KidneyCure
The ASN Foundation CureKidneyDiseases.org

Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program

Application Instructions

Applicants and sponsors **must** have a current American Society of Nephrology (ASN) membership when the application cycle closes on **Thursday, November 19, 2026**. Check your membership status online here.

A maximum of two applications per sponsor/mentor will be accepted during any given application cycle.

KidneyCure will make an Award solely in accordance with KidneyCure policies, payment, and schedule regulations as described in the original Notice of Award and Grant Stipulations.

Purpose

The goal of the Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program is to fund post-docs to conduct original, meritorious nephrology research projects. This program will foster the training of fellows, under the direction of a sponsor, who are highly motivated to make contributions to the understanding of kidney biology and disease. This Fellowship serves to establish the beginnings of an independent research career.

Applicants interested in clinical and basic science may submit a proposal that examines any aspect of the entire spectrum of kidney biology and disease.

Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program grants are not renewable and previous recipients are not eligible for a second grant. Applicants may only submit one application during a cycle.

KidneyCure invites applications from all eligible individuals, including those whose personal backgrounds or life experiences may contribute valuable perspectives to nephrology, particularly those who have encountered barriers to entry in the field.

Eligibility

Please note that the eligibility criteria have been updated.

KidneyCure grants are available to postdoctoral fellows working in North or Central America, or the Caribbean during the grant term, regardless of citizenship.

To apply for a Research Fellowship, a candidate:

1. Must hold an MD, DO, PhD, or equivalent degree by the start of the grant on July 1, 2027.
2. **Must be an active member of ASN (Membership Type: Fellow/Trainee) when the application cycle closes on Thursday, November 19, 2026. The sponsor and all co-sponsors of the candidate must also be an active member of ASN when the application cycle closes on Thursday, November 19, 2026.**

3. May not be more than five years from earning an MD, DO, MD, or equivalent (excluding residency, fellowship, and any time spent earning a Masters in Clinical Research) at the time of activation of award on July 1, 2027. **Note that the eligibility window excludes residency and clinical fellowship training years.** Over 70% of time should be spent on clinical training for a year to be considered "clinical fellowship training".
4. For applicants without a medical degree, may not be more than three years from earning a PhD at the time of the activation of the award, July 1, 2027.
5. Cannot have or have had at any time a nephrology-related or basic science faculty position at any academic institution; **instructor-level positions are permitted**.
6. Must complete research under the direction and mentorship of a sponsor.
7. Cannot hold another full individual fellowship award such as another foundation fellowship or grant, or a post-doctoral research fellowship from the National Institutes of Health at the time of award activation (July 1, 2027). However, a candidate's institution may supplement the support provided by KidneyCure.
8. Must be working in North or Central America, or the Caribbean during the fellowship period.
9. Must commit a minimum of 75% time to research during the fellowship period.

Extension Requests

KidneyCure will accept extension requests for the eligibility windows described in eligibility criteria #3 and #4 above, on a case-by-case basis. Applicants must submit supporting documentation for requests, which can include family care responsibilities, medical concerns, disability, natural disasters, and active-duty military service.

An automatic 12-month extension will be applied per childbirth during the postdoctoral training period. All parents, including those who adopt, are eligible for this particular extension.

To submit an extension request, please email grants@asn-online.org prior to the application deadline

Funding and Stipulations

- The Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program provides each fellowship awardee with $50,000 annually for up to two years, to begin on July 1 of the award year. Payments will be made to the fellow's institution and must be used only for salary support, including fringe benefits. Funds cannot be used for project costs, travel expenses, or overhead costs.
- Research must begin on July 1, 2027; **research start dates cannot be deferred**.
- Recipients cannot hold another training grant or be included on an institutional training grant. Institutional support of the applicant sufficient to conduct the research project is expected.
- A progress report and financial report are required for non-competitive renewal of the grant for the second year. Final reports are also required at the end of the funding period. The award is for continuous support, and interruptions in the period of support will require written approval from KidneyCure.
- Recipients shall acknowledge KidneyCure's support in publications resulting from their proposed work.
- Grants may be transferred from one institution to another only with the prior approval of KidneyCure.

