



Kidney & Urology Foundation of America (KUFA) is a major voluntary nonprofit health organization dedicated to developing and supporting programs that improve the lives of those suffering from kidney and urologic diseases and those who wait for organ or tissue transplants. KUFA addresses the concerns of the patient and family, identifies those at risk, advocates expanding the availability of organs for transplantation, and acknowledges the role of the nephrology, urology and transplant professional in the fight to save and improve lives.

Our goal at Kidney & Urology Foundation of America is to mitigate the exhaustive human toll on patients and their families: to help improve individual quality of life and to support better health outcomes for patients.

There are 96,225 individuals waiting for a lifesaving kidney transplant and 1,685 additional people who wait for a kidney and pancreas transplant (statistics from UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing), November 24, 2017). And every ten minutes, someone is added to the national transplant waiting list.

There is some good news to report (as cited by UNOS):

More than 33K transplants were performed annually for first time in the U.S., thanks to increased donations. Organ transplants performed in the United States in 2016 reached a new record high for the fourth consecutive year. The growth in overall transplants was largely driven by an increase of 9.2 percent in the number of deceased donors from 2015 to 2016, continuing a six-year trend of annual increases. **This incredible development is possible only because of donors and their families who make the generous decision to share life through donation.**

Still, according to an annual data report from the United State Renal Data System, “the overall burden of kidney disease remains high in the U.S. with the rates of kidney failure requiring dialysis or kidney transplantation ranking among the highest in the world ...and in sharp contrast to the high burden and cost of kidney disease in this country, is the low awareness about the condition among patients with kidney disease, especially those in stages 1 to 3. This may well

relate to low levels of urine testing for protein among those with risk factors for the disease or quite simply the consequence of poor access to care among disadvantaged populations. This represents a major road block in the efforts toward preventing progressive kidney failure with high rates of premature morbidity, mortality, risk of end stage renal disease, and high societal cost.”

KUFA offers the renal and transplant populations opportunities to improve their lives through:

- college and rehabilitation scholarships and achievement awards
- summer camperships for pediatric dialysis and transplant patients
- patient emergency grants

We offer up-to-date medical information, physician referrals, literature, an online support group and host kidney and organ transplant awareness events for patients and at-risk populations.

Moreover, we appreciate the challenges that physicians, nurses, social workers and other medical professionals face to stay current on the latest developments in science, medicine, technology, policy and health. To support their continuing education, we present significant conferences and workshops in a variety of focus areas and disciplines such as pediatrics, pathology, cardiology, transplantation, genetics, neonatology, emergency medicine, and rare diseases. Conference planning is driven by prominent, recognized medical professionals from our pediatric, nephrology and urology medical boards and guest faculty includes nationally, if not internationally recognized leaders from major medical institutions. KUFA also partners with clinicians and researchers at major medical institutions around the country, supporting their efforts to advance understanding of the diseases.

The Kidney & Urology Foundation of America is here for the caregivers, medical providers, patients and at-risk populations and will continue to provide the services so desperately needed in our communities.

