

Perspectives on Funding Initiatives in Clinical Research in Kidney Disease in the United States

Rajnish Mehrotra

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The work by the editorial team at the *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* (CJASN) is guided by our vision to be the leading voice in communicating and influencing advances in clinical nephrology. This, in turn, seeks to advance the vision of the American Society of Nephrology to prevent, treat, and cure kidney diseases. To operationalize our vision, our primary goal is to rapidly and effectively communicate results of peer-reviewed patient-focused research that tangibly moves the field forward and is internally and externally valid. However, we are acutely aware that novel findings and treatments identified through biomedical research are just one of many partially overlapping influences that shape the clinical practice of nephrology and the work-life of nephrologists. To inform the readers of the myriad influences that shape the clinical practice of nephrology and biomedical research to improve the health of patients with kidney diseases, we are pleased to introduce *Perspectives*, a new feature in the journal.

Initiatives by funding agencies reflect priority areas for biomedical research, are informed by advances within and outside the specialty, and may reflect the leading edge of change for diagnosis and treatment of patients with kidney diseases. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is, by far, the largest funder of research in kidney diseases. As summarized by the December of 2016 report of the US Government Accountability Office, in fiscal year 2015, the NIH provided approximately \$564 million for biomedical research related to kidney disease; 60% of this funding was provided by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) (1). Hence, the funding priorities and initiatives of the NIDDK are the most influential in shaping biomedical research in kidney diseases worldwide. Starting in 2017, the CJASN will feature an annual update on the funding priorities and initiatives in patient-oriented research by the NIDDK. In the inaugural article in this issue, Norton *et al.* (2) provide perspectives on three recent areas of focus by the agency—precision medicine, pragmatic trials, and health information technology.

Innovation in health care delivery complements advances in biomedical research and is another important

approach to improving the health care of patients with kidney diseases. Large health care systems can serve as incubators for novel approaches in health care delivery, and the Department of Veterans Affairs has long played an important role in such innovation. The Veterans Health Administration serves the health care needs of about 9 million veterans in the United States, one in six of whom have kidney disease. In the second *Perspectives* article in this issue, Crowley and Meyer (3) summarize areas ripe for innovation for health care of patients with kidney diseases and hope that the Veterans Health Administration can provide a proving ground for testing the feasibility and effectiveness in improving the health of veterans.

We hope that these articles provide the context in which to interpret the results of biomedical research published in the pages of the CJASN. In the future, we will publish additional *Perspective* articles on research funding and other areas of high importance to the science and clinical practice of nephrology.

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Disclosures

None.

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Division of Nephrology, Department of Medicine, Kidney Research Institute and Harborview Medical Center, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

Correspondence:

Dr. Rajnish Mehrotra, Division of Nephrology, Department of Medicine, Kidney Research Institute and Harborview Medical Center, University of Washington, 325 Ninth Avenue, Box 359606, Seattle, WA 98104. Email: rmehrotr@uw.edu