



Forum Matters

**Highlights & Updates
Fourth Quarter 2023**

<https://esrdnetworks.org/resources-news/forum-matters/>

What is the Forum?



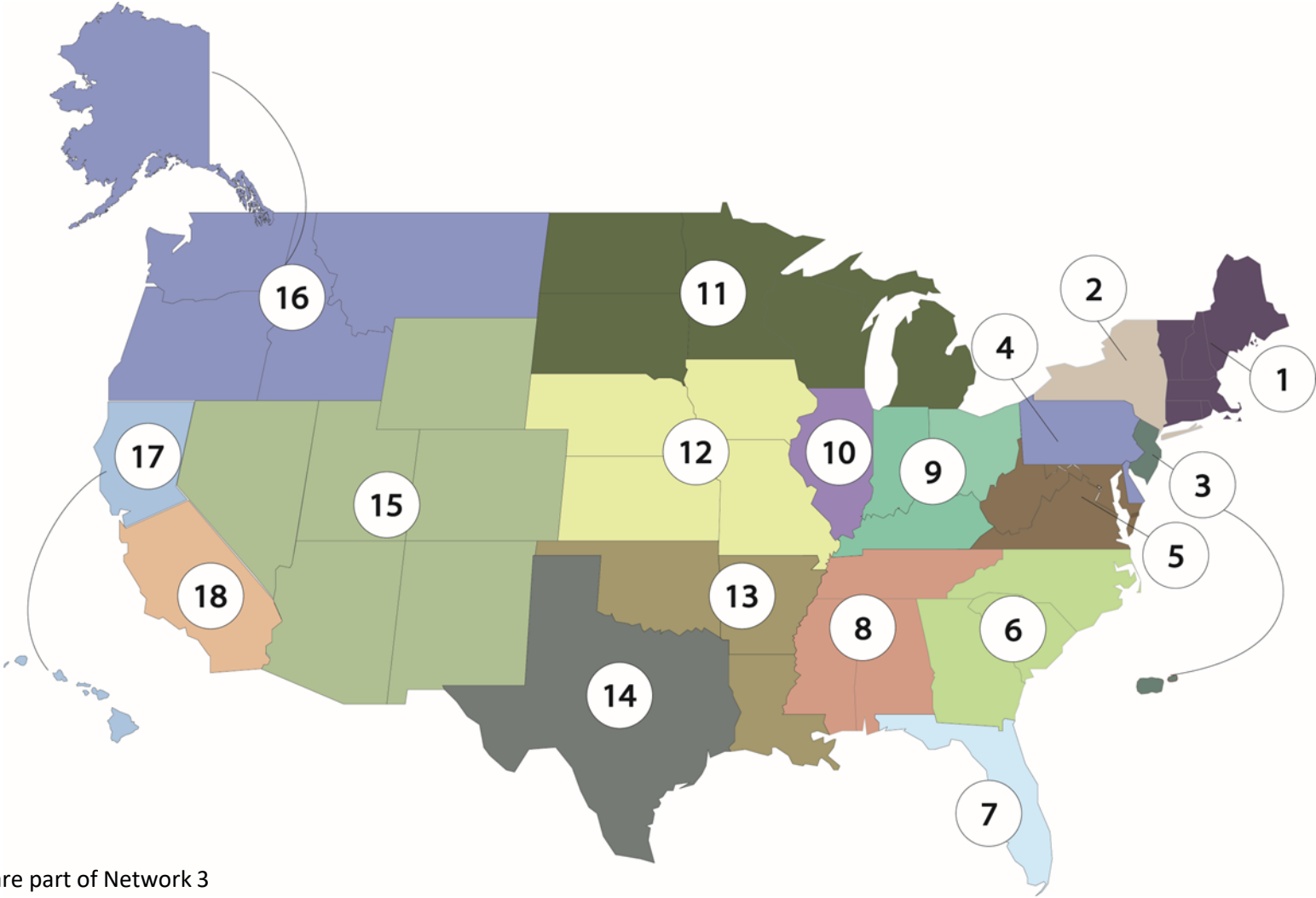
All ESRD Networks are members of the Forum of ESRD Networks, which is a not-for-profit organization that advocates on behalf of its membership and coordinates projects and activities of mutual interest to ESRD Networks. The Forum facilitates the flow of information and advances a national quality agenda with CMS and other renal organizations.

