



May 29, 2026

Dear Colleague:

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) continues to advance policies that improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and innovation in kidney care. This month, ASN's efforts focused on strengthening federal partnerships, elevating kidney health equity, advancing home dialysis policy, and supporting innovation across the kidney community.

### **1) ASN Applauds House Introduction of Bipartisan Home Dialysis Legislation**

[ASN welcomed House introduction of bipartisan legislation](#) aimed at expanding access to home dialysis on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, and [its markup](#) by the House Ways and Means Committee later that week. The Improving Home Dialysis Act of 2026 (H.R. 8875) seeks to remove barriers that prevent patients from accessing home dialysis therapies by strengthening education, expanding support services, and improving payment policies that support home care. ASN has long-supported policies that empower patients to choose the treatment that aligns with their needs and goals. Expanding access to home dialysis remains an important component of efforts to advance patient-centered care. The bill's introduction highlights the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee's commitment to advancing more kidney health policy.

### **2) ASN Asserts Nephrology's Value to USNWR's "Best Hospitals Rankings and Ratings"**

In a [recent editorial in Kidney News](#), Tod Ibrahim, ASN Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President, and I criticize U.S. News & World Report (USNWR) for its 2021 decision to remove adult nephrology from its "Best Hospitals Rankings and Ratings," arguing that it overlooks the needs of more than 37 million Americans living with kidney diseases and the nearly 12,500 nephrologists who care for them. We contend that the rankings no longer adequately serve key stakeholders and that the decision fails to reflect the complexity and interdisciplinary nature of kidney care. In a [recent letter to USNWR](#), ASN emphasized that removing nephrology from the rankings discounts important aspects of care beyond procedures, discourages innovation, and leaves a critical information gap for patients and providers.

### **3) Advancing Kidney Innovation at the Kidney Innovation Conference**

I was honored to provide a virtual keynote address, *The Economic Case for Kidney Biomedical R&D* (the presentation can be [viewed online here](#)), for this year's Kidney Innovation Conference which brought together leaders from government, academia, industry, and patient and health professional organizations to discuss the future of kidney care. My remarks focused on the urgent need to accelerate research and ensure that innovation reaches patients.

I was also thrilled to have Thomas Keane, MD, MBA, National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC/HHS) help kick off the conference's second day by highlighting the

[administration's recent commitment](#) to improve data standardization and interoperability in nephrology, supporting a more seamless, secure, and patient-centered information exchange and fostering research. During a fireside chat Suzanne Watnick, MD, FASN, ASN Health Policy Scholar and Stephen Konya, Chief, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships (ONC/HHS), discussed efforts to strengthen clinical decision-making, care coordination, research, and innovation, including the benefits of KidneyX: The Kidney Innovation Accelerator program, while supporting broader HHS efforts to modernize the nation's organ procurement and transplant system.

#### **4) ASN Engages with the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities**

Earlier this month, Deidra Crews, MD, FASN, ASN Health Care Justice Committee Chair and I met with the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Acting Director Monica Webb Hooper, PhD and her staff to discuss opportunities to strengthen research and collaboration focused on kidney health disparities. The discussion highlighted the disproportionate burden of kidney diseases among populations and ASN appreciated the opportunity to engage directly with NIMHD leadership and explore opportunities to better align kidney health priorities and kidney disparities research with broader federal health initiatives.

NIMHD emphasized that the Institute is supporting research in the current environment and encouraged kidney investigators to continue to submit applications to NIMHD and to contact Program Officers directly with specific questions about possible projects. NIMHD also invited the kidney community to its [Shaping the Next Era of NIMHD Science: Current Status, Emerging Opportunities, and Scientific Priorities webinar](#) on Monday, June 22, 2026 from 1:00pm – 2:00pm EDT, where NIMHD will discuss the Institute's vision, emerging research opportunities to address health disparities and improve population health, and current scientific priorities.

#### **5) Upcoming ASN Quality Committee Webinar on June 9, 2026**

Finally, I encourage all interested ASN members to register for the ASN Quality Committee's [Exploring the Quality and Regulatory Landscape in Nephrology webinar](#) on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EDT. The webinar will offer important updates on quality measurement, value-based care, and emerging policy developments affecting nephrology practice and patient outcomes. Member engagement remains essential to ensuring that the kidney community continues to shape the future of kidney care policy and quality improvement.

Thank you for your continued dedication to improving the lives of people living with kidney diseases. ASN looks forward to continuing this work together in the months ahead.

Sincerely,



Samir M. Parikh, MD, FASN  
President