

# SECTION OF NEPHROLOGY

## SECTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Section of Nephrology turned a year of pandemic-imposed challenges into a year of remarkable opportunity. Colleagues in the clinical mission area experienced unprecedented inpatient patient volumes from COVID-19-induced acute kidney injury, high volumes of dialysis patients requiring hospitalization with COVID-19 infection, and had to manage kidney transplant patients and candidates for transplantation in the presence of a vicious virus. Despite this, the Nephrology Faculty of Baylor Medicine continued their rapid growth, increasing their clinical activities and launching a new Inpatient Consult Service at CHI St. Luke's Sugar Land Hospital, and finished the year 2020 strong with >100 successful kidney transplants at BSLMC.
- We capitalized on the research opportunities that came with COVID-19, including a successful NIH grant application led by Dr. Kevin Erickson that garnered a large R01 grant focused on studying the impact of the adoption of telehealth on the care experiences and outcomes of patients undergoing hemodialysis.
- Section faculty continued their involvement on KDIGO clinical guideline panels: Dr. Navaneethan served as topic lead in the new KDIGO Guideline on the Management of Diabetes in CKD and Dr. Awan was appointed to the workgroup for the update of the KDIGO Guideline on Hepatitis C and CKD. Dr. Winkelmayer continues to serve as KDIGO Co-Chair.
- In the education mission domain we added a 10th clinical fellowship slot with a new rotation focused on onco-nephrology in collaboration with our colleagues at the MD Anderson Cancer Center. And we had a particularly successful subspecialty match in which we attracted an outstanding and diverse class of 2023.
- The last 18 months were also bittersweet in that three of our Greats in Nephrology retired, after a cumulative >100 years of service at Baylor: Drs. Garabed Eknoyan, William E. Mitch, and Horacio J. Adrogué. All three are now Distinguished Emeritus Professors and we have had the opportunity to launch strong fundraising efforts to celebrate and eternalize their services to the Baylor and global kidney communities.



**SECTION CHIEF**

*Wolfgang C. Winkelmayer,  
MD, MPH, ScD*

## FACULTY

### **Section Leadership**

- Wolfgang C. Winkelmayer, MD, Sc.D. Section Chief
- Elizabeth J. Fitzgerald, MPA Section Administrator

## **Clinical Leadership**

- Horacio J. Adroque, MD (HMH)
- Venkat Ramanathan, MD (Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center [MEDVAMC])
- Sai K. Saridey, MD (TCH PfW)
- David Sheikh-Hamad, MD (Harris Health)
- Jingyin Yan, MD, PhD (Baylor Medicine and BSLMC)
- Bhamidipati V.R. Murthy, MD (BSLMC Kidney Transplant Medical Director)
- Nila Alvaro (BSLMC McNair Campus, Kidney Health Clinic Manager)

## **Clinical Fellowship Leadership**

- Rajeev Raghavan, MD (Program Director)
- Maulin K. Shah, MD (Deputy Program Director)
- Linda Johnston (Program Coordinator)

## **Faculty**

### **Professor**

- George Dolson, MD
- Paul Klotman, MD
- Sankar D. Navaneethan, MD
- Venkat Ramanathan, MD
- David Sheikh-Hamad, MD

### **Distinguished Professor Emeritus**

- Horacio J. Adrogué, MD
- Garabed Eknoyan, MD
- William E. Mitch, MD

### **Associate Professor**

- Jizhong Cheng, MD
- Zhaoyong Hu, MD
- Bhamidipati Murthy, MD
- Jingbo Niu, MD
- Jose J. Perez, MD
- Rajeev Raghavan, MD
- Sai K. Saridey, MD
- Jingyin Yan, MD, PhD

### **Assistant Professor**

- Aggarwal, Nidhi, MD
- Medha Airy, MD
- Sehrish Ali, D.O.
- Siloe M. Alvarado, MD
- Samaya J. Anumudu, MD
- Ahmed Arslan Yousuf Awan, MD
- Kevin F. Erickson, MD
- L. Parker Gregg, MD
- Michael W. Holliday, Jr., MD, PhD
- Deborah P. Hyink, PhD
- Pascale Khairallah, MD
- Qingtian Li, PhD
- Jenny Szu-Chin Pan, MD
- Maulin K. Shah, MD
- Sandhya S. Thomas, MD
- Bryan M. Tucker, D.O.
- Chandan Vangala, MD
- Carl P. Walther, MD
- Liping Zhang, PhD

## **HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Nidhi Aggarwal, MD**

- Selected FASN

**Sehrish Ali, DO**

- 2021 Women of Excellence Award Recipient, March 2021
- Appointed Associate Program Director, Nephrology Fellowship Program
- Appointed Houston Methodist Hospital Baylor Medicine Nephrology group Medical Director

**Siloe Alvarado, MD**

- Baylor Medicine Patient Experience “That’s the Way” Award
- Appointed Renal Course Associate Director
- Appointed Renal Elective Director

**Samaya Anumudu, MD**

- 2020 Women of Excellence Award
- Fellow of American Society of Nephrology (Aug 2020)
- Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care (Dec 2020)
- 2021 Distinguished Educator Award
- Appointed as BCM Inclusion and Equity Ambassador