The **MISSION** of the Forum is to support and advocate on behalf of the ESRD Networks in promoting methods to improve the quality of care to patients with renal disease.

CORE VALUES:

- Volunteerism
- Collaboration
- Innovation and Flexibility
- Spread of Knowledge
- Integrity
- Autonomy of Individual ESRD Networks
- Person (Patient & Family) Centeredness

ESRD Networks

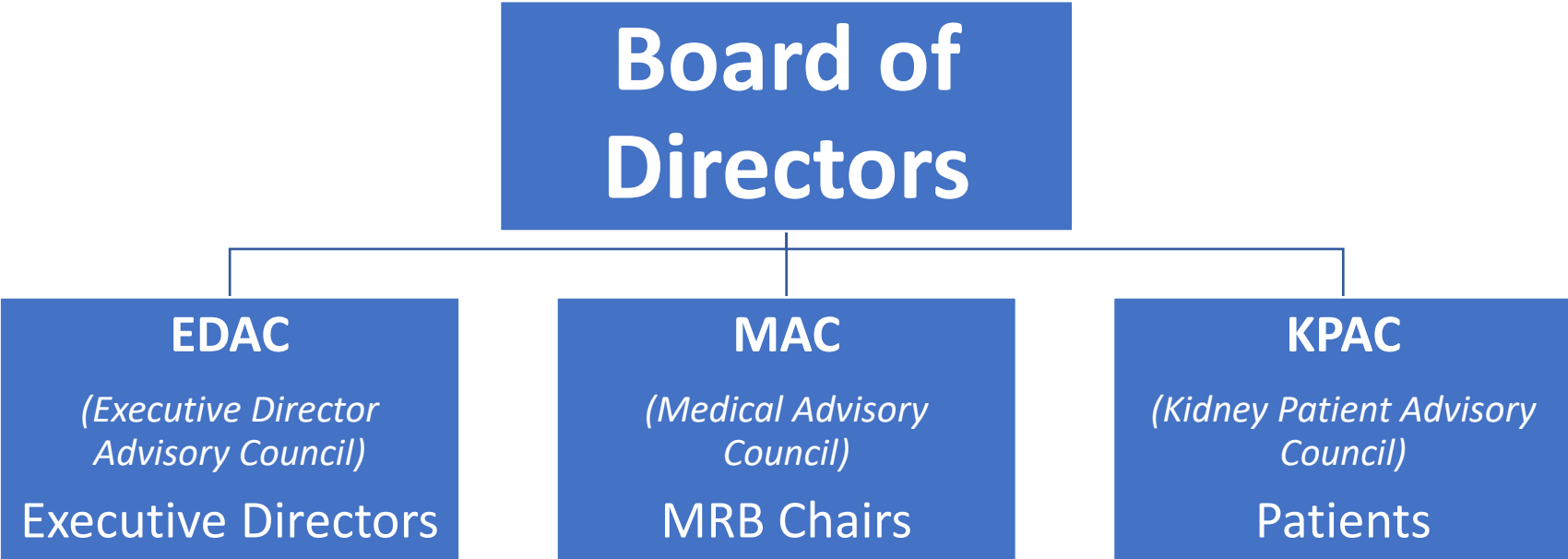


Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands are part of Network 3
Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa are part of Network 17

