for more than 20 million Americans with kidney diseases, and millions more around the world, ASN has implemented a broad, multifaceted approach to increase interest in nephrology careers that target students, trainees, and nephrologists at all career stages. Learn more at <http://www.asn-online.org/about/bythenumbers/?ID=2>

The next report from the GWU Health Workforce Institute will provide an in-depth analysis of the 2015 nephrology fellow survey. Study coauthors include Leah Masselink, PhD, Leo Quigley, MPH, Xiaoli Wu, MS, and Ashté Collins, MD.

**Embargoed Report Available Upon Request**—Contact ASN Content and Media Analyst Kurtis Pivert at 202.699.0238 or [kpivert@asn-online.org](mailto:kpivert@asn-online.org).

**Nephrology Workforce Presentation at ASN Kidney Week 2015**—Edward Salsberg will present *Forecasting the Nephrology Profession amid the Shifting Landscape* at ASN Kidney Week 2015 on Thursday, November 5 at 2:00 p.m. PST in San Diego, CA. More information is available at [https://www.asn-online.org/education/kidneyweek/2015/program-session-details.aspx?sess\\_id=1153](https://www.asn-online.org/education/kidneyweek/2015/program-session-details.aspx?sess_id=1153).

**Twitter:** ASN releases new GWU Analysis of the 2015 Nephrology Workforce Report <http://asn.kdny.info/GyU60> #NephWorkforce

**Facebook:** American Society of Nephrology Collaborates with GWU Researchers to Publish Analysis of 2015 Nephrology Workforce Report <http://asn.kdny.info/GyU60> #NephWorkforce

*Founded in 1966, and with nearly 16,000 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.*

*ASN Kidney Week 2015, the largest nephrology meeting of its kind, will provide a forum for more than 13,000 professionals to discuss the latest findings in kidney health research and engage in educational sessions related to advances in the care of patients with kidney and related disorders. Kidney Week 2015 will take place November 3–8, 2015, in San Diego, CA.*

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