



American Society of Nephrology's Response
RFI: NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2027–2031

<https://rfi.grants.nih.gov/?s=6998c3a23eb404a3e80e8212>
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-047.html>

Priority 1: Research Areas

Goal 1: Advance Foundational Knowledge of Human Health and Disease

Kidney diseases represent a significant and growing public health crisis, yet federal investment has not kept pace with their burden. ASN urges NIH to align its FY27–FY31 Strategic Plan with the opportunity to transform kidney health through bold, sustained investment in research, innovation, and workforce development.

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) urges the NIH to significantly increase prioritization of kidney research, consistent with the recommendations outlined in [Transforming Kidney Health Research](#) report. Despite affecting more than 37 million Americans, kidney diseases remain under prioritized relative to their burden. ASN recommends prioritizing research on the biological mechanisms of kidney diseases, as well as advancing precision medicine approaches through genomics, biomarkers, and multi-omics. Accelerating foundational discoveries in kidney biology will enable breakthroughs across interconnected conditions, including diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Goal 2: Prevent Disease and Promote Health Across the Lifespan

ASN strongly encourages NIH to prioritize research focused on prevention, early detection, and slowing the progression of kidney diseases. Investments in implementation science are critical to ensure that proven interventions, such as screening for albuminuria and evidence-based therapies, are effectively adopted in clinical practice. Reducing disparities in kidney disease must be central to NIH's strategy. ASN recommends prioritizing research on social and environmental determinants of health, and access barriers that drive disproportionate burden among rural and other populations that historically have faced disparities.

Goal 3: Advance and Optimize Interventions, Treatments, and Cures

ASN calls for robust investment in transformative therapies and technologies to treat and cure kidney diseases. This includes advancing regenerative medicine, bioartificial kidneys, and xenotransplantation, as well as supporting public–private partnerships that accelerate innovation such as [KidneyX](#).

NIH should expand support for pragmatic clinical trials and real-world evidence generation to improve care delivery and patient outcomes. Incorporating patient perspectives into research

design will ensure that innovations address the needs and priorities of people living with kidney diseases.

Priority 2: Research Capacity

Goal 1: Develop and Sustain an Interdisciplinary Research Workforce

ASN urges NIH to strengthen the pipeline of kidney researchers by increasing support for trainees, early-stage investigators, and clinician-scientists. Targeted investments in career development awards, loan repayment programs, and protected research time are essential to reversing declines in the nephrology workforce.

Enhancing diversity within the biomedical workforce is also critical. NIH should prioritize programs that support investigators from many backgrounds and foster interdisciplinary collaboration across scientific fields.

Goal 2: Build, Improve, and Sustain Research Resources and Infrastructure

ASN recommends sustained investment in kidney-focused research infrastructure, including clinical trial networks, patient registries, and biorepositories. Expanding data-sharing platforms and ensuring interoperability will accelerate discovery and translation.

NIH should also support innovative trial designs and decentralized research models that improve access and participation, particularly among populations disproportionately affected by kidney diseases.

Priority 3: Research Operations

Goal 1: Enhance Scientific Stewardship and Decision-Making

ASN supports NIH efforts to strengthen coordination across Institutes and Centers to ensure strategic, disease-focused investments that reflect public health burden. Kidney diseases intersect with multiple NIH priorities, and enhanced cross-cutting coordination will maximize impact.

Goal 2: Foster Transparency and Accountability to Improve Public Trust in Science

ASN strongly supports NIH's commitment to transparency, accountability, and public engagement. NIH should continue to involve patients, care partners, and health professional organizations in setting research priorities and disseminating findings. Building trust requires sustained engagement with communities disproportionately affected by kidney diseases, including investments in outreach and community-based research partnerships.