Strategic Planning Priorities and Updates

- Strategic Partnerships
 - Continued collaboration with CMS, NKF, RPA, and other stakeholders
 - Continued development of new toolkits and updates to existing toolkits
- Board Development
 - Began development of member questionnaire to gauge areas of interest/expertise
- Customer Outreach, Sharing, & Engagement
 - Implemented social media plan for 2023
 - Grew social media audience
 - Posted *Forum Matters* to the Forum website
- Resource Identification
 - Continued work on fundraising plan to diversify revenue sources
 - Established the [Derek Forfang Memorial Fund](#) to fund KPAC activities

Organizational Chart



- Assisting the Networks
- Council Activities: MAC, EDAC KPAC
- Regular Communication with CMS
- Facilitate flow of information between the Forum and Network Staff/BOD/MRB/PAC
- Relationships with other Stakeholders (i.e., RHA, RPA, LDOs, NKF, AAKP, CDC, ASN)

Forum Presidents



Elbert P. Tuttle, Jr.

(1976-1978)

Robert J. Soberman

(1978-1980)

Frederick Westervelt

(1980-1982)

Dominick E. Gentile, MD

(1982-1984)

William W. Pfaff, MD

(1984-1986)

Sidney Baskin

(1986-1989)

John L. Bengfort, MD

(1989-1992)

John D. Bower, MD

(1992-1994)

Louis H. Diamond, MB, ChB, FACP

(1994-1998)

Jay B. Wish, MD

(1998-2001)

Alan S. Kliger, MD

(2001-2004)

Derrick L. Latos, MD, MACP

(2004-2006)

Richard S. Goldman, MD

(2006-2009)

Cynthia Kristensen, MD

(2009-2011)

Klemens Meyer, MD

(2011-2012)

Andrew D. Howard, MD, FACP

(2012-2015)

John Wagner, MD, MBA

(2015-2017)

Donald Molony, MD

(2017-2019)

Ralph Atkinson III, MD

(2019-2021)

David Henner, DO

(2021 - 2023)

Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD

(2023-Present)

Forum Board of Directors (December 2023)



Executive Committee:

President: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD

President-Elect: Dan Landry, DO, FASN

Past President: David Henner, DO

Treasurer: Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA

Secretary: Chris Brown

MAC Chair: Dan Landry, DO, FASN

MAC Vice-Chair: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

EDAC Chair: Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN

EDAC Vice-Chair: Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ

KPAC Co-Chair: Dawn Edwards

Interim KPAC Co-Chair: Mary Baliker

Members-at-Large:

Christine Logar, MD, FASN

Kelly M. Mayo, MS

Keith Norris, MD PhD

Stephen Pastan, MD

Maria Regnier, MSN, RN, CNN

Dee LeDuc

Debra Hain, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FNKF

Ad Hoc:

Andrew Howard, MD, FACP

Donald Molony, MD

John Wagner, MD, MBA

Emeritus:

Louis Diamond, MB, ChB, FACP, FCP (SA)

Executive Directors Advisory Council (July 2023)



| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chair: | Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN |
| Vice-Chair: | Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ |
| Networks 1/2 | Sue Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN, CPHQ |
| Networks 3/4 | Chris Brown |
| Network 5 | Brandy Vinson |
| Network 6 | Danielle Daley, MBA |
| Networks 7/13/15/17/18 | Helen Rose, MSW, BSW, LCSW |
| Networks 8/14 | Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ |
| Network 9 | Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN |
| Network 10 | Audrey Broaddus |
| Network 11 | Dee LeDuc |
| Network 12 | Stephanie Smith |
| Network 16 | Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA |

Medical Advisory Council (November 2023)



Chair: Daniel L. Landry, DO, FASN

Vice Chair: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

Immediate Past Chair: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPA, PhD

Network 1: Daniel L. Landry, DO, FASN

Network 2: George Coritsidis, MD

Network 3: Keith Norris, MD, PhD

Network 4: Paul Palevsky, MD

Network 5: Marc Brazie, MD

Network 6: John J. Doran, MD, FASN

Network 7: Debra Hain, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC,
FAAN, FAANP, FNKF