Application Process

Applicants for the Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program must be current, active ASN Fellow/Trainee members to begin an application. To become a member, please visit the ASN Membership webpage.

I. To begin an application, visit the Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship webpage. Click "Application" and log-in using an ASN ID and password.
II. Download the research plan template.

III. Prepare all documents for your application (applicant biosketch, sponsor's biosketch, research plan, letter from sponsor, permission to submit letter, and the email addresses for two references).
IV. Enter contact information, including research proposal title and top three keywords.
V. Upload Applicant's Biosketch (maximum of 1 MB).
VI. Upload Sponsor's Biosketch and Biosketch Supplement as one document (maximum of 1 MB).
VII. Upload the Research Project Plan using the KidneyCure provided template (maximum of 1 MB).
VIII. Upload the letter from the sponsor (maximum of 1 MB).
IX. Upload the permission to submit letter (maximum of 1 MB).
X. Enter the email address of two (2) references. Each reference will receive an email with a link to upload a letter of reference to the application. The applicant will not be copied on the reference request emails as the letters should be submitted blindly.
XI. Once you enter all reference contacts and send the emails, click submit.

Application and Document Formatting

Additional supporting documents or letters beyond those described below are discouraged and if provided will not factor into review. To apply for a research fellowship, an applicant must provide:

I. Contact Information and Project Title

II. NIH Applicant Biosketch and NIH Biosketch Supplement, produced using the NIH Biographical Sketch Common Form.
III. KidneyCure Biosketch Supplement - Applicant
    a. Relevant full-length publications or articles in press (not abstracts or submitted publications) of the applicant and exact order of authorship and journal name. A link to the complete list of published work in the applicant's bibliography must be included. Please test the link to be sure it is available in a public format for reviewers to access.
    b. Prior, current, and pending research support (include grant number and agency; contact PI and role; award start and end date; title; and specific aims).

IV. Sponsor(s) Biosketch **More than one Sponsor is permitted, so long as each sponsor's role is clearly defined and a primary sponsor is identified.**
    a. For applications with co-sponsors, please submit a biosketch for each co-sponsor
V. KidneyCure Biosketch Supplement - Sponsor
    a. Relevant full-length publications or articles in press (not abstracts or submitted publications) of the applicant and exact order of authorship and journal name. A link to the complete list of published work in the applicant's bibliography must be included. Please test the link to be sure it is available in a public format for reviewers to access.
    b. Prior, current, and pending research support (include grant number and agency; contact PI and role; award start and end date; title; and specific aims).

VI. Research Project Plan (Maximum of 7 pages total, not including references)
    a. Roadmap to Next Step in Research Career (2-page maximum)
        i. The Roadmap to Next Step in Research Career must include the applicant's career plan and goals (1 page) and sponsor's involvement (1 page). ***This must be written by the applicant.***
            1. Roadmap Prompts
                a. *How will you use funding to get you to your next career step?*
                b. *What areas are you interested in?*
                c. *Where do you see yourself going?*
                d. *How is the funding going to help you get there?*
            2. Sponsor's Involvement Prompts
                a. *How do you view your mentor's involvement in reaching the project goals and in the development of your career?*

b. Abstract (500 words maximum)
    i. The summary should include a brief discussion of the proposed research and an indication of the potential benefits to a patient with kidney diseases. Scientific jargon, abbreviations and complex discussions should be avoided, and be no more than 500 words single spaced.
c. Specific Aims (1-page maximum)
d. Preliminary Work, Proposed Research Strategy and Potential Problems (3 pages maximum)
e. References (e.g., cited literature)
f. Resubmission Defense (single-spaced, half page, maximum)
    i. **Mandatory if you are resubmitting a proposal from a previous cycle.**
    ii. Explain how you addressed the comments of the reviewers to improve your application
    iii. Include score sheets from previous submission (these will not count against the 7 page maximum for this section).

