

# Global Summit on Kidney Disease Innovations



THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC

***“The Future of Kidney Innovation: How Science, Research, Artificial Intelligence and Investments Are Accelerating Improved Patient Care and Victory Over Kidney Diseases”***

***presented by the partnership of***

***American Association of Kidney Patients &  
George Washington University School of Medicine & Health Sciences***

**May 18 – 19, 2026**

**\* Virtual Event \***

Since 2019, the *Global Summit* has served the global kidney community as the largest patient-led kidney disease innovations summit in the world. Each year, the event highlights key advancements being made during the Decade of the Kidney™ aimed at reducing human suffering, saving more lives, and protecting livelihoods. From an initial audience of just over 20 countries, the *Global Summit* has grown its reach to more than 115 countries and engaged tens of thousands. This virtual event features two

days of networking opportunities and sessions featuring national and international kidney experts including patient advocates, researchers, academia, healthcare professionals, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, as well as government leaders and regulators.

## #GLOBALKIDNEY2026

The **2026 Global Summit on Kidney Disease Innovations** convenes global leaders across research, clinical care, industry, and patient advocacy to accelerate progress in kidney health. With kidney disease impacting hundreds of millions worldwide – and innovation moving rapidly across diagnostics, devices, and treatments – this year’s summit will focus on what’s next, what’s working, and what must change to ensure breakthroughs reach patients without delay.

This year’s theme, **“Science, Research, Artificial Intelligence, and Investment: Accelerating Victory Over Kidney Diseases,”** highlights a critical priority: advancing game-changing science and technologies, in a timelier manner, to save more lives and prevent the devastating global and societal consequences of unchecked kidney diseases. Our sessions this year will spotlight emerging tools for earlier disease detection and intervention, greater personalized care, next-generation dialysis and home-based technologies, novel therapeutics, transplant innovation, and the evolving role of digital health in kidney care. Kidney disease is both a healthcare and workforce issue and as new technologies enter the market, it is of fundamental importance to remove barriers to care choice and access so that patients are less vulnerable to dependency, disability, unemployment, and high mortality that has, historically, characterized this disease.

Join AAKP and our allied partners at GW SMHS as we help to shape the future of kidney care – where **innovation is accelerated, access is expanded, and outcomes are improved for all.**

\*All sessions are in U.S. eastern time.

**MAY 18, 2026**

Day	Time	Session / Activity	Speaker(s)
May 18	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	The <b>Discussion Board</b> is <i>the</i> place to introduce yourself to other virtual attendees.	