Network 8: Martha Tankersley, MSN, RN

Network 9: Anne Huml, MD, MS

Network 10: Daniel Roseman, MD

Network 11: Louis Raymond, MD

Network 12: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

Network 13: Laura Rankin, MD

Network 14: Donald Molony, MD

Network 15: Harmeet Singh, MD

Network 16: Christine Logar, MD

Network 17: Ramin Sam, MD

Network 18: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD

Ad Hoc Member: Stephen Pastan, MD

EDAC Rep: Sue Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN, CPHQ
(1/2)

QID Rep: Barbara Dommert-Breckler, RN,
BSN, CNN (16)

KPAC Rep: Dawn Edwards (2)

Kidney Patient Advisory Council (January 2024)



- | | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| Network 1: | Laurie Pease Sherrie Shively | Network 11: | Jeff Nelson Mary Baliker (Interim Co-Chair) |
| Network 2: | Stephanie Dixon Dawn Edwards (Co-Chair) | Network 12: | Shane Blanchard Anita Kucera |
| Network 3: | Bill Senior Anthony Abbate | Network 13: | Yazzi Bishop |
| Network 4: | Timmy Nelson | Network 14: | Precious McCowan Abby Ruiz |
| Network 5: | Virna Elly Patrick Gee | Network 15: | VACANT |
| Network 6: | Jamall Wimberly Eric Dolby | Network 16: | Bob Crabtree Lisa Custer |
| Network 7: | Janice Starling | Network 17: | Doris Lew |
| Network 8: | VACANT | Network 18: | Wendy Skinner |
| Network 9: | Evan Coaker Laura Wilcox | EDAC Rep: | Dee LeDuc (NW 11) |
| Network 10: | VACANT | PSD Reps: | Yessi Cubillo (NW 3) Lisa Hall, MSSW, LICSW (NW 16) |

Forum Leadership Calls & Meetings

Forum Executive Committee:

- Monthly conference calls

Forum Board of Directors:

- Quarterly conference calls
- 2023 Meetings: March 7 & 10 (virtual); September 22-23, 2023 (Denver, CO)

CMS/Forum Leadership Calls

- Monthly conference calls
- In-person meetings at CMS Quality Conference (2020, no in-person meeting in 2021, 2022, or 2023)

CMS/Network/Forum COVID-19 Calls

- Weekly calls began April 2020, transitioned to monthly in November 2020, ended May 2021, monthly calls resumed August 2021, bi-monthly calls began February 2022, monthly calls began in 2023)

Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

- Quarterly conference calls
- Annual MAC Meeting: November 1, 2023 (Philadelphia, PA)

Executive Director Advisory Council (EDAC)

- Monthly conference calls
- Meeting with CMS & Division of Kidney Health/iQIIG Leaders
- Periodic calls with FMC, DaVita, RHA

Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC)

- Monthly conference calls

Highlights from December 2023 Meeting

- The Board discussed potential topics for collaborative calls with CMS in 2024.
- KPAC members Dawn Edwards and Stephanie Dixon have been working with Home Dialyzors United, the AKF, and IPRO to provide face-to-face education to patients in underserved areas. They have conducted sessions in Brooklyn, NY, and Atlanta, GA; in the spring they will conduct a session in New England. The Board discussed implementing this program across all Networks.
- EDAC Chair Vicky Cash shared information about the Network site visits with Melissa Dorsey from the CMS Division of Kidney Health. These visits have been overwhelmingly positive, with Ms. Dorsey seeking patient input on valuable measures for the next Network Statement of Work (2026).
- Dr. Landry shared information about VuMedi as a platform to promote the Forum's work to the medical community.
- Ms. Counter provided an overview of Forum finances in 2023.

