

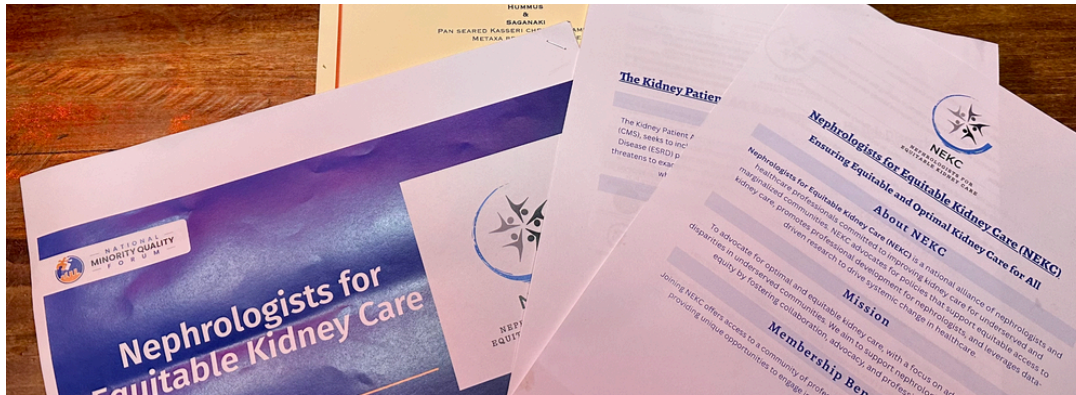


NEKC
NEPHROLOGISTS FOR
EQUITABLE KIDNEY CARE

**NEPHROLOGISTS FOR
EQUITABLE KIDNEY CARE**

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Happy
holidays



Welcome to the Nephrologists for Equitable Kidney Care (NEKC), an alliance of nephrologists and allied healthcare professionals who champion health equity. At NEKC, we are committed to promoting equitable and optimal kidney care for marginalized populations.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM NEKC!

As we close out the year, we want to thank all those who've supported NEKC's mission to achieve optimal kidney care for all.

Your leadership and participation on webinars, social media videos, as well as at in-person events, is greatly appreciated. We look forward to the work ahead in 2025!

We wish you and your family a safe and healthy holiday season!

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

Check out our new website [via this link](#) and schedule a time to meet with our team by completing the discovery form on our homepage!

● Coalition Letter to Congress

Ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday, NEKC organized a joint letter from fellow patient and physician organizations, urging Congress to pass the Kidney PATIENT Act before the end of 2024. The following organizations co-signed the letter to Congress:

- American Society of Nephrology (ASN)
- BlackDoctor.org
- GlomCon
- National Medical Association
- National Minority Quality Forum
- Nephrologists for Equitable Kidney Care
- Renal Physicians Association

NEKC's advocacy and leadership has been crucial in advancing patient-centered policies, and will continue to be a major focus in the near year.

Professional Mentorship

NEKC has been in conversation with Dr. Gentzon Hall to potentially expand NEKC's professional development and mentorship programs. Dr. Hall is an esteemed nephrologist at Duke University School of Medicine, as well as director of GlomCon Foundation's Mentored Internship Program in Nephrology (MIPiN). NEKC is actively working to develop professional development programs for underrepresented nephrologists across the country.



Social Media Video

As part of NEKC's effort to raise awareness of the Kidney PATIENT Act in the month of December, Dr. Janice Desir lent her voice to discuss a recent [study](#) published in the *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology (CJASN)*. In the video, Dr. Desir highlighted the unintended consequences of bundling calcimimetics into the ESRD payment system and how the same policy decision will impact kidney patients who rely on PLTs. The findings revealed significant disruptions in patient access to these medications, increased delays in treatment, and diminished care quality, underscoring the need for a cautious, data-driven approach to policy changes. The video is being shared on NMQF and NEKC social media channels.

Member Spotlight: Dr. Desir



In addition to her leadership with NEKC, Dr. Janice Desir is an accomplished physician in the Bronx, NY, where she serves as a nephrologist for both Kidney Medical Associates and Saint Barnabas Hospital. Additionally, she currently leads a team of 14 physicians in performing utilization reviews for hospitals and doctors in order to address denials by insurance providers, preventing long delays in payments and millions of dollars in potential losses for clients.

Dr. Desir's dedication and expertise have been instrumental in driving the success of our recent projects, especially in relation to advocating on behalf of the Kidney PATIENT Act.

NEKC was also pleased to support her nomination to the CMS Health Equity Advisory Committee, and we wish her the best of luck as the committee reviews her nomination!

Congressional Fly-In Event

On December 4th, NEKC was invited by the National Minority Quality Forum Action Network (NMQFAN) to attend meetings with members of Congress on the Hill to discuss the importance of passing the Kidney PATIENT Act. Several NEKC members, including Dr. Janie Desir, Dr. Randall Maxey, and Crystal King, spoke directly to Congressional leaders and staffers and shared how lives will be impacted if the Kidney PATIENT Act is not passed.

Thank you to our members for flying across the country to support this important event!



Sign NMQF Action Network's Petition [here](#) and Urge Congress to Pass the Kidney PATIENT Act!

Interested in advocating for optimal kidney care in your community? Join NEKC Today!

NEKC is actively recruiting nephrologists, patient advocates, and industry sponsors to support our efforts in ensuring minoritized communities have access to optimal kidney care.

Membership in NEKC offers ample benefits, including professional development, cutting-edge data, involvement in advocacy and much more!

Email mdsolarte@nmqf.org for more information



● Closing Thoughts and To-Dos

Thank you for your continued support of NEKC! We have outlined and committed to remain dedicated to our strategic objectives: Optimal kidney care advocacy, professional development, data-driven guidance, and collaborative partnerships. Your active involvement is crucial as we work to achieve these goals.

- Interested in serving as a co-chair or a member on NEKC's Steering Committee? Please reach out to mdsolarte@nmqf.org for more information.
- Do you want to ensure your voice is heard when shaping NEKC's direction for 2025? Complete our survey [here](#).
- Visit our website [here](#) and please stay engaged by participating in our meetings & supporting our advocacy efforts.