		<p>Don't miss the <b>Social Wall</b> to see what's trending throughout the meeting!</p> <p>Grab a 'virtual' seat in our <b>Network Lounge</b> and chat with fellow attendees!</p>	
	<p><b>10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Award Presentation:</b> Global Medal of Excellence in Kidney Science and Patient-Centered Medicine</p> <p><b>Session 1: CKDu Hotspots: Environment, Heat, Workforce, and Kidney Failure – An Emerging Concern</b></p>	<p><b>Edward V. Hickey, III</b>, AAKP President, Chair, Veterans Health Initiative (VHI), chronic kidney disease patient <b>(USA)</b></p> <p><b>Dominic Raj, MBBS, MD, DM, DNB, FACP, FASN, ISN, ERA-EDTA</b>, Global Summit Co-Chair, Bert B. Brooks Chair in the Medical School; Professor of Medicine, Biochemistry &amp; Genetics and Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Director, Division of Kidney Diseases and Hypertension, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences <b>(USA)</b></p> <p><b>Paul T. Conway</b>, Global Summit Co-Chair, AAKP Vice President and Chair, Policy &amp; Global Affairs, kidney transplant patient <b>(USA)</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Paul T. Conway</b>, Global Summit Co-Chair, AAKP Vice President and Chair, Policy &amp; Global Affairs, kidney transplant patient <b>(USA)</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vivekanand Jha, MD, PhD</b>; Executive Director, George Institute for Global Health (New Delhi, India) and Professor and Chair of Global Kidney Health at Imperial College (London, United Kingdom); mPI, CURE Consortium (India Field Site) <b>(INDIA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Emma Iovoli</b>; Lead, Medical Sustainability, Bayer Consumer Care AG <b>(SWITZERLAND)</b></li> <li>• <b>Kate Applebaum, SCD, MSPH</b>; Associate Professor and Vice Chair, George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health <b>(USA)</b></li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gaige Kerr, PhD</b>; Research Scientist, George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health (<b>USA</b>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Patient Response: Leigh-Ann Williams</b>, AAKP National Ambassador, home hemodialysis patient (<b>USA</b>)</p>
		<b>Wellness Break</b>	
	<b>11:50 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Session 2: Reimagining Kidney Care Through AI: Innovation, Challenges, and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Moderator: Carl Juresic</b>, AAKP International Ambassador, kidney transplant patient (<b>AUSTRALIA</b>)</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Girish N. Nadkarni, MD, MPH</b>; System Chair, The Windreich Department of Artificial Intelligence and Human Health; Director, The Hasso Plattner Institute for Digital Health at Mount Sinai; Chief AI Officer, The Mount Sinai Health System (<b>USA</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Navdeep Tangri, MD, PhD, FRCP</b>; Attending Physician and Associate Professor, Division of Nephrology, Department of Medicine and Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba; Scientific Director, Chronic Disease Innovation Centre; Steering Committee Member, ASN Partnership for Responsible Augmented Intelligence (AI) in Kidney Health Task Force (<b>CANADA</b>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Patient Response: Risa Simon</b>, AAKP National Ambassador, kidney transplant patient (<b>USA</b>)</p>
		<b>Wellness Break</b>	
	<b>12:50 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.</b>	<b>Session 3: Hope and Evidence: Research Driving Kidney Disease Remission</b>	<p><b>Moderator: Timmy Nelson</b>, AAKP National Board of Director, National Ambassador, kidney transplant patient (<b>USA</b>)</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vlado Perkovic, PhD</b>, Provost, University of New South Wales (UNSW) Sydney; former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health and Scientia Professor at UNSW (<b>AUSTRALIA</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Bruce Culleton, MD</b>, Chief Executive Officer, ProKidney (<b>USA</b>)</li> <li>• <b>William Chang, MD, PhD</b>; Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Section of Nephrology, Yale School of Medicine (<b>USA</b>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Patient Response: Fiona Loud</b>, Policy Director, Kidney Care UK, kidney transplant patient (<b>United Kingdom</b>)</p>
		<b>Wellness Break</b>	
	<b>2:00 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.</b>	<b>Session 4: Transforming Kidney Science Through Patient Engagement: The National Institutes of Health-Sponsored “Kidney Precision Medicine Project”</b>	<p><b>Moderator: Paul T. Conway</b>, Global Summit Co-Chair, AAKP Vice President and Chair, Policy &amp; Global Affairs, kidney transplant patient (<b>USA</b>)</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jonathan Himmelfarb, MD, FASN, FAIMBE, FRCP</b>, Director, Center for Kidney Disease Innovation, Professor of Medicine, Barbara T. Murphy Division of Nephrology, Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (<b>USA</b>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Patient Response: Richard Knight</b>, AAKP Immediate Past President, kidney transplant patient (<b>USA</b>)</p>
		<b>Wellness Break</b>	
	<b>3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Session 5: Global Kidney Patient Voices: Organizations Driving Change</b>	<p><b>Moderator: Erin Kahle, MPA, CNP</b>; Deputy Director, American Association of Kidney Patients (<b>USA</b>)</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rajmund Michalski</b>, President, Polish National Association of My Kidneys; Deputy Director, Scientific Affairs, Institute of Environmental Engineering Polish Academy of Sciences; kidney transplant patient <b>(POLAND)</b></li> <li>• <b>Hristina Nikolova</b>, Chair of the Board, Association of Kidney Disease Patients and Friends (APBZ) <b>(BULGARIA)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Physician Response: Barry Smith, PhD, MD</b>; President, Applied Medical Research, Dreyfus Health Policy and Research Center; Rise Up New York; AAKP National Board of Director <b>(USA)</b></p>
		<b>Wellness Break</b>	
	<b>4:05 p.m. – 5:10 p.m.</b>	<b>Session 6: The Cardio-Renal-Metabolic Connection: An Intelligent Approach to Preventing Heart and Kidney Decline</b>	<p><b>Moderator: Edward V. Hickey, III, USMC</b>, AAKP President, Chair, Veterans Health Initiative (VHI), chronic kidney disease patient <b>(USA)</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dan Weiner, MD, MS</b>; Professor, Tufts University School of Medicine; Director, Dialysis Services, Tufts Medical Center; Medical Director, Dialysis Clinic, Inc., Boston; Medical Director, Clinical Research, Dialysis Clinic, Inc.; Nephrologist, Tufts Medical Center <b>(USA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Kishan Rees, MD</b>; Senior Director Digital Cardiovascular, Bayer AG Global Medical Affairs <b>(UNITED KINGDOM)</b></li> <li>• <b>Marc Bains, BBA, BBA</b>, Co-Founder, HeartLife Foundation; Co-Scientific Lead, Canadian Heart Function Alliance; Patient Co-Chair, Bayer Global Heart and Kidney Care Alliance; heart transplant patient <b>(CANADA)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Patient Response: Uroš Bogdanović</b>, Attorney-at-law, type 1 diabetes patient advocate; Board Member, International</p>

