



# PRESS RELEASE

**ASN Contact:** Christine Feheley  
(202) 640-4638 | [cfeheley@asn-online.org](mailto:cfeheley@asn-online.org)

**HHS Contact:** Rachel Melo  
(202) 774-2307 | [Rachel.Melo@hhs.gov](mailto:Rachel.Melo@hhs.gov)

## HHS AND THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY LAUNCH \$1.5 MILLION PHASE 2 OF PRIZE COMPETITION TO REDESIGN DIALYSIS

**KidneyX seeks breakthrough solutions to transform kidney care.**

**Washington, DC (November 18)** — Today, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) launched the second phase of [KidneyX: Redesign Dialysis](#), a prize competition that seeks to transform kidney care. Redesign Dialysis is part of a series of KidneyX prize competitions to catalyze the development of innovative solutions that can prevent, diagnose, and treat kidney diseases.

[Redesign Dialysis Phase 2](#) seeks prototype solutions, or components of solutions, that can replicate normal kidney functions or improve dialysis access. Participants may compete in the second phase even if they did not submit a solution in the first phase. Prototypes should address at least one of the following areas: blood filtration, electrolyte homeostasis, volume regulation, toxin removal and secretion, filtrate drainage and connectivity, and dialysis access.

The competition calls on researchers, innovators, patients, and investors with expertise in nephrology, biotechnology, bioengineering, and medical devices to [submit solutions](#) by 5:00 p.m. ET on January 31, 2020. Up to three winners will each be awarded \$500,000. Participants can find more information, including the submission requirements, judging criteria, and eligibility, in the [prize announcement](#).

“Dialysis treatment has not changed substantially since it was first introduced over 60 years ago,” said HHS Chief Technology Officer Ed Simcox. “The pace of innovation in kidney care is unacceptable. Through KidneyX, we are creating a clear path for disruptive innovation in a \$114 billion market.”

An estimated [850 million people worldwide](#) are living with kidney diseases, including [more than one in seven American adults](#). For people with kidney failure, the only treatment option other than a transplant is dialysis, which takes a serious toll. [Dialysis patients typically spend 12 hours a week attached to a machine](#) and their [five-year life expectancy](#) is worse than that of most cancer patients. The treatment is also extremely costly, with Medicare alone [spending more than \\$35 billion annually](#) for beneficiaries with kidney failure.

“We were thrilled to see the enthusiastic response to Redesign Dialysis Phase 1 from innovators across a spectrum of disciplines,” said KidneyX Steering Committee Chair Dr. John Sedor. “We’re building a strong community dedicated to developing breakthrough solutions that will change outcomes and transform patients’ lives.”

[Redesign Dialysis Phase 1](#) invited participants to submit proposals on approaches that could enable the design of new artificial kidney devices, extending life and improving quality of life. This first phase received 165 submissions that ranged from innovations in vascular access and fluid filtration to innovations in hemodialysis and biosensors. The [15 Phase 1 winners](#) each received \$75,000.

“We know that building an artificial kidney will be a highly collaborative process, and Redesign Dialysis is driving critical advancements in this space,” HHS KidneyX Program Director Dr. Sandeep Patel said. “KidneyX is facilitating collaboration across the National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to create a funding, regulatory, and payment landscape that can support accelerated innovation and investment.”

The KidneyX [Artificial Kidney Prize](#) is expected to launch in April 2020 and run for up to four years. It is designed to build on the goals of Redesign Dialysis and further advance the development of an artificial kidney that can replace enough physiological kidney function to sustain life and improve patient quality of life. HHS is seeking input on the Artificial Kidney Prize; [responses to the RFI](#) are due on or before December 13, 2019.

### **About KidneyX**

The Kidney Innovation Accelerator (KidneyX) is a public-private partnership between the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) to accelerate innovation in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of kidney diseases.

KidneyX seeks to improve the lives of the 850 million people currently affected worldwide by accelerating the development of drugs, devices, biologics, and other therapies across the spectrum of kidney care. For more information, visit [www.kidneyx.org](http://www.kidneyx.org).

### **About the US Department of Health and Human Services**

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) enhances and protects the health and well-being of all Americans. HHS fulfills that mission by providing for effective health and human services and fostering advances in medicine, public health, and social services. For more information, visit [www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov).

### **About the American Society of Nephrology**

Since 1966, the American Society of Nephrology (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 more than 21,000 members representing 131 countries. For more information, visit [www.asn-online.org](http://www.asn-online.org).

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