47th Annual Dialysis Conference
Kansas City, Missouri
2027 Program

Thursday, February 25, 2027

Session 1: PD Fundamentals
1:00-3:00 pm
Moderator: Graham Abra, MD
1:00 How Does PD Work? Shreepriya Mangalgi, MD
1:20 Basics of Prescribing PD - Abdul Hannan Rasheed, MD
1:40 What Is the PET and Its Role in PD Prescription - Joanna Neumann, RN, CNN
2:00 Fluid Overload – Prevention and Management - Anjali Saxena, MD, FASN
2:40 Discussion

Session 2: HD Fundamentals
1:00-3:00 pm
Moderator: Jignesh Shah, MD
1:00 Inside the Machine: Dialyzer Design and HD Technology Essentials - Osama El Shamy, MD, FASN, FNKF
1:20 Cracking the Code: How to Write and Refine an HD Prescription - Dalton Ebel, MD
1:40 Keeping the Circuit Open: Anticoagulation Strategies in HD - Ivan Durlen, MD
2:00 When Things Go Wrong: Troubleshooting Dialyzer and Machine Complications - Koester Wiedemann, APN
2:40 Discussion

Session 3: HHD Fundamentals
1:00-3:00 pm
Moderator: Kunal Malhotra, MD, MBA, FNKF, FASN
1:00 HHD Technology - Brent Miller, MD
1:25 HHD - Rx and Various Forms (nocturnal, short daily and clearance implications) - Nupur Gupta, MD
1:50 Choosing the Right Cannulation Technique: A Patient-Centered Approach - Cheryl Cress, RN, CNN
2:15 Patient Selection for HHD /Role of the Care Partner -HHD Patient Retention - Jennifer Ravert, RN
2:45 Discussion

3:00 Break

Session 4: PD Fundamentals - PD Access
3:30-5:00 pm
Moderator: Anjali Saxena, MD, FASN
3:30 PD Catheter Basics for the Nephrology Team - Abdul Hannan Rasheed, MD
3:55 PD Catheter Flow Complications - Assessment and Management - Shreepriya Mangalgi, MD
4:30 Non-infectious Complications of PD: Leaks - Joanna Neumann, RN, CNN
4:45 Discussion

Session 5: HD Fundamentals
3:30-5:00 pm
Moderator: Lisa Koester Widemann, APN
3:30 Managing Common Intradialytic Complications (hypotension, hypertension, cramps) – Rachel Luber, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
3:55 Rounding That Matters: What Patients Actually Want from Their Care Team - Beth Witten, MSW, LSCSW
4:20 The Symptoms We Don't Talk About: Sleep, Itch, Restless Legs, and Mood in HD - Jignesh Shah, MD
4:45 Discussion

Session 6: Planetary and Kidney Health: When Dialysis Meets Disaster
3:30-5:00
Moderator: TBA
3:30 When the Air Turns Toxic: Wildfires, Heat, and the Dialysis Patient - Ankur Shah, MD, MPH
3:55 Rising Waters, Rising Risk: Floods, Hurricanes, and Dialysis - Jennifer Ravert, RN
4:20 Ready for Anything: Building Disaster Resilience into Dialysis Care - Michelle Carver, BSN, RN, CNN
4:45 Discussion

Friday, February 26, 2027

Session 7: General Session and Keynote Presentations
8:30-10:00 am
8:30 **Welcome/Awards**
Keynote Presentations
9:00 Innovations and Future Directions in Peritoneal Dialysis: Charting the Next Decade of Care- Olof Heimburger MD, PhD
9:30 Every Day Is a Win - David Rush

10:00-10:30 am Break

Session 8: PD Fundamentals: Infectious Complications
10:30-12:00 pm
Moderator: Srinath Yadlapalli, MD
10:30 Infection Prevention - Cheryl Cress, RN, CNN
10:50 Exit Site Infections - Mollie Horn, RN, BSN
11:10 Peritonitis: Case Based Discussion - Anjali Saxena, MD, FASN
11:50 Discussion