		<p><b>End of Day Observations</b></p>	<p>Diabetes Federation Europe, Patient Co-Chair, Bayer Global Heart and Kidney Care Alliance; <b>(SERBIA)</b></p> <p><b>Dominic Raj, MBBS, MD, DM, DNB, FACP, FASN, ISN, ERA-EDTA</b>, Global Summit Co-Chair, Bert B. Brooks Chair in the Medical School; Director, Division of Kidney Diseases and Hypertension, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences <b>(USA)</b></p>
	<p><b>5:10 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>The <b>Discussion Board</b> is <i>the</i> place to end Day 1 by sharing what you learned, your favorite session, or posing a question.</p> <p>Don't miss the <b>Social Wall</b> to see what's trending throughout the meeting!</p> <p>Grab a '<i>virtual</i>' seat in our <b>Network Lounge</b> and chat with fellow attendees!</p>	
<p><b><u>MAY 19, 2026</u></b></p>			
<p><b>May 19</b></p>	<p><b>9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</b></p>	<p>The <b>Discussion Board</b> is <i>the</i> place to introduce yourself to other virtual attendees.</p> <p>Don't miss the <b>Social Wall</b> to see what's trending throughout the meeting!</p> <p>Grab a '<i>virtual</i>' seat in our <b>Network Lounge</b> and chat with fellow attendees!</p>	

