



# PRESS RELEASE

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## KIDNEYCURE ANNOUNCES 2020 GRANT RECIPIENTS

### Highlights

- Kidney diseases affect more than 850 million people worldwide.
- KidneyCure continues to propel positive change in public health, once again funding more than \$3 million to support research that changes lives.
- This year's grant recipients, among the best and the brightest in the field, bring energy, innovation and expertise to areas undergoing rapid change: acute kidney injury and repair, home dialysis, and post-transplant care.

**Washington, DC (July 1, 2020)** — KidneyCure (American Society of Nephrology Foundation) is honored to continue its support of investigators committed to advancing kidney health. Building on decades of success, KidneyCure makes it possible to improve knowledge and treatment by identifying and funding high-impact projects.

Investigators funded by KidneyCure are making a difference in key areas that impact care for millions. KidneyCure is proud to support excellence and innovation, and to extend the advances that the foundation has propelled since its inception.

The 2020 grant recipients, listed below, will extend this trajectory of achievement and continue to improve quality of life for those living with kidney diseases.

### **Transition to Independence Grant Recipients**

*KidneyCure's Transition to Independence Grants Program helps young investigators achieve independent research careers and is supported by contributions provided by ASN, Keryx Biopharmaceuticals, Inc., Amgen, and individual donors.*

### **Carl W. Gottschalk Research Scholar Grants**

Mark R. Hanudel, MD, MS, FASN

University of California, Los Angeles

*The Pathological Effects of Fibroblast Growth Factor 23 Fragments*

Sho Morioka, PhD  
University of Virginia  
*Boosting Apoptotic Cell Removal During Acute Kidney Injury*

Sanjeev Noel, PhD  
Johns Hopkins University  
*T Cell TIGIT/CD226 Co-signaling in Acute Kidney Injury and Repair*

Jin Wei, PhD  
University of South Florida  
*Role of Macula Densa RXFP1 in Gestational Hypertension*

Ting Yang, MD, PhD  
Duke University Medical Center  
*Renal Epithelial Actions of the Prostaglandin EP4 Receptor in Blood Pressure Control*

Jie Zhang, PhD  
University of South Florida  
*A New Mechanism for the Sex Differences in Diabetic Glomerular Hyperfiltration and Kidney Injury*

**Joseph V. Bonventre Research Scholar Grant**

Sian Piret, PhD  
Stony Brook University  
*Transcriptional Regulation of Proximal Tubular Amino Acid Metabolism in AKI*

**John Merrill Grant in Transplantation**

Liwei Jiang, PhD  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
*Microengineering Third Party Off-shelf-biological Skin Construct for Burn Patient*

**Norman Siegel Research Scholar Grant**

Amar J. Majmundar, MD, PhD  
Boston Children's Hospital  
*Dissecting the Molecular Pathogenesis of NOS1AP and TRIM8 Mutations in Monogenic SRNS/FSGS*

**Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program**

*The Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program supports nephrology fellows who will advance the understanding of kidney biology and disease and is fully endowed by contributions provided by Fresenius Medical Care, ASN, the American Renal Patient Care Foundation, Inc., Amgen, Baxter, and the PKD Foundation.*

**Ben J. Lipps Research Fellows**

Michael D. Donnan, MD

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

*Defining the Role of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor 3 (VEGFR3) in the Fenestrated Microvascular Beds of the Kidney*

Seolhyun Lee, MD

Stanford University

*Improved Removal of Protein-Bound Solutes During Hemodialysis by Partial Regeneration of the Dialysate*

Kyle McCracken, MD, PhD

Brigham and Women's Hospital

*Characterization and Manipulation of Proximal Tubule Development in Kidney Organoids*

Yuvaram Reddy, MBBS

Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital

*Novel Methods to Inform Health Care Policy in Home Dialysis*

Joshua S. Waitzman, MD, PhD

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

*Structure and Molecular Mechanism of ApoL1*

**Sharon Anderson Research Fellow**

Mohammad Kazem Fallahzadeh Abarghouei, MD

University of California, San Francisco

*Identifying Opportunities for Improved Cardiovascular Care Delivery Among Kidney Transplant Recipients*

**Joseph A. Carlucci Research Fellow**

Ankit B. Patel MD, PhD

Brigham and Women's Hospital

*Derivation of Collecting Duct Principal Cells from Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells by Direct Programming via Transcription Factor Expression*

**Jared J. Grantham Research Fellow**

Qinzhe Wang, MS, PhD

The University of Utah School of Medicine

*Cryo-EM Structures of Polycystic Kidney Disease Proteins*

**Donald E. Wesson Research Fellow**

Russell S. Whelan, MD, PhD

University of Washington

*Dissecting Shigatoxin-mediated Endothelial Injury in Engineered Renal Microvasculature*

**KidneyCure Research Fellow**

Irene Chernova, MD, PhD

Yale University

*The Role of Na-K-ATPase in the Pathogenesis of Lupus Nephritis*

**William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program**

*The William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program provides funding to a clinician educator to conduct a project to advance all facets of nephrology education and teaching.*

Samira S. Farouk, MD, MS, FASN

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

*Implementation and Assessment of a Mobile-Optimized, Simulation-Based Nephrology Teaching Tool for Undergraduate Medical Education*

**ASN Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program**

*The ASN Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program provides funding to early career-stage PhD students to conduct original research projects and make contributions to the understanding of kidney biology and disease.*

Mariia Alibekova, BS

University of Pennsylvania

*Elucidating the Role of Cell Microenvironment and Cell Differentiation Decisions in Kidney Organoid Heterogeneity Towards Better Models of Kidney Development and Disease*

Alexander Flannery, Pharm.D.

University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy

*Alternative Renin Angiotensin Aldosterone System (RAAS) Activation and RAAS Therapeutics in Septic-Shock Associated Acute Kidney Injury*

Tessa Huffstater, BS, M.Eng.

Vanderbilt University

*Inhibition of Cadherin-11 in Acute Kidney Injury and Chronic Kidney Disease*

Yan Xie, MPH

Saint Louis VA Health Care System

*Comparative Effectiveness of Newer and Older Antihyperglycemic Medications on Chronic Kidney Disease*

**American Society of Nephrology-Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program**

*Aiming to increase diversity among future leaders, the American Society of Nephrology-Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program provides four years of research and career development support to a nephrologist from a historically disadvantaged background.*

Jason A. Watts, MD, PhD

University of Michigan

*Regulatory Mechanism of RNA Polymerase Pausing Affects Gene Expression in the Kidney*

*KidneyCure was established in 2012 and funds the Transition to Independence Grants Program, the Ben J. Lipps Research Fellowship Program, the William and Sandra Bennett Clinical Scholars Program, the ASN Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program, and the American Society of Nephrology-Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program. Since ASN began funding grants in 1996, the society and the foundation have awarded more than \$45 million in funding for cutting edge research. For more information on KidneyCure or its grant programs, please visit [www.asn-online.org/foundation](http://www.asn-online.org/foundation) or contact [grants@asn-online.org](mailto:grants@asn-online.org), 202.640.4660.*

*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 more than 21,000 members representing 131 countries. For more information, visit [www.asn-online.org](http://www.asn-online.org).*

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