America's under-recognized kidney disease epidemic highlights the imperative need to improve care, quality of life and clinical outcomes for millions of people living with this disease.

PKD Facts

- PKD is the fourth leading cause of kidney failure.
- By age 65, 45 to 75 percent of patients with PKD progress to end-stage renal disease.
- There is no treatment to stop or slow the growth of the cysts that develop and enlarge in both kidneys. The only remedies for PKD patients once their kidneys fail are dialysis or a kidney transplant.
- Polycystic kidneys can get as large as a football, weighing up to 30 pounds each.
- Parents have a 50 percent chance of passing the disease to each of their children.
- Approximately 10 percent of the people diagnosed with PKD have no family history of the disease, with PKD developing as a spontaneous (new) mutation. Once they have it, they have a 50 percent chance of passing it on to each of their children.
- ARPKD is a relatively rare form of PKD, affecting approximately 1 in 20,000 children. It often causes death in the first month of life.
- For ARPKD children who survive the newborn period (about 70 percent), approximately one-third will need dialysis or transplantation by age 10.

SIGNIFICANT NATIONWIDE BURDEN OF KIDNEY DISEASE

- More than 20 million Americans have kidney disease, which is the 9th leading cause of death in the United States.
- 200,000 of these Americans are children and adolescents, 15,000 of whom are reliant on dialysis or a kidney transplant to remain alive.
- 600,000+ Americans have kidney failure, known as end-stage renal disease (ESRD).
- Nearly all patients with kidney failure are Medicare beneficiaries regardless of age, income, or disability.
- ESRD patients are less than 1% of the Medicare population. However, they account for nearly 7% of the Medicare budget— a total of nearly $35 billion annually.
- 185,000+ Americans live with a kidney transplant and 100,000+ more are on the wait list.
- Nearly 28% of Medicare expenditures involve patients diagnosed with kidney disease.