**Jizhong Cheng, MD**

- Participated in Special Emphasis Panel, Scientific Review Group: ZRG1 DKUS-B 11 on Renal and Urological sciences small business activities

**Kevin Erickson, MD**

- Participated in the “Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Controversies Conference on Home Dialysis”
- Organized and participated in annual Technical Expert Panels (TEPs) on reform of the ESRD Prospective Payment System – for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) through their contractors
- Organized and participated in a TEP on resource use metrics for the CMS Kidney Care First value-based payment model – for the CMS through their contractors

**Pascale Khairallah, MD**

- Faculty Teaching Award, Section of Nephrology, Baylor College of Medicine

**Sankar Navaneethan, MD**

- Associate Editor, *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*
- Associate Editor, *CardioRenal Medicine*
- Section Editor, *Current Opinion in Nephrology and Hypertension*
- Editorial board member, *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*, *American Journal of Nephrology*
- Member of KDIGO 2020 Clinical Practice Guideline for Diabetes Management in Chronic Kidney Disease

**Jose Perez, MD**

- Top Doctor 2021, *Houstonia Magazine*

- Appointed Chief of Renal Services, Ben Taub Hospital

**Maulin Shah, MD**

- Selected FASN
- Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Appointed Program Director, Nephrology Fellowship Program

**Bryan Tucker, MD**

- Best subspecialty teaching attending at McNair
- Accepted into the 2021-23 Master Teacher Fellowship Program (MTFP) Cohort

**Chandan Vangala, MD**

- Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care

**Carl Walther, MD**

- American Journal of Kidney Diseases Reviewer Hall of Fame
- Selected to ABIM Nephrology Item Writing Task Force

**Wolfgang Winkelmayr, MD, MPH, ScD**

- Co-Chair, Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO), the leading global clinical practice guideline agency in kidney health
- Associate Editor, *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*
- Elected Member, American Society of Clinical Investigation
- Elected Member, American Clinical and Climatological Association
- Executive Steering Committee member, INNO2VATE and PRO2TECT trials of vadadustat versus darbepoetin alfa for anemia in chronic kidney disease (both published in the New England Journal of Medicine)

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### Grants

**Kevin Erickson, MD**

- NIH/NIDDK; The Effects of Telemedicine on Health Outcomes, Costs, and Perceptions of Care Delivery in In-Center Hemodialysis; \$445,000

**Sankar Navaneethan, MD**

- VA-HSR&D; Optimizing Renin Angiotensin System Blocker Use among Veterans with Kidney Disease; \$1,199,010
- VA-HSR&D; CKD Cascade of care;
- VA-HSR&D; Medicaid Expansion and Quality, Utilization and Coordination of Health Care for Veterans with Chronic Kidney Disease; \$1,198,618

## **Sandhya Thomas, MD**

- NIH/NHLBI; Mechanisms underlying atrial fibrillation associated with chronic kidney disease; \$1,500,000

## **Carl Walther, MD**

- NIH/NIDDK; The kidney in advanced heart failure and durable mechanical circulatory support: phenotypes, prediction, and pathophysiology; \$370,000

## **Publications**

- *American Heart Journal* (IF **4.749**): 1
- *American Journal of Kidney Diseases* (IF **6.653**): 18
- *American Journal of Transplantation* (IF **7.163**): 1
- *Annals of Internal Medicine* (IF **25.391**): 3
- *Cardiovascular Research* (IF **8.168**): 1
- *Circulation* (IF **23.603**): 1
- *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* (IF **6.628**): 7
- *Clinical Kidney Journal* (IF **4.452**): 10
- *Critical Care Medicine* (IF **7.598**): 4
- *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* (IF **9.266**): 1
- *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice* (IF **5.602**):
- *European Heart Journal* (IF **22.673**): 1
- *European Radiology* (IF **4.101**): 1
- *Hypertension* (IF **7.017**): 5
- *Intensive Care Medicine* (IF **17.679**): 1
- *JCI Insight* (IF **8.315**): 4
- *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research* (IF **6.741**): 1
- *Journal of the American Medical Association* (IF **56.272**): 5
- *Journal of the American Heart Association* (IF **5.501**): 2
- *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* (IF **10.121**): 8
- *Kidney International* (IF **8.395**): 13
- *Kidney International Reports* (IF **4.164**): 5
- *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* (IF **6.942**): 1
- *Modern Pathology* (IF **6.365**): 1
- *Nature Reviews Nephrology* (IF **19.68**): 1
- *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation* (IF **4.085**): 14
- *The BMJ* (IF **39.890**): 1
- *The New England Journal of Medicine* (IF **74.699**): 2
- *Scientific Reports* (IF **4.379**): 1
- *Translational Research* (IF **5.411**): 2
- *Transplantation* (IF **4.743**): 2

## ***Books and Book Chapters***

**Nidhi Aggarwal, MD**

- Diabetes and Kidney Disease: A Review of the Clinical Practice Guidelines. In: *Diabetes and Kidney Disease*

**Samaya Anumudu, MD**

- Nephrology in the United States of America. In: *Nephrology Worldwide*

**Ahmed Awan, MD**

- Integrative Approach in Chronic Kidney Disease. In: *Nutrition, Fitness, and Mindfulness*