



PRESS RELEASE

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\$3 MILLION DONATION FROM THE VERTEX FOUNDATION ESTABLISHES A NEW AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY INITIATIVE: EXCELLENCE IN KIDNEY CARE IMMUNOLOGY, TRAINING, AND EDUCATION

Highlights

- The Vertex Foundation has committed to contributing \$3 million to the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) to establish Excellence in Kidney Care Immunology, Training, and Education (EKCITE).
- This program will train the kidney workforce in the implementation of the new immune-mediated therapies across a spectrum of kidney diseases.

Washington, DC (November 12, 2025) — ASN is pleased to announce a new program: Excellence in Kidney Care Immunology, Training, and Education (EKCITE). EKCITE is established with a \$3 million donation from the Vertex Foundation and an additional \$2 million contribution from ASN. ASN is committed to endowing EKCITE by raising additional funding during the next year.

“New therapies have the potential to transform kidney care, but their implementation requires a health care workforce skilled in the delivery of such therapies, including immune monitoring, early identification and treatment of complications from infections and side effects, and management of adjunctive immunosuppressive therapy as needed,” explained ASN President Prabir Roy-Chaudhury, MD, PhD, FASN, a transplant nephrologist.

While nephrologists—particularly transplant nephrologists—have traditionally received some training in these areas, a critical need exists for a cohort of nephrologists who are trained to care for immunosuppressed patients and those receiving innovative immune-mediated treatments. “These nephrologists would be at the forefront of the delivery and implementation of this new generation of immune-mediated therapies, both within nephrology and in collaboration with allied therapeutic areas,” Dr. Roy-Chaudhury added.

“Renal medicine is experiencing a renaissance in drug development, and we’re excited to be at the leading edge of this incredible wave of innovation,” said Amit Sachdev, Chair of The Vertex Foundation. “The Vertex Foundation is proud to be the founding supporter of the EKCITE program to ignite new skills and capabilities within the nephrology community and ultimately ensure that people living with serious kidney diseases can benefit from innovations in care and transformative therapies on the horizon.”

Nephrology is the ideal specialty to care for the next generation of immune-mediated diseases and immunology-based therapies across a spectrum of medical care settings, and EKCITE is the catalyst to help ensure high-quality care for the more than 850 million people worldwide living with kidney diseases.

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](#).

About the Vertex Foundation

The Vertex Foundation is a nonprofit charitable foundation. It seeks to improve the lives of people with serious diseases and contribute to the communities where Vertex is located through education, innovation and health. Established in 2017, the Foundation is a long-term source of charitable giving and is part of Vertex Pharmaceuticals’ corporate giving commitment. To learn more about the Vertex Foundation, visit <https://www.vertexfoundation.org/>.

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