



*KRI Fellow Dr. Christine Limonte awarded
2021-22 American Kidney Fund Clinical*

Expanding through patient-centered collaborations

A message from the director

DR. JONATHAN HIMMELFARB

2021 has brought new and exciting collaborative opportunities to the KRI; these opportunities have allowed us to expand the way we support patients and do research.

Inside, you'll read about a new opportunity to support kidney transplant recipients. Dr. Christopher Blosser was recently awarded a grant from the Kuni Foundation that will help study and provide support to kidney transplant patients who develop cancer. In partnership with Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and University of Washington Transplant, Dr. Blosser is establishing a clinic to support these patients, and will also launch the first nationwide bioregistry for kidney transplant recipients who develop cancer as a complication of immunosuppression.

In a joint effort with Northwest Kidney Centers (NKC), the KRI recently launched a new study at NKC dialysis units to learn about the impact of blood sugar on patients on dialysis. KRI investigators continue to share the results of their findings broadly from our many active research projects, with the hope of improving patient care and affecting clinical outcomes. Dr. Kate Butler, one of our talented young investigators, published her findings on clinical care for patients who undergo evaluation for kidney transplants in JAMA Internal Medicine.

Glenda Roberts has expanded the KRI's national contribution to patient activation and engagement by serving as the sole patient representative on the American Society of Nephrology's COVID-19 Response Team and Transplant Subcommittee. Their work is providing critical support to the nephrology and patient community during the pandemic.

In response to the ongoing pandemic, the KRI continues to keep our research participants and study staff safe, and are appreciative that we can continue to support kidney patients and the nephrology community during this time.



ON THE HORIZON

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KRI's national impact expands: COVID-19 and kidney disease

KRI's Director of External Relations and Patient Engagement, Glenda V. Roberts, serves as the sole patient representative on two leadership groups organized by the American Society of Nephrology (ASN): the ASN COVID-19 Response Team (RT), and its Transplant Subcommittee. They were created to deliver COVID-19 education and guidance for kidney disease professionals in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Dialysis and transplant patients are among the most vulnerable to COVID-19. Leveraging front-line experiences of kidney professionals nationwide, the Response Team curated treatments, therapies and strategies to produce the COVID-19 Toolkit for Nephrology Clinicians. COVID-19 also causes severe kidney damage in many healthy patients with no underlying kidney conditions. According to Glenda, "During the first surge, dialysis equipment shortages were almost as dire as ventilator shortages. Front-line professionals developed novel solutions. We ensured that nephrologists and hospitals nationwide were aware of these solutions for all patients."

The Response Team collaborates with US Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control, and the White House. The CDC's decision to add chronic kidney disease and organ transplants to the list of high-risk conditions is

