



1725 I Street NW • Suite 510 • Washington, DC 20006  
Tel 202-659-0599 • Fax 202-659-0709 • [www.asn-online.org](http://www.asn-online.org)

## **ASN Supports Discovery and Innovation through Scientific Research Support Maximum Funding for NIH**

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) urges Congress to support the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY 2010 and 2011. The appropriations process is about choice, and there are few things more important to the future of this country than scientific medical research. Since the doubling of the NIH budget from 1998 to 2003, NIH has failed to receive the funds necessary to sustain the momentum achieved by that era of investment. The cut in spending power NIH has experienced over the last six years has limited the amount of research undertaken in US academic medical centers and research institutes, stifled innovation, and discouraged a new generation of investigators from entering the research pipeline. NIH Director, Dr. Francis Collins, has raised red flags around the issue, stating stagnant funding will cause America to “lose a generation of young researchers.” This is a risk Congress should not be willing to take.

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) has increased 30 percent during the past decade. Today, approximately 26 million Americans suffer from this disease. The incidence of CKD is growing rapidly and is a global public health problem that cannot be overlooked. There is still much to be discovered regarding CKD and other kidney diseases, lending to an array of possible medical research. According to ASN President Thomas M. Coffman, MD, “Although the rising incidence and negative consequences of CKD on our public health are well documented, there is a great need for understanding its root causes in order to develop better approaches for prevention and treatment. These are the opportunities that need to be pursued by enhancing our investment in research.”

President Obama recently announced an award of \$5 billion in grants to the NIH through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). ASN celebrates this, and the \$10.4 billion from ARRA NIH received earlier this year. In his speech, President Obama addressed the vast potential held in medical research when he said, “These investments will save jobs, they’ll create new jobs,” and he noted that scientific research “holds promise like no other area of human endeavor.”

The NIH needs substantive, sustainable economic support to continue making discoveries that save lives and spare unthinkable suffering. At a time of unprecedented reform and unparalleled opportunity, the NIH must have the resources to continue to lead the world in scientific discoveries and create healthier, happier lives for all people. To ensure this is possible, ASN urges Congress to support an NIH budget of \$31.3 billion, the House-approved level, in FY 2010, and asks the Administration to support NIH at the highest possible level when developing the budget for FY 2011.

*ASN is a not-for-profit organization of 11,000 physicians and scientists dedicated to the study of nephrology and committed to providing a forum for the promulgation of information regarding the latest research and clinical findings on kidney diseases. ASN is a member of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Steering Committee.*