



August 31, 2026

Dear Colleague:

If you could wave a magic wand and change one thing about your practice, what would it be? Many of us in kidney care would likely answer, "fix the lack of interoperability and stop relying on fax machines."

I know all too well the challenges of providing optimal care to our patients when their health information doesn't follow their care journey, from our clinics to dialysis units to hospitals to transplant centers, to other specialists, and back—and I know those of you reading this do, too.

This month, ASN and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology kicked off a community-wide effort, the Kidney Data Discovery Workshop Series. Together, ASN and ONC are starting to work towards data standardization and interoperability in kidney care, aiming to resolve these very challenges across the continuum of nephrology. ONC is the federal agency responsible for adoption of health information technology and the promotion of nationwide, standards-based health information exchange to improve health care.

I hope you will join ASN and ONC in this endeavor, which I predict will be transformative for nephrology. Having ONC as a partner in this effort validates our community's need for technology to better serve our patients at the highest levels of the federal government and positions us for successful development and adoption of this technology nationwide in the future.

The Kidney Data Discovery Workshop Series kicked off with two webinars: [*Nephrology Data Standards and Interoperability: Current State Assessment*](#), and [*Kidney Donor and Transplant Data Standards and Interoperability: Current State and Opportunities*](#). These discussions, which brought patients, clinicians, researchers, transplant professionals, and other stakeholders to the table, identified data gaps that can impede clinical decision-making, research, and the improvement of care quality, and how to address them as we move forward. Together, the two conversations underscored a central theme: data standards enable interoperability, and interoperability means higher-quality care for kidney patients.

This month's webinars will inform an upcoming ASN-ONC in-person workshop on September 10 in Washington, DC, [*Advancing Kidney Data Standards and Interoperability: From Discovery to Action*](#). I hope you will consider participating in this event at HHS headquarters. Please share this news with your colleagues, too: this is an open invitation to anyone in the community who wants to join ASN and ONC in working towards interoperability.

Our work to end the use of the fax machine in nephrology isn't ASN's only exciting collaboration with the federal government this summer. Also on September 10, ASN and HHS will be hosting an in-person showcase to highlight the winners of the year's KidneyX EMPOWER prize challenge, which were just [announced last week](#).

A kidney transplant from a living donor is the optimal form of treatment for most people with kidney failure, yet a variety of barriers have prevented many Americans from becoming living donors. I am inspired by the nine KidneyX EMPOWER winners, whose winning solutions will help many people overcome these barriers and save the lives of their fellow Americans through living donation. The diversity of real-world challenges their innovations solve for will help us help more people navigate the medical, administrative, financial, and other hurdles to donation.

At the event on September 10, the award-winning teams will present their innovative strategies and solutions. Audience members will hear from me as well as HHS leadership, including National Coordinator for Health IT Tom Keane, MD, MBA.

For those interested in attending the KidneyX or data workshop event in-person on September 10, [registration for both is available here](#) and will remain open until September 5. The morning's KidneyX showcase will also be livestreamed on [HHS Live](#).

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to improving outcomes for people living with kidney diseases. ASN looks forward to working together to advance these shared goals in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam M. Parikh".

Samir M. Parikh, MD, FASN
President