Session 9: Vascular Access
10:30-12:00pm
Moderator: Arsh Jain, MD, FRCPC
10:30 Beyond Fistula First: Individualizing Vascular Access in the ESKD Patient - Anil Agarwal, MD
10:55 Catheter Dysfunction: Causes and Management - Vijay Joshi, MD
11:20 Prevention of Catheter-related Bloodstream Infections - Anil Agarwal, MD
11:45 Discussion

Session 10: Workshop: Writing a Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) Prescription: Thinking Like a Kidney
10:30-12:00 pm
Speaker: Ramesh Khanna, MD
This presentation introduces the concept of isonatric ultrafiltration as a physiology-based framework for understanding and prescribing peritoneal dialysis (PD). Rather than viewing ultrafiltration solely as fluid removal, the concept emphasizes that the true therapeutic objective is the removal of isotonic extracellular fluid containing both water and sodium. By integrating classical renal physiology with modern understanding of peritoneal transport, it proposes that sodium removal during PD closely parallels the physiological events occurring in the nephron.

Session 11: Competition, Consolidation, and Closures in Dialysis Care
10:30-12:00
The dialysis landscape has changed substantially over the past decade, with increasing consolidation into *LDOs, the growth of MDOs, shifts in ownership, and facility closures. These changes may affect patient choice, modality availability, staffing, quality, access to transplant, emergency preparedness, and the viability of independent and safety-net dialysis facilities. This session would examine what consolidation and closures mean for patients, clinicians, facilities, and communities.*
Moderator: Sri Lekha Tummalapalli, MD, MBA, MAS
10:30 Framing Talk: The Changing Dialysis Market - Pranav Garimella, MD
A brief data-driven overview of dialysis market consolidation, facility ownership trends, regional variation, closures, and what is known about associations with quality, access, and outcomes.
11:10 Rural, Independent, and Safety-Net Dialysis Facilities: Can They Survive Current Policy? Daniel Weiner, MD
11:30 Panel Discussion: What Happens When Dialysis Markets Consolidate?

12-1:15 PM Lunch symposium- Doors open at 12, program starts at 12:15 pm

Session 12: Is the Bundle Keeping Up? Payment Adequacy, Innovation, and Access in Dialysis Care
2:00-4:00 pm
Moderator: Ankur Shah, MD, MPH
The ESRD Prospective Payment System was designed to encourage efficiency while preserving access to high-quality dialysis care. However, dialysis care has changed substantially, with rising labor and supply costs, new drugs and devices, evolving quality expectations, home dialysis growth, and increasing attention to innovation. This session would examine whether the dialysis bundle is keeping pace with clinical practice and whether current add-on payment pathways adequately support access to new therapies.
2:00 Payment Adequacy in the ESRD Bundle (cover binders as well/unintended consequences) - Daniel Weiner, MD
2:30 TDAPA and TPNIES: Are Add-On Payments Supporting Innovation? Sri Lekha Tummalapalli, MD, MBA, MAS
3:00 Home Dialysis, Staffing, and Support Services: What the Bundle Forgot - Pranav Garimella, MD
3:30 Panel Discussion

Session 13: Jeopardy (Open to all to participate)
2:00-4:00 pm
Moderators: Osama El Shamy, MD, FASN, FNKF; M. Camila Bermudez, MD; Kunal Malhotra, MD, MBA, FNKF, FASN
Dialysis Jeopardy is an interactive game based on the popular TV show where participants answer questions across various categories related to dialysis. From clinical guidelines and patient management to the latest research and technological advancements, this event provides an opportunity to test your knowledge, learn from

your peers, and discover new insights while having some fun! The questions are carefully crafted to challenge your understanding and encourage collaboration with the dialysis team.
In addition to nephrology fellows, we encourage all nephrology providers, including nephrologists, nephrology nurses, dialysis technicians, and renal dietitians, to form teams and join us for this fun and exciting event. Whether you are a seasoned professional or a budding expert, Dialysis Jeopardy promises to be an engaging and informative experience for all.

