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Kidney Disease: The Silent Health Risk

World Kidney Day 2022: Bridge the knowledge gap to better kidney care.

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850 million people are affected by chronic kidney disease (CKD), with **over 2 million people worldwide** receiving **dialysis or living with a kidney transplant**.

However, the mostly silent nature of kidney disease leads to the complexity of trying to understand what cannot be usually seen or felt and, therefore, not knowing when to take action. Knowing when to act will improve through patient health literacy. This can only occur if healthcare providers communicate and educate effectively in a co-designed partnership with those with kidney disease, rather than viewing health literacy as a patient deficit.

On **10 March 2022**, World Kidney Day, the call to action is “Kidney Health for All – Bridge the knowledge gap to better kidney care.” This call to action is for people to be aware of the disease and to seek out actively what kidney health measures, including health literacy, they can personally take.

Agnes Fogo, President of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and Siu-Fai Lui, President of the International Federation of Kidney Foundations – World Kidney Alliance (IFKF-WKA), both lead the World Kidney Day (WKD) campaign. They affirm that for World Kidney Day 2022, kidney organizations must prioritize shifting the narrative from a misplaced emphasis on patient-deficit health literacy narrative, to that of also being the responsibility of clinicians, healthcare providers, related healthcare organizations, and health policymakers.

Improving the quality of communication by kidney healthcare providers will better support patients and caregivers. *“Being able to assess, understand, and use health information related to CKD and its treatment is a right for patients and caregivers worldwide,”* highlights Professor Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh, co-chair of WKD Joint Steering Committee for IFKF-WKA, Division of Nephrology and Hypertension and Kidney Transplantation, University of California Irvine, USA. Moreover, *“authentic information that is meaningful to policymakers is critical. There is much to be done to increase understanding of the magnitude of the CKD burden on the community. Without good communication, many good ideas and solutions do not reach communities and countries where they are needed,”* explains Professor Robyn Langham, ISN co-chair of the WKD Joint Steering Committee, based at the University of Melbourne in Australia.

Kidney healthcare providers and other health care personnel can play a central role in providing information and education that is both accessible and easy to understand for people with varying levels of health literacy. Social media has the potential to provide an increasingly effective channel of communication for spreading health information and connecting networks.



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World Kidney Day Supporters:

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About World Kidney Day:

How is World Kidney Day celebrated?

Kidney associations, organizations, kidney health stakeholders, healthcare professionals, and authorities organize local, regional, national, and international level events to help decrease incidences of kidney disease. People are educated through workshops, lectures, health checks, and displays and distribution of educational posters and other material in hospitals, colleges, community centers, other educational institutions, and public places or the workplace. Events involving physical activity are organized, such as walking, cycling, jogging, and dancing. Information is published on websites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to further raise awareness of kidney diseases and related issues.

For more on World Kidney Day, see: <https://www.worldkidneyday.org/>

About the organizers of World Kidney Day:

World Kidney Day is a joint initiative of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations – World Kidney Alliance (IFKF-WKA).

Founded in 1960, the ISN is a global not-for-profit society dedicated to improving kidney care and reducing the incidence and impact of kidney disease worldwide. Through its worldwide network and programs, the ISN brings together the developing and developed world in a collaborative effort to fight and treat kidney disease on a global scale. Find out more at www.theisn.org.

The International Federation of Kidney Foundations – World Kidney Alliance (IFKF-WKA), a not-for-profit federation founded in 1999. IFKF advocates worldwide to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life of people with kidney disease, disseminates standards of best practice of treatment and care, assists with the establishment of kidney foundations in countries where they do not yet exist, and facilitates educational programs for its members and promotes kidney disease research. Find out more at www.ifkf.org.



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For estimates of deaths attributed to chronic kidney disease from the Global Burden of Disease Study for selected countries, click [here](#)

¹for various prevalence studies on CKD in high-income countries, click [here](#) and <http://ihmeuw.org/4pme>

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