

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**KIDNEY PATIENTS AND THE GW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES HOST
INAUGURAL GLOBAL SUMMIT FOCUSED ON INNOVATIONS IN KIDNEY CARE**

***American Association of Kidney Patients and GW School of Medicine & Health Sciences
Welcome Global Leaders to present on innovations in patient-centered kidney care***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) and the George Washington University (GW) School of Medicine & Health Sciences (SMHS) are pleased to announce a major kidney disease education collaboration, the **Global Summit on Innovations in Patient-Centered Kidney Care**.

The Global Summit takes place May 21-23, 2019 in Washington, D.C. at the George Washington University campus in the Jack Morton Auditorium. The Summit agenda, list of confirmed speakers, and registration information can be found at www.aakp.org/global-summit. Kidney patients, caregivers and medical students are invited to attend the event for free.

AAKP and GW SMHS have invited top international experts in kidney care including medical professionals, patient advocates, academics and researchers, government decision-makers, industry experts and entrepreneurs who will talk about the latest options and approaches to care for kidney disease. International speakers include: Roberto Flavio Silva, MD, PhD, FACP, FASN, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná (Brazil); Piero Ruggenti, MD, Negri Institute (Italy); John Gill, MD, Providence Health (Canada); Eric Litjens, PhD, Hansa Medical (Sweden); and Michael Walsh, MD, PhD, McMaster University (Canada). The event meets full accreditation requirements of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the GW SMHS and AAKP.

Critical issues across the kidney disease spectrum will be discussed including: innovations in biologics, devices, and diagnostics; anemia management and treatment; emerging research in the areas of early disease diagnosis; novel therapies in transplantation including wearable and artificial implantable therapies, and advancements in dialysis care. Other topics will include: tactics to patient outcomes, tailored therapies to help patients align achieve their aspirations such as maintaining their careers; best practices in patient engagement; patient-focused and streamlined clinical trials; and a global look at international practices in patient-centered care.

“We are very pleased to partner with AAKP on this important event. With staggering incidence rates of kidney disease in Washington, D.C. and across the globe, we are thrilled to host this prestigious group of experts who are committed to finding new ways to meet the growing needs of people living with kidney disease,” said Jeffrey S. Akman, MD, Vice President for Health Affairs, Walter A. Bloedorn Professor of Administrative Medicine, and Dean, GW SMHS. “At GW, we have a spectrum of experts focusing on this issue, including our nephrology team led by renowned clinician and scientist, Dr. Dominic Raj, our transplant team, and our educational arm – the Ron and Joy Paul Kidney Center – all of whom are dedicated to improving the lives of those living with kidney disease.”

AAKP President Richard Knight, a transplant recipient, stated “The Global Summit is a tremendous opportunity for professionals and patients alike to learn cutting-edge developments in kidney disease, to network and to become better-informed advocates for innovation, research investment and patient-centered kidney care.”

Global Summit Co-Chair and Chief of the Division of Kidney Diseases and Hypertension at the GW, Dominic Raj MD, FACP, FASN said. “The Division has a long tradition of progressive kidney medicine dating back to 1950s that continues at GW today. This summit advocates for participatory medicine by providing a platform for patients, caregivers, policy makers, scientists and industry to come together with the unified mission of improving kidney patient outcome”

AAKP Chair of Policy and Global Affairs Paul T. Conway, a Global Summit Co-Chair, stated, “AAKP is working with companies, medical professionals and patients worldwide to fight kidney disease and building sophisticated capacities to increase patient participation in clinical trials and advocacy aimed at increasing care choices and medical innovation.”

For additional details or to receive information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Erin Kahle, Director of Stakeholder Operations, ekahle@aakp.org or (800) 400-2393.

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About Global Summit Partners:

American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) is celebrating its 50th Anniversary as the oldest and largest fully independent kidney patient organization in the United States. AAKP patients led the effort in the U.S. Congress and with senior White House officials to establish the End Stage Renal Disease Program in 1973, which has saved over a million lives through dialysis coverage. AAKP fights for patient care choice, early detection; increased kidney transplantation and pre-emptive transplantation; protection of the patient/physician relationship; promotion of research and innovation; and the elimination of barriers for patient access to available treatment options.

George Washington University School of Medicine Founded in 1824, the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) is the 11th oldest medical school in the country and the first in the nation’s capital. Since its establishment, the school has been at the forefront of medical education and has grown to include highly-ranked programs in the health and biomedical sciences. With dozens of top-tier residency programs, SMHS is a competitive and esteemed destination for medical school graduates across the country. Today, students and residents are exposed to some of the most innovative educational techniques, taught by world-renowned faculty members, in state-of-the-art facilities.