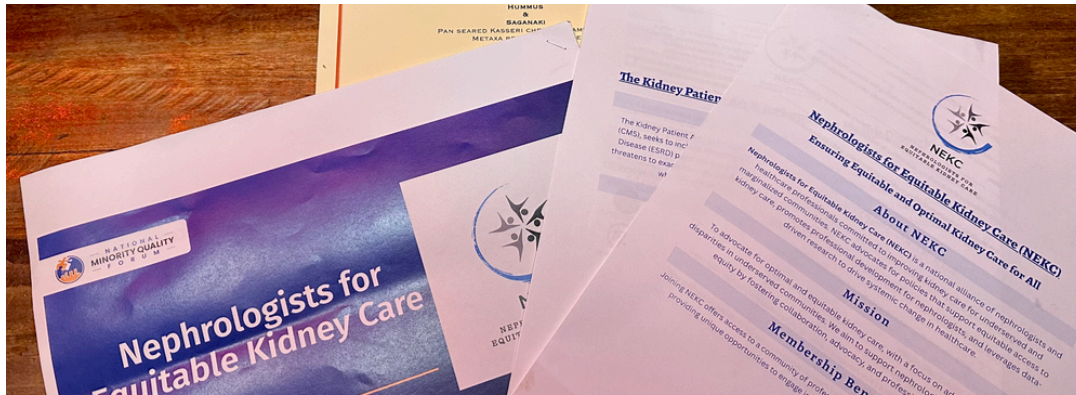




NEKC

NEPHROLOGISTS FOR  
EQUITABLE KIDNEY CARENEPHROLOGISTS FOR  
EQUITABLE KIDNEY CARE

## FEBRUARY-MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER



**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.

### March is Kidney Awareness Month!

As we welcome the month of March, let's be reminded of our mission to raise awareness about kidney health and the importance of ensuring optimal care for all.

Thank you to all of our co-chairs, members and sponsors for supporting our mission!



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!

### NEKC Welcomes New Co-Chairs in 2025

We're excited to welcome **Dr. Janice Desir, Dr. Gentzon Hall, and Ruby Harford, PhD** as the new co-chairs of NEKC! Their expertise, leadership, and dedication to ensuring optimal kidney care make them an excellent fit for this role. We look forward to their guidance and leadership as we work together to achieve our goals. Please join us in congratulating them and offering your full support as they take on this new responsibility!

Additionally, NEKC would like to thank our Founding Co-Chairs, Dr. Randall Maxey and Dr. Sandra Gadson, for their leadership in laying the foundation for NEKC. We appreciate you both!

## Q1 Meeting Summary

NEKC hosted our first meeting of Q1 on February 24th, with our newly inaugurated co-chairs and other members in attendance. The one-hour meeting focused on outlining this year's strategic priorities, in addition to discussing the current political landscape and how it impacts patient care. The slide presentation was shared with members via email, as well as the Zoom recording. You may also access the Zoom recording by clicking on this [link](#) and using the following passcode when prompted: 2&zB6Yxe

## Upcoming Conference Attendance

As part of NEKC's effort to raise awareness of our organization, in addition to our role in advocating for kidney patients, we plan to have a presence at these upcoming conferences. Please note there may be additional meetings NEKC members plan to attend this year that are not included below. We will keep you updated via email and in future newsletters of additional conferences NEKC members plan to attend this year.

- **NephCure:**
  - [“From Awareness to Action: Health Equity and Kidney Care in Black America,”](#) March 3-4 in DC.
- **National Minority Quality Forum:**
  - NEKC will be hosting a reception during [NMQF's Leadership Summit](#) on April 28-29 in DC. More details on the next page.
- **National Medical Association:**
  - [National Colloquium on African American Health,](#) March 27-30 in DC.
  - NMA [Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly,](#) July 19-23 in Chicago.

Please email [mdsolarte@nmqf.org](mailto:mdsolarte@nmqf.org) if you plan to attend any conferences this year that NEKC leadership should be aware of.

## Get Acquainted With Our New Co-Chairs

**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. Gentzon 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). Dr. Hall is also an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Nephrology at Duke University School of Medicine. He is a faculty member at the Duke Molecular Physiology Institute where his laboratory focuses on the genetics of inherited kidney diseases with a special focus on focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS).

**Ruby Harford, PhD** serves as the Chief Executive Officer and President of Atlantis Health Care Group, Puerto Rico. She has over 25 years of experience in the area of renal and intensive care nursing and executive management where her clinical area of focus has been on the care of the end stage renal and chronic kidney disease patient. She has extensive background in regulatory compliance on the interpretation and analysis of Medicare and Medicaid policy and regulatory guidelines. Having experience in working with all the United States Territories and the mainland, she advocates in increasing the awareness and education on healthcare disparities and underserved communities.

## NEKC In Person Meeting at NMQF Leadership Summit

As stated during our Q1 meeting, NEKC will be hosting an in person meeting/reception during NMQF's Leadership Summit between April 28-29 at the Conrad Hotel in DC. Please try to attend this conference, as it will be an incredibly rewarding experience to meet your fellow NEKC members in person. There are a myriad of events planned at the Leadership Summit, and the event serves as a great networking opportunity. Additional details to follow regarding NEKC activities at the NMQF Leadership Summit. Stay tuned!

In the meantime, please register for the Summit via the link [here](#), and use the following discount code upon registering (*you will add the discount code into the "promo code" section upon completing the registration form*): **AlliancesGuest25**

Discounted/group rate hotel information for NMQF's Leadership Summit can be found at this [link](#).

Please complete the questionnaire [linked here](#) if you plan to attend the Leadership Summit/NEKC reception. You may also email [mdsolarte@nmqf.org](mailto:mdsolarte@nmqf.org) to note your attendance. **Please register for the Leadership Summit and reserve your hotel room as soon as possible.**

**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 networking and mentorship opportunities, access to cutting-edge data, involvement in advocacy and much more!

Email [mdsolarte@nmqf.org](mailto: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.

- Please register for the NMQF Leadership Summit and let us know if you plan to attend.
- Any conferences or virtual meetings you plan to attend this year? Email [mdsolarte@nmqf.org](mailto:mdsolarte@nmqf.org) to keep us updated on important events NEKC should be aware of.
- Visit our website [here](#) and please stay engaged by participating in our meetings & supporting our advocacy efforts.