



# PRESS RELEASE

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## KIDNEY HEALTH INITIATIVE ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Washington, DC (January 2, 2020)** —Today, seven new members were named to the Kidney Health Initiative (KHI) Board of Directors. KHI is a public-private partnership between the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The Board of Directors reflects the diversity of the 107 member organizations that make up KHI, the largest consortia in the kidney community. The diverse Board represents the perspective of industry, government, and healthcare professionals, as well as people living with kidney diseases. Together, they help set the strategic direction of the initiative as it seeks to achieve its mission to catalyze innovation and develop safe and effective patient-centered therapies for people living with kidney diseases.

The incoming members of the Board of Directors are:

Kevin Fowler  
Voice of the Patient, Inc.

Ikenna Okezie, MD, MBA  
Somatus, Inc.

Nicolas J. Guzman, MD  
AstraZeneca

Alain Romero, PhD, PharmD  
Relypsa - A Vifor Pharma Group Company

Meg Jardine, PhD, MBBS  
The George Institute

Amy Young  
DaVita Clinical Research

Patrick H. Nachman, MD, FASN  
University of Minnesota

“The new members of our Board reflect the breadth of the kidney community and KHI’s commitment to advance innovation in a pre-competitive environment,” said Raymond C. Harris, MD, FASN, ASN Co-Chair for KHI. “I look forward to working with all of them to improve the lives of people with kidney diseases.”

KHI currently has a broad portfolio of projects that seek to remove barriers to innovation in drug, device, and biologic development. The Board will be involved in approving new projects and strategic initiatives as KHI seeks to serve the goals of the FDA and support the *Advancing American Kidney Health* initiative.

Individuals who are interested in learning more about KHI, should contact Melissa West, Acting Vice President for Research, Discovery and Innovation, at [mwest@asn-online.org](mailto:mwest@asn-online.org).

*The Kidney Health Initiative is a key part of the newly created ASN Alliance for Kidney Health. KHI is uniquely positioned to realize ASN's vision of a world without kidney diseases. As a public-private and collaborative partnership with the FDA and more than 100 organizations and companies, KHI catalyzes innovation and the development of safe and effective patient-centered therapies for people living with kidney diseases. Learn more at [www.kidneyhealthinitiative.org](http://www.kidneyhealthinitiative.org).*

*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 more than 21,000 members representing 131 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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