VII. Letter of Support from Sponsor

The letter from the sponsor should be written by the primary sponsor. The letter should:

a. Describe the plans for the fellow both during and after the fellowship year(s), addressing:
    i. Whether the fellow is likely to become a faculty member at the sponsoring institution
    ii. Whether the fellow is likely to pursue a career in research
b. Specify how the proposed research program will provide the applicant with the necessary skills and training to pursue an independent investigative career upon completion of the training period and the career expectations for the fellow. Describe how the candidate's proposed research objectives are independent from those of the sponsor/mentor. The sponsor must carefully and unequivocally detail previous training of the applicant in order to allow assessment of eligibility and the potential for the applicant.
c. Comment on the role of the candidate in preparing the proposal for KidneyCure funding, as the process of applying for training support is itself part of the career development experience.
d. Include a mentoring statement that describes the mentor's contribution to the research plan.
e. Provide a list of top 5 mentees with outcomes; co-mentorship encouraged if mentor is still establishing a training record.
f. Provide a statement of the relationship between the proposed research plan and source of funding.

VIII. Letter from the institution documenting permission to submit application (this letter should be submitted by an institution of department official/representative, not the sponsor/mentor).

a. The letter should include a statement that the applicant's institution is aware of the program guidelines and has approved submission of the application.

IX. Two (2) Additional Reference Letters

a. Reference letters must be submitted prior to the application deadline and once submitted cannot be edited.
b. Reference letters should be written by persons familiar with the candidate's scientific interests and abilities. Letters are submitted blindly and can be addressed to the KidneyCure Grants Review Committee. Applicants cannot submit the letters.

Additionally, the proposal must follow NIH guidelines, including the following formatting guidelines:

- Font size must be 11 points or larger. Smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams and charts is acceptable as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%. Recommended fonts include Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, and Palatino Linotype. A Symbol font may be used to insert special characters. Black text color is also recommended.
- Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per linear inch. Type may be no more than six lines per vertical inch. Use standard paper size (8 ½" x 11"). Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages. No information should appear in the

margins. Do not include additional headers or footers aside from those established in the provided templates.

- Uploaded files must be in PDF formats only. Documents may be prepared using a preferred editing software (e.g. Microsoft Word), but must be converted to PDF format before uploading to the application. Please note that some PDF conversion software may reduce font size. The final PDF document must comply with the font requirements listed above.
- Applications must follow the maximum page limits described in Sections II.-VI. to be considered eligible.

You must use the KidneyCure-provided Research Project Plan template. Please download it from the KidneyCure website.

Applications that do not adhere to the above instructions will be administratively withdrawn.

Editing an Application Before the Deadline

Application fields may be edited at any point before the deadline Applications cannot be edited after the deadline.

Application Checklist

- ✓ Ensure that everyone on the application is an ASN member
- ✓ Download all templates needed for submitting the application
- ✓ Complete demographic and project information
- ✓ Upload applicant's biosketch and biosketch supplement
- ✓ Upload sponsor's biosketch and biosketch supplement
- ✓ Upload Research Project Plan (Maximum of 7 pages total, not including resources)
    - Roadmap to Next Step in Research Career (2-page maximum)
    - Abstract (500 words maximum)
    - Specific Aims (1-page maximum)
    - Preliminary Work, Proposed Research Strategy and Potential Problems (3 pages maximum)
    - References (e.g. cited literature)
    - Resubmission Defense (500 words maximum)
    - Scoresheet from previous submissions (if applicable)
- ✓ Upload letter from sponsor
- ✓ Upload letter documenting permission to submit application
- ✓ Send emails to two references for letters of support

Overview of Review Process

The review process is as follows:

1) Application opens (fall)
2) Application deadline (early winter)
3) Peer review process (winter)
4) Committee meeting (early spring)
5) Award notifications (spring)

Notification of Award

In April, all applicants will receive an email from KidneyCure announcing that their application status has changed. The email will contain a unique link that will redirect the user to the KidneyCure Grant Submission Panel. Once logged in, the applicant can view the funding decision and download the reviewer comments. All documents in the applicant's KidneyCure Grant Submission Panel will remain live for 30 days after the funding notification.

Contact

Please contact KidneyCure with any questions at grants@asn-online.org.