	<p><b>10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Day 2: Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Session 1: The Evolution of Kidney Transplantation and Immunosuppression</b></p>	<p><b>Edward V. Hickey, III</b>, AAKP President, Chair, Veterans Health Initiative (VHI), chronic kidney disease patient <b>(USA)</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Edward V. Hickey, III</b>, AAKP President, Chair, Veterans Health Initiative (VHI), chronic kidney disease patient <b>(USA)</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alexandre Loupy, MD, PhD, PhD</b>; Professor of Nephrology, Université Paris Cité; Director, Paris Transplant Group <b>(FRANCE)</b></li> <li>• <b>Rob Carroll, MD, DM (Oxon), FRACP, A(ACHI)</b>; Chief Medical Officer, Avivo Biomedical <b>(AUSTRALIA)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Patient Response: Michel Baujard</b>, Member/Advocate, Torch of Life; kidney transplant patient <b>(FRANCE)</b></p>
		<p><b>Wellness Break</b></p>	
	<p><b>11:15 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Session 2: Reimagining Kidney Replacement: Wearable and Implantable Technologies</b></p>	<p><b>Moderator: Pesh Patel</b>, AAKP National Ambassador, dialysis patient <b>(USA)</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prof. Azrul Azlan Hamzah, MD</b>; Institut Kejuruteraan Mikro dan Nanoelektronik (IMEN), Institute of Microengineering and Nanoelectronics (IMEN), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, (The National University of Malaysia) <b>(MALAYSIA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Hiep T. Ngyugen, MD</b>, Co-Founder and Senior Vice President, Science and Technology, Nephrodite, Inc. <b>(USA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Karin Gerritsen, MD, PhD</b>; Internist-Nephrologist and Associate Professor, University Medical Center Utrecht; Principal Investigator, Artificial Kidney Innovation Lab <b>(NETHERLANDS)</b></li> </ul>

			<b>Patient Response: Precious McCowan, PhD;</b> AAKP National Ambassador, kidney transplant patient <b>(USA)</b>
		<b>Wellness Break</b>	
	<b>12:55 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Session 3: Xenotransplantation and Global Access: Advancements and Adoption</b>	<p><b>Moderator: Paul T. Conway,</b> Global Summit Co-Chair, AAKP Vice President and Chair, Policy &amp; Global Affairs, kidney transplant patient <b>(USA)</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Anam Tariq, DO, MHS, FASN;</b> Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, The George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences; Branch Chief, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) <b>(USA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Hamid Rabb, MD;</b> Professor of Medicine and Surgery; Medical Director, Kidney Transplant; Johns Hopkins University <b>(USA)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mike Curtis, PhD,</b> President and Chief Executive Officer, eGenesis <b>(USA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Joe Tector, MD, PhD, FACS;</b> Founder, Makana Therapeutics <b>(USA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Leigh Peterson, PhD;</b> Executive Vice President, Product Development and Xenotransplantation, United Therapeutics <b>(USA)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Patient Response: Kevin Fowler,</b> AAKP National Ambassador, kidney transplant patient <b>(USA)</b></p>
		<b>Wellness Break</b>	
	<b>2:20 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Session 4: The Economic Case for Innovations in Kidney Replacement Therapy and Transplantation: Empowering Patients, Expanding</b>	<b>Moderator: Edward V. Hickey, III,</b> AAKP President, Chair, Veterans Health Initiative (VHI), chronic kidney disease patient <b>(USA)</b>

		Independence, Income, and Opportunities	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Samir M. Parikh, MD, FASN</b>; Professor, Internal Medicine and Pharmacology and Chief of Nephrology, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas; Chair, Transforming Kidney Health Research Panel and President, American Society of Nephrology (ASN) <b>(USA)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Care Partner Response: Vasundhara Raghavan</b>, AAKP International Ambassador, care partner <b>(INDIA)</b></p>
		Wellness Break	
	3:05 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Session 5: Medication Optimization in Kidney Care: The Pharmacist’s Strategic Role	<p><b>Moderator: Candice Reed</b>, AAKP National Board of Director, National Ambassador, kidney transplant patient <b>(USA)</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wendy St. Peter, PharmD, FCCP, FASN, FNKF</b>; Professor, College of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota; Investigator, Chronic Disease Research Group and United States Renal Data System (USRDS); Director, Advancing Kidney Health Through Optimal Medication Management Initiative <b>(USA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Sam (Yu-Chia) Hsu, PharmD, PhD, MSc</b>; Postdoctoral Researcher, Center for Real-World Effectiveness and Safety of Therapeutics (CREST); Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Informatics, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania <b>(TAIWAN)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Patient Response: Rosi Brack</b>, AAKP International Ambassador, chronic kidney disease patient <b>(GERMANY)</b></p>
		Wellness Break	
	4:05 p.m. – 5:50 p.m.	Session 6: Scaling Home Dialysis Globally: Technology, Training, and Trust	<p><b>Moderator: Dawn Bates</b>, AAKP National Ambassador, care partner <b>(USA)</b></p>