Session 14: Pharmacotherapy Advances in CKD/ESRD
2:00-4:00 pm
Moderator: Anjay Rastogi, MD

2:00 HIF-PHIs Come of Age: Where Oral Anemia Agents Fit in 2027 - Steven Fishbane, MD
2:20 GLP-1s and SGLT2i in Dialysis: Beyond Diabetes and Weight - Lance Sloan, MD
2:40 Rethinking Phosphorus: New Binders and Non-Binder Strategies - Sagar Nigwekar, MD, MMSc
3:00 Potassium Management Reimagined: Binders, Timing, and Diet Liberalization**–Graham Abra**
3:20 Pipeline Watch: What's Coming Next in CKD/ESRD Pharmacotherapy (Investigational agents, novel mechanisms in trial, what to watch for in the next 2-3 years) - Steven Fishbane, MD
3:40 Discussion

Session 15: Dialysis Access/POCUS Workshop Hands-on Course: Multidisciplinary Hands-on Course: Multidisciplinary
2:00-4:00 pm
Nupur Gupta, MD; Arsh Jain, MD, FRCPC; Srinath Yadlapalli, MD; Cheryl Cress, RN, CNN
This session is a hands-on multidisciplinary course designed to enhance participants' clinical skills in evaluating and managing dialysis access (HD vascular access and PD catheters). The session combines focused didactic instruction with practical training, offering an immersive experience in both physical examination and point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) techniques for evaluation of dialysis access. Attendees will learn to perform comprehensive physical examinations of dialysis access, use ultrasound to evaluate access maturation and mark areas for cannulation, and address common troubleshooting scenarios encountered in the dialysis unit. This workshop aims to equip clinicians and providers with the knowledge and technical proficiency necessary for optimizing dialysis access care.

- Didactics
- Hands-on
- Physical Examination of Dialysis Access
- US of Dialysis Access for Maturation Evaluation
- US Dialysis Access for Cannulation
- Troubleshooting in the Dialysis Unit

4:00-6:30 pm Poster Presentations and Exhibitor Reception

Saturday, February 27, 2027

Session 16: Beyond Diffusion: HDF, MCO, and the New Frontier of Middle Molecule Clearance
8:30-10:00 am
Moderator: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

8:30 Inside the Machine: HDF Technology and How Convection Works - Peter Kotanko, MD
8:50 Prescribing HDF: Getting the Convection Volume Right - Ivan Durlen, MD

9:10 Expanded Hemodialysis: Can MCO Dialyzers Deliver HDF Benefits Without the Machine? TBA
9:30 Weighing the Switch: The Evidence For and Against HDF as Standard Care-Sagar Nigwekar. MD, MMSC
9:50 Discussion

Session 17: Hemodialysis Access: All About AV Access
8:30-10:00 AM
Moderator: Hemender Vats, MD FACP FASDIN
8:30 Surgical vs Endovascular AVF Creation – Alex Alvarez, MD
8:50 Beyond the Thrill: Artificial Intelligence in Predicting AV Access Maturation and Complications - Peter Kotanko, MD
9:10 High-output Heart Failure from AV Access - Hemender Vats, MD FACP FASDIN
9:30 Steal Syndrome and Hand Ischemia – Alex Alvarez, MD
9:50 Discussion