Professional Toolkits

- Inpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Kidney Transplant Toolkit
- Transitions of Care Toolkit
- Vaccination Toolkit
- Outpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Home Dialysis Toolkit (update released August 2023)
- Catheter Reduction Toolkit
- QAPI Toolkit
- Health Equity Toolkit (in progress)

Patient Toolkits

- Health Equity Toolkit (in progress)
- Dialysis Patient Depression Toolkit
- Dialysis Patient Grievance Toolkit
- Financial Help Resources
- Kidney Patient Transplant Toolkit
 - *Patient video providing an overview of the toolkit available at https://media.esrdnetworks.org/documents/Is_A_Kidney_Transplant_Right_For_Me.mp4; consider sharing with your patients!*

| Toolkit | What's New |
|-----------------------|---|
| Home Dialysis Toolkit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New sections to address AAKH and Conditions for Coverage updates • Emergency management of home dialysis patients • Impact of ESCOs, ETC model, voluntary models on home therapies • Emerging technology and impact and benefits to home therapies • Addressing disparities and access to care • Home therapy options in the LTC/nursing home settings • KPAC section: empowering patients and care partners to be successful at home |
| Health Equity Toolkit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forms of healthcare inequity • Challenges faced by immigrants with ESKF in the US • Promoting patient engagement and health literacy • Causes and consequences of involuntary discharge • Creating a safe environment for patient-provider collaboration • Implementing and practicing health equity • Making the best use of resources and SHEP |

Regularly scheduled calls to discuss programmatic/strategic issues:

- **Anita Monteiro**, Director, iQuality Improvement & Innovation Group (iQIIG)
- **Shane Illies**, Deputy Director, iQIIG
- **Vacant**, CMS Chief Medical Officer for Quality Improvement
- **Shalon Quinn**, Special Advisor – Data Initiatives
- **Melissa Dorsey**, Director, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- **Ann Turner**, Acting Deputy Director, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- **Mitzi Christ**, Regional Program Manager, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- CORs, ARAs, Central Office staff

2023 Calls: 2/13, 4/17, 6/12, 7/10, 8/14, 9/11, 11/13, 12/11

CMS Organizational Chart

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure,
Administrator, CMS

Liz Fowler
Director, Center for
Medicare and Medicaid
Innovation

iQuality Improvement & Innovation Group

Anita Monteiro, Director
Shane Illies, Deputy Director
Shalon Quinn, PhD, Special Advisory-Data Initiatives
Vacant, CMS Chief Medical Officer for Quality Improvement



DHHS/CMS Organizational Chart:

https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/agency-information/cmsleadership/downloads/cms_organizational_chart.pdf

Highlights from the 4th Quarter 2023

- The November call was devoted to memorializing Board member and KPAC co-chair Derek Forfang who passed away in October. The Forum has established the Derek Forfang Memorial Fund, contributions to which will fund KPAC activities. A recording of the memorial service is available at <https://esrdnetworks.org/in-honor-of-derek-forfang/>.
- In December, Dr. Jenny Shen presented on undocumented immigrants and kidney transplantation.
- Dr. Howard continued to share transplant metrics, including new data on high KDPI kidneys showing benefits for pre-emptive transplants.
- Mr. Brown continued to share COVID updates, noting data lags making it difficult to track the current vaccination status of patients.
- CMS/Forum leadership calls moved from every other month to monthly to allow for more frequent interaction.

What Else Has the Forum Been Doing?

- THREE new Sharing Highly Effective Practices (SHEP) initiatives have been approved and posted to the Forum website at <https://esrdnetworks.org/education/sharing-highly-effective-practices-in-the-kidney-community/approved-highly-effective-practices/>. More highly effective practices are forthcoming.
- The Forum's KPAC welcomed NINE new members to the Council!