			<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chris Chan, MD, FRCPC</b>; Director, Division of Nephrology, UHN; R Fraser Elliott Chair, Nephrology; Vice Chair, Academic Medical Organization, Sinai-UHN (SUMO); Medical Director, UHN Connected Care and Integrated Care Programs, Provincial Medical Lead of Integrated Care, Ontario Health; Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto <b>(CANADA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Michelle Seger</b>, Policy Director, International Home Dialysis Roundtable; Vice President, Venn Strategies <b>(USA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Peter Rutherford, BMedSci, MB BS, PhD, FRCP (London), FRCP (Edin)</b>; Global Head, Worldwide Medical, Vantive Health <b>(SWITZERLAND)</b></li> <li>• <b>Thao Pascual, MD, FASN</b>; Associate Chief Medical Officer, Home Therapies and Value Based Care, US Renal Care/Satellite Healthcare <b>(USA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Elenor Martensson</b>, Global Customer Manager, Diaverum <b>(SWEDEN)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Patient Response: Patrick Colson</b>, AAKP National Ambassador, home hemodialysis patient <b>(USA)</b></p>
	<p><b>5:55 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Session 7: Vascular Access Innovation: New Devices, Better Care Pathways</b></p>	<p><b>Moderator: Dean Armandroff</b>, AAKP National Board of Director, National Ambassador, dialysis patient <b>(USA)</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prabir Roy-Chaudhury, MD, PhD, FASN</b>; Drs. Ronald and Katherine Falk Eminent Professor and Co-Director, University of North Carolina (UNC) Kidney Center; Nephrologist, Salisbury VA Medical Center <b>(USA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Tammy Gilon, B.Sc</b>; Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Laminate Medical Technologies <b>(ISRAEL)</b></li> <li>• <b>Shawn M. Gage, PA-C</b>; Vice President, U.S. Clinical Affairs, Xeltis <b>(USA/NETHERLANDS)</b></li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shannon Beardsley, MD</b>; CEO and Co-Founder, Health Data Works <b>(USA)</b></li> </ul>
	<b>7:25 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Session 8: Pipeline to Practice: Breakthrough Research, Therapies, and Emerging Trials</b></p> <p><b>End of Day Observations</b></p>	<p><b>Moderator: Paul T. Conway</b>, Global Summit Co-Chair, AAKP Vice President and Chair, Policy &amp; Global Affairs, kidney transplant patient <b>(USA)</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Michele F. Eisenga, MD, PhD</b>; Nephrologist, University Medical Center Groningen Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Groningen; Work Group Member, Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) <b>(NETHERLANDS)</b></li> <li>• <b>Laura H. Mariani, MD, MSCE</b>; Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Nephrology Division, University of Michigan <b>(USA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Shruti Chaturvedi, MBBS, MS</b>; Associate Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University <b>(USA)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Patient Response: Jonathan Haydak, PhD</b>, AAKP National Board of Director, National Ambassador, kidney transplant patient <b>(USA)</b></p> <p><b>Paul T. Conway</b>, Global Summit Co-Chair, AAKP Vice President and Chair, Policy &amp; Global Affairs, kidney transplant patient <b>(USA)</b></p>
	<b>9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.</b>	<p>The <b>Discussion Board</b> is <i>the</i> place to end Day 2 by sharing what you learned, your favorite session, or posing a question.</p> <p>Don't miss the <b>Social Wall</b> to see what was trending throughout the meeting!</p> <p>Grab a <i>'virtual'</i> seat in our <b>Network Lounge</b> and chat with fellow attendees!</p>	

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