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## ASN CELEBRATES WORLD KIDNEY DAY AND ITS THEME OF "KIDNEYS & WOMEN'S HEALTH"

**Washington, DC (March 5, 2018)** — In celebration of the World Kidney Day 2018's theme of "Kidneys & Women's Health: Include, Value, Empower," the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) is highlighting several articles in its journals, *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* (CJASN) and *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* (JASN), that are focused on women's kidney health. The articles will be open access through April 6 to ensure that all readers have the ability to read them. In addition, a special section in *Kidney News*, ASN's newsmagazine, summarizes recent reports providing insights into disparities in chronic kidney disease (CKD) care for women in the United States and around the world. On March 6<sup>th</sup>, ASN will host a Twitter chat related to World Kidney Day, which is March 8<sup>th</sup>.

In one CJASN [analysis](#) of 1931 pregnancies in Korea between 2001 and 2015, investigators identified a unique U-shaped relationship between midterm kidney function, as assessed by estimated glomerular filtration rate, and adverse pregnancy outcomes. Another CJASN [study](#) from France provides new information on hemolytic uremic syndrome—a rare disease characterized by a triad of anemia caused by destruction of red blood cells, acute kidney failure, and a low platelet counts—during pregnancy and postpartum. In a third CJASN [study](#) of pregnant women, gestational diabetes and preeclampsia were more common in those with a history of kidney stones than in nonstone formers.

In JASN, one [study](#) examined outcomes of pregnancy in women who recovered from an incident of acute kidney injury. The authors found that pregnancy outcomes were generally favorable but that infants of women with a history of kidney damage were born earlier and small-for-gestational-age births were more common. Another JASN [analysis](#) revealed sex differences in hospitalizations among US patients undergoing maintenance hemodialysis in 2007-2011. The hospitalization rate was much higher among women than among men (2.08 vs. 1.68 hospitalizations per year). Age group-specific hospitalization rates were consistently higher for women than for men of the same race, and the differences were greatest in younger age groups. Women also had substantially higher risk for 30-day readmission, with the largest differences at younger ages. A third JASN [study](#) conducted in rodents revealed important differences between transport proteins in male and female kidneys. The difference in females might allow for fluid retention adaptations required of pregnancy and lactation.

Topics highlighted in *Kidney News* include sex, gender, and CKD care; differences in dialysis access type in men vs. women; and sex differences in acute kidney injury. One article notes that women are consistently under-represented in hemodialysis clinics, a finding that is not explained by a lower prevalence or incidence of CKD, nor by potential sex bias in kidney function. In addition, women tend to donate kidneys more often but are less likely to receive kidney transplants. Another article supports previous studies showing that women have lower rates of hemodialysis initiation using an arteriovenous fistula, the preferred hemodialysis vascular access. The differences are present in all age groups and across races, and after controlling for other important patient and clinical characteristics. Another article highlighted in *Kidney News* questions why females, both humans and rodents, exhibit a decreased susceptibility to acute kidney injury. Finding the answer may lead to novel and innovative diagnostics and treatments that can be applied to men and women.

“ASN is proud to raise awareness of World Kidney Day 2018, and in particular kidney disease in women,” said Mark Okusa, MD, FASN, ASN President. “Many kidney diseases are more common in women than in men, and CKD is the 8<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in women, with 195 million women worldwide affected.” Dr. Okusa also noted that pregnancy-related complications can increase the risk of kidney disease progression—among women with CKD, those who also have preeclampsia have a 4- to 5-times increased risk of developing kidney failure.

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*Since 1966, ASN has been leading the fight to prevent, treat, and cure kidney diseases throughout the world by educating health professionals and scientists, advancing research and innovation, communicating new knowledge, and advocating for the highest quality care for patients. ASN has nearly 18,000 members representing 112 countries. For more information, please visit [www.asn-online.org](http://www.asn-online.org) or contact the society at 202-640-4660.*

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