Forum Members in the Community

- R. Sam, L. Rankin, D. Henner, D. Molony, J. Wagner, A. Howard, D. Landry, S. Pastan, K. Kalantar-Zadeh, et al. Vaccination for Patients Receiving Dialysis. *Kidney Med.* Available at [https://www.kidneymedicinejournal.org/article/S2590-0595\(23\)00193-0/fulltext](https://www.kidneymedicinejournal.org/article/S2590-0595(23)00193-0/fulltext). (December 2023)
- S. Dixon. Received AKF grant to host support group/holiday party for patients and families at SUNY University Hospital at Downstate. Brooklyn, NY. (December 2023)
- J. Nelson. Met with Wisconsin state representatives to request support for the LPA legislation.
- M. Baliker. Workgroup: Determining Risks Inherent to Transplantation. American Society of Nephrology. (December 2023)
- M. Baliker, A Abbate. University of Michigan Patient Life Goals Focus Group. (December 2023)
- P. Gee. Submission: Patient Perspective on In-Person Visits. *Kidney 360*. (December 2023)
- M. Baliker. Chronic active antibody-mediated rejection: Opportunity to determine the role of interleukin-6 blockade. *Transplantation*. (November 2023)
- D. Lew. Coordinated webinar “Celebrate the Season: Kidney-Healthy Cooking Together” for the National Kidney Foundation serving California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. (November 2023)
- P. Gee. Implementation: Breaking Barriers to Reaching the Bedside: Recruiting Patients as Champions in Their Care: Identifying Barriers and Promoting Self-Advocacy. ASN Kidney Week. (November 2023)
- P. Gee. Patient Panel: Finding the Way Forward. Boehringer Ingelheim. Danbury, CT. (November 2023)
- D. Edwards. Financial Constraints of ESRD Patients Along the Kidney Journey. SUNY Downstate. Brooklyn, NY. (October 2023)
- D. Edwards. Importance of Patient Advocates and How to Utilize Them to Achieve a Better Standard of Care. University of Pennsylvania. (October 2023)
- J. Starling. Dealing with Sepsis. American Kidney Foundation. (October 2023)
- P. Gee. Webinar. Improving Organ Usage and Efficacy: An Introduction to the OPTN Task Force. (October 2023)
- P. Gee. Webinar. Health Information Resources for Culturally Diverse Patients. (October 2023)
- B. Crabtree. AAKP National Kidney Advocacy Day. (October 2023)
- B. Vinson. Forum Representative: National Living Donor Assistance Center Advisory Group. Washington, DC. (September 2023)

Congratulations!

KPAC leaders Dawn Edwards and Mary Baliker
 have been appointed to serve on the
Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology's
 Patient Voices Editorial Board!

On the Horizon in 2023



- Advancing American Kidney Health
- Focus on enhancing social media presence
- Updates to MAC Toolkits and development of three new MAC Toolkits
- New KPAC Toolkits
- Actively pursuing additional financial resources to support Forum/Network activities
- Sharing Highly Effective Practices in the Kidney Community: consider submitting a best practice to the Forum's new community education resource

<https://esrdnetworks.org/education/sharing-best-practices-in-the-kidney-community>

The Forum is committed to supporting the activities of the ESRD Networks and improving care for all kidney patients.

We have a variety of free educational materials on our website and more under development.

We are a nonprofit organization and do all this through volunteer members and limited financial resources.

Your donation directly supports this work.

All donations are tax deductible.

[Donate Here](https://esrdnetworks.org/donate)

<https://esrdnetworks.org/donate>

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Donate now

What's new on the Forum website?

Learn about the new Transplant Toolkit for Patients

This 12-minute video provides an

Social Media



Followers:
Feb 2020 = 134
December 2023 = 358



Followers:
Feb 2020 = 95
December 2023 = 433



Followers:
March 2023 = 47
December 2023 = 125



Social Media



esrdnetworks.org



<https://facebook.com/esrdnetworks>



<https://twitter.com/ESRDNetworks> (tag us @esrdnetworks)



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-forum-of-esrd-networks-inc>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Vp4Hfu7VmSTbSwG7-6e2g>

Sharing something about the KPAC? Use #KPACPatientVoice

Questions / Comments:
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