



PRESS RELEASE

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KIDNEYCURE INCREASES COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN KIDNEY RESEARCH

Highlights

- KidneyCure, the philanthropic foundation of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN), is committing up to \$6 million over the next three years for bridge grants to strengthen the kidney research workforce.
- Narrowing NIH paylines are resulting in fewer independent kidney researchers endangering the research workforce pipeline and future treatments for kidney diseases.
- Bridge grants will help independent researchers keep their labs open, continue their research, and develop a more competitive R01 application.

Washington, DC (October 14, 2025) — Funding cuts and shifting administration priorities have made the long-term future of kidney research uncertain. Kidney researchers with historically strong applications who did not receive funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are concerned how their research and labs will survive without the level of support only available from NIH. The long-term future of kidney research is uncertain due to funding cuts across the NIH. In response, KidneyCure is committing to spending up to \$6 million in additional research grants over three years to support the kidney research pathway.

The initial one-year pilot program to distribute these funds will focus on researchers who recently applied for an R01 from the NIH but were not funded because of narrowing paylines.

“At a time when scientific advances in innovative kidney care are gathering momentum, the payline change puts both kidney research and the future research workforce in jeopardy. Being awarded an R01 not only establishes an individual’s independent research career but enables the careers of trainees working on their funded projects.”, said Deidra C. Crews, MD, FASN, Chair of the KidneyCure Board of Directors.

To blunt the impact of this policy change, KidneyCure bridge grants will be awarded to recent R01 applicants who meet specific requirements, enabling applicants to keep their labs open long enough to reapply for NIH funding. Interested applicants can visit www.kidneycure.org for application instructions and eligibility criteria.

KidneyCure was established in 2012 and funds the Transition to Independence Grants Program, the Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program, the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program, the ASN Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program, and the American Society of Nephrology-Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program. Since ASN began funding grants in 1996, the society and the foundation have awarded more than \$50 million in funding for cutting edge research. For more information on KidneyCure or its grant programs, please visit www.kidneycure.org or contact grants@asn-online.org or 202.640.4660.

About the American Society of Nephrology (ASN)

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 22,000 members representing 141 countries. For more information, visit www.asn-online.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

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