Session 18: Innovations in Peritoneal Dialysis: The More You Know
Joint Session with the ISPD North American Chapter (NAC)
8:30-10:15 am
Moderator: Osama El Shamy, MD, FASN, FNKF
8:30 **Presidential Address** – Jenny Shen, MD, MS
8:40 **Non-icodextrin Based Solutions, Devices that Prevent/Detect Peritonitis & On-site PD Solution Generation**
Three 10-minute roundtable small group discussions focusing on the environmental effect of peritoneal dialysis delivery. Groups will discuss:
1) Non-icodextrin Based PD Solutions - led by Olof Heimburger, MD, PhD
2) Devices that Prevent/Detect Peritonitis - led by Joanne Bargman, MD
3) On-site PD Solution Generation - led by Jenny Shen, MD, MS
9:20 **Panel Discussion and Q&A** – Attendees vote on which innovation they believe is the most impactful in driving forward PD delivery
9:30 Break
9:35 **Trends in Hospitalization Among Patients Receiving PD in the United States**
Moderator: Graham Abra, MD
Speakers: Louis-Charles Desbiens, MD; Annie-Claire Nadeau Fredette, MD
A presentation of the PDOPPS project undertaken by this year's ISPD-NAC Research Awardee, Dr Desbiens who will outline his study's design and outcomes
10:05-10:15 **Panel Discussion and Q&A**

10:00 Break

Session 19 - Tackling PD Therapy Loss: Tracking & Prevention
Joint Session with the ISPD North American Chapter (NAC)
10:30-12:00 pm
Moderator: Jenny Shen, MD, MS
10:30 **ISPD Position: Tracking & Reporting Loss from PD Therapy -** TBA
Outlining the latest ISPD position statement on tracking and reporting loss from PD therapy
11:00 **Break**
11:10 **Standardizing PD-related Infection Training & Protocols -** Annie-Claire Nadeau Fredette, MD

This session will discuss the TEACH-PD trial design and outcomes, as well as findings from the PDOPPS studies and OPPUS (Optimizing Prevention of PD-Associated Peritonitis in US) studies in paving a path to reducing PD dropout rates

11:40 **Panel Discussion and Q&A**

Session 20: Building a Successful Home Dialysis Program: From Start-Up to Scale
10:30-12:00
Moderator: Vikram Aggarwal, MD

10:30 Starting a New Home Dialysis Program: The Nuts and Bolts - Michelle Carver, BSN, RN, CNN
11:00 Scaling the Program and Building the Home Dialysis Ecosystem - Vikram Aggarwal, MD
11:30 Expanding into HHD - Brent Miller, MD
11:50 Moderated Panel and Audience Q&A

Session 21: Advances in Hemodialysis: AI, Algorithms, and the Future of Volume Control in Hemodialysis
10:30-12:00 pm
Moderator: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN
Volume management remains one of the most persistent challenges across hemodialysis care, directly influencing cardiovascular outcomes, hospitalization risk, and quality of life both in-center and at home alike. This session moves from established tools to AI-driven prediction, then puts the field's most provocative question to a live debate: should algorithms replace clinician judgment in setting dry weight?

10:30 **Beyond the Bathroom Scale** - Luca Neri, MD, PhD
(Current device-based volume assessment tools in hemodialysis (bioimpedance spectroscopy, blood volume monitoring, and automated UF profiling)
10:50 **Can AI See It Coming?** Len Usvyat, PhD
(Predicting fluid overload and hypotension with multi-modal AI/ML models)
11:10 **Should AI Set Your Dry Weight?**
Pro: AI-assisted Dry Weight Modeling Should Replace Static, Periodic Reassessment - Luca Neri, MD, PhD
Con: Clinical Judgment and Periodic Reassessment Remain Essential; AI Isn't Ready to Lead - Peter Kotanko, MD
11:30 Rebuttal/Discussion (10 min)
11:40 Panel Discussion: Implementation Challenges
(Workflow integration, clinician trust, liability, reimbursement)

12:00-2:00 pm Lunch symposium, Posters, and Exhibits

Session 22: Optimizing Home Hemodialysis: Practical Solutions for Access, Prescription, and Long-Term Success
2:00-4:00pm
Join this 90-minute interactive workshop where expert facilitators rotate through five participant tables, concluding with a central stage panel synthesis.

How the Rotations Work
Participants remain at their tables while facilitators rotate through every group for structured 12-minute discussion sprints:

- Mins 0–2 (Framing): The facilitator introduces the case prompt.
- Mins 2–8 (Discussion): Table participants collaborate on challenges, workflows, and solutions.
- Mins 8–11 (Capture): Key takeaways are recorded on the table flipchart.

