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Department: Medicine, Division of Nephrology and Hypertension
Mission Category: Research

Faculty Leadership Launch FLIP Proposal

Title: Kidney Disease Research Alliance (KDRA)

Background: Kidney disease is a dangerous medical condition that afflicts over 10% of the United States population. Yet kidney disease awareness is low, and substantial racial and socioeconomic disparities in kidney disease outcomes. Drexel University is uniquely positioned to address some of the most pressing problems in the fight against kidney disease, including socioeconomic disparities in care and stagnation in technologic advancement.

Objective: To engage with Drexel University faculty and trainees to organize and sustain the KDRA, a group which would meet regularly and enhance the collaborative and innovative research on kidney disease and related health conditions at Drexel University.

Approach: The first foundational step to create the KDRA is to build new research relationships and fortify existing relationships between faculty members in the Drexel University College of Medicine (DUCOM) and Drexel University's many other Schools and Colleges. To accomplish this goal, I will organize a speaker series for faculty throughout the University who are engaged in research related to kidney disease to showcase their research to clinical faculty at DUCOM. Next, I will help to organize a recurring, virtual meeting across the University that will provide opportunities for peer mentorship in research related to kidney disease. These recurring meetings will be open to faculty and trainees, and will increase the quality of research proposals in kidney disease from the University as a whole. Finally, a longer term step is to develop a formal pathway to mentor and train clinical residents and fellows in the Department of Medicine and Division of Nephrology in clinical and translational research skills.

Evaluation Strategy: Speaker series attendees will be asked to fill out brief surveys on the content and success of the series talks. Virtual research mentoring meetings will be tracked with respect to number of participants, representation across Schools and Colleges, and on resulting research productivity (e.g., number of submitted abstracts, manuscripts, grant submissions).

Statement of Impact: If successful, this proposal will serve in many capacities to promote Drexel University contributions to the fight against kidney disease. Specifically, the speaker series is expected to identify key opportunities for research collaboration across Colleges and Schools at Drexel University. The virtual research mentoring group is expected to enhance the research quality and productivity of participating faculty and trainees. And finally, development of a formal clinical research training pathway will

allow DUCOM to recruit more talented trainees and will also provide opportunities for research-focused faculty to provide directed mentorship.

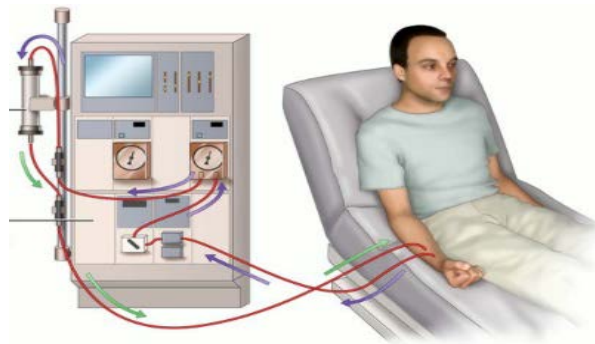


Disease Awareness <10%
30% of new dialysis patients
had **no care** beforehand



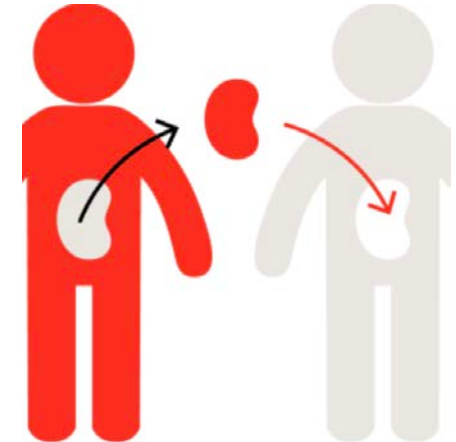
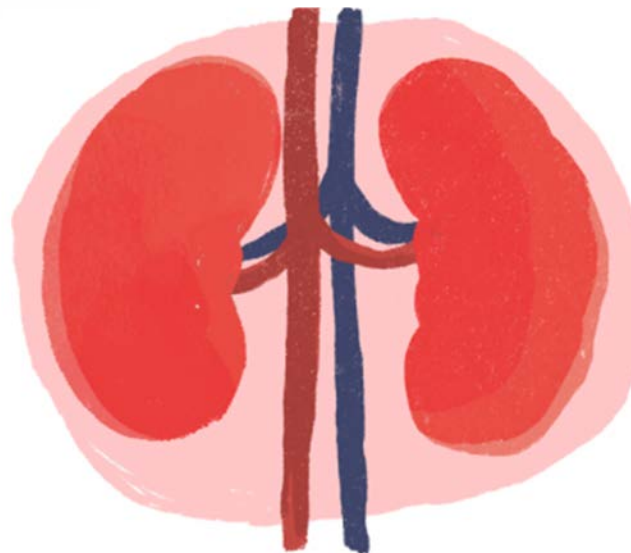
Kidney Disease

\$\$\$ > \$60 Billion/Year



Dialysis

100,000 new patients/year
Low Quality of Life
Old Technology



Transplant

100,000 waiting list
17% organs discarded
5-8 year waiting time
Disparities