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PKD Foundation Presents the Lillian Jean Kaplan International Prize for Advancement to Two Esteemed Researchers in Melbourne, Australia

Kansas City, Mo. -- On April 14, 2019, **Andy Betts, CEO of the PKD Foundation** based in Kansas City, Mo., presented Dr. York Pei, Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto, and Dr. Bradley Yoder, Professor and Chair of the Department of Cell, Developmental, and Integrative Biology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Medical School, with the Lillian Jean Kaplan International Prize for Advancement in Melbourne, Australia at the World Congress of Nephrology.

The Lillian Jean Kaplan International Prize is the most prestigious prize in the polycystic kidney field, which recognizes individuals whose scientific work results in tangible achievement toward improving the knowledge and treatment of PKD.

Both researchers were awarded \$50,000, a sculpture, and the awardees will receive a citation depicting the winner's work. In addition, they both were given the opportunity to lecture during the World Congress of Nephrology about their research.

- **Dr. Pei's** research has focused on genetic, genomic, clinical and translational research and has made a significant contribution to advance diagnosis, prognosis, and development of novel treatment in autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease. His research work has been funded by grants from the PKD Foundation and other sources. He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers and served on the Editorial Board for the Journal of American Society of Nephrology and Grant Review Panels for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Kidney Foundation of Canada, National Institutes of Health, and the PKD Foundation.
- **Dr. Yoder's** research over the past two decades has focused on ascertaining the function of the primary cilium in multiple tissues and during development, with a long-standing interest in how loss of cilia function contributes to cyst development in the kidney. His recent research has uncovered roles for primary cilia in regulating innate immune responses following renal injury that accelerates cyst progression. His group is pushing new frontiers using genetically engineered mouse models to analyze cilia-mediated sensory and signaling activities in vivo in live kidneys through intravital imaging approaches.

The Lillian Jean Kaplan International Prize was established in 2002 by the PKD Foundation and the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) through the generosity of Thomas Kaplan in memory of his mother, Lillian Jean Kaplan, who had PKD and died in 2002. The mission of the

Lillian Jean Kaplan International Prize is to stimulate members