- Min 12 (Transition): Facilitators rotate to the next table when the bell rings

Moderators or Discussion Leaders:

- Table 1: Patient Selection & Onboarding Across Populations - Lisa Koester Widemann, APN
- Table 2: Vascular Access in the Home - Cheryl Cress, RN, CNN
- Table 3: Machine Interface & Digital Health - Osama El Shamy, MD, FASN, FNKF
- Table 4: Prescription Design & Dosing Logistics - Nupur Gupta, MD
- Table 5: Retention Strategies & Burnout Prevention - M. Camila Bermudez, MD

Session 23: CRRT Decoded: Circuits, Complications, and Critical Care Pharmacology
2:00-4:00 pm
Moderator:

2:00 Anticoagulation in CRRT: Citrate, Heparin, and Practical Troubleshooting -Javier Neyra MD
2:35 Writing the Right CRRT Prescription: Dose, Fluid, and the Drugs That Ride Along- Michelle Hwang**,** MD
3:10 Challenging CRRT Cases - Javier Neyra, MD
3:45 Discussion

Session 24: Kidney Care in the Medicare Advantage Era: Access, Equity, and the Road Ahead
2:00-4:00
Medicare Advantage enrollment among patients with kidney failure has increased substantially since the 21st Century Cures Act expanded access for individuals with ESKD. This shift has important implications for dialysis care, transplant access, out-of-pocket costs, and patient choice. This session will examine how Medicare Advantage is changing kidney failure care.
Moderator: Daniel Weiner, MD

2:00 Medicare Advantage in ESKD: How Did We Get Here? Sri Lekha Tummalapalli, MD, MBA, MAS -
2:25 Dialysis Care Under Medicare Advantage: Networks, Utilization Management, and Patient Experience-TBA
2:50 Medicare Advantage and Access to Kidney Transplantation - Ankur Shah, MD, MPH
3:10 What Should We Monitor as MA Becomes a Larger Part of ESKD Care? TBA
3:35 Discussion

Session 25: Fellows Forum
2:00-4:00 pm
Moderator: Kunal Malhotra MD, MBA, FNKF, FASN; M. Camila Bermudez, MD
This session starts with a brief keynote presentation followed by an interactive educational forum where nephrology fellows present challenging and intriguing clinical cases to their peers and faculty members. In this session, fellows demonstrate their diagnostic reasoning, clinical decision-making and knowledge of nephrology. Each case presentation typically includes patient history, examination, findings, diagnostic challenges, management strategies and outcomes.
The session encourages discussion and feedback from attendees, fostering a collaborative learning environment where fellow can gain insights from experienced nephrologists, explore different approaches to patient care, and stay updated on best practices. It also provides an opportunity for fellows to enhance their presentation and communication skills, critical for their professional development.
The presentations are judged by a panel of judges, and a winner is chosen based on the collective scores from the judges.
Judges: Silvi Shah, MD, MD, MS

2:00 Fellows Keynote Presentation: Reproductive Health and Kidney Disease --Silvi Shah, MD, MS
2:30 Presentations of Fellows Submitted Cases

Session 26: Food for Thought: Rethinking Nutrition in Dialysis
4:30-6:00 pm
Nutrition in dialysis has moved well past simple protein counting and phosphate restriction. This session tackles four actively evolving nutrition questions, from whether plant-based diets are ready for prime time in ESKD, to how much protein patients really need, to why higher body weight seems to protect dialysis patients, to the quietly overlooked micronutrients that may matter more than we think.
Moderator: Connie Rhee, MD, MSc
4:30 The Obesity Paradox in Dialysis: Beyond BMI to Body Composition - Kamyar Kalantar Zadeh, MD, PhD
4:50 Are Plant-Based Diets Ready for Dialysis? TBA
5:10 How Much Is Enough? Rethinking Protein Needs in Dialysis - Kamyar Kalantar Zadeh, MD, PhD
5:30 The Micronutrients We Forget - TBA
(water-soluble vitamins, trace elements, what to check/supplement)

Session 27: Transitions of Care
4:30-6:00 pm
Moderator: Lisa Koester Widemann, APN
4:30 The Runway to Dialysis: Preparing Patients Before Day One - Crystal Doty, CCHT
4:50 Modality Switches: Making PD-to-HD (and Back) Work for the Patient – Mollie Horn, RN, BSN
5:10 The Failing Transplant: Recognizing, Managing, and Planning the Return to Dialysis - Ashley Arowood, DNP APRN AGNP-C
5:30 Growing Up on Dialysis: The Pediatric-to-Adult Handoff - Cortney Zimmerman, PhD, ABPP
5:50 Discussion

Session 28: Matters of the Sex: Intersection of Reproductive and Cardiovascular Health with Kidney Failure
4:30-6:00 pm
Moderator: Sri Yarlagadda, MD
4:30 Sex-Specific Cardiovascular Burden and Mortality Risk in Patients with Kidney Disease - Silvi Shah, MD, MS
4:50 Sex Disparities in Vascular Access – Vesna Garovic MD, PhD
5:10 Care of a Pregnant Patient on Dialysis - Silvi Shah, MD, MS
5:30 Menopause, Hormone Therapy, and Family Planning with Kidney Failure: What Clinicians Need to Know - Vesna Garovic MD, PhD
5:50 Discussion

Sunday, Feb 28, 2027

Session 29: CKM Syndrome in Dialysis: Redefining Cardiovascular Risk in ESRD
8:30-10:00 am
Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death in dialysis patients, yet traditional cardiovascular risk models and general-population CKM guidance often doesn't translate well to ESRD. This session examines how the cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic framework applies, and where it breaks down in dialysis patients, and reviews the evidence behind screening, pharmacologic prevention, and emerging metabolic therapies in this uniquely high-risk population.
Moderator: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN
8:30 **CKM Syndrome Meets ESRD: A Framework That Needs Rewriting?** Connie Rhee, MD, MSc
(Why don't dialysis patients fit neatly into standard CV risk paradigms: reverse epidemiology, the obesity *paradox, non-traditional risk factors, how traditional risk calculators (e.g., ASCVD risk score) perform poorly in ESRD populations)*
8:50 **To Screen or Not to Screen: Cardiovascular Testing in Dialysis Patients -** Mallika Gupta

(pre-tx cardiac screening/clearance, ISCHEMIA-CKD trial, merit of asymptomatic CAD screening in dialysis patient, practical guidance)

9:10 **Statins, SGLT2i, GLP-1s and Fish oil: What Actually Works in Dialysis?** Lance Sloan, MD
(Pharmacologic cardiovascular/metabolic prevention strategies in ESRD)

9:30 **The Silent Killer: Sudden Cardiac Death and Arrhythmia Risk in Dialysis –** Dhanunjaya Lakkireddy, MD
(Why SCD are higher in dialysis pts, dialysis specific triggers, modifiable dialysis related risk factors, ICDs role/limitations, practical considerations to decrease arrhythmia risk)

9:50 Discussion

10:00-10:30 Break

Session 30 Closing Plenary: The Power of Patient Advocacy
10:30 am-12:00pm
Moderators: Anjay Rastogi, MD; Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN; M. Camila Bermudez, MD
The conference closes with a powerful look at what patient advocacy means in dialysis care, told through the voices of those who live it. This session combines patient video testimonials with a candid panel discussion between patients and care providers, exploring how advocacy shapes outcomes, relationships, and the future of care

Learning Objectives:
By the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Describe the impact of patient voice on care decisions and outcomes
- Identify practical ways to incorporate advocacy into daily clinical practice
- Recognize systemic barriers patients face and strategies to address them

10:30 Welcome & Opening Remarks
10:40 Patient Video/in-person Stories
10:55 Panel Discussion: Patients & Providers in Dialogue
11:35 Audience Q&A
11:50 Closing Remarks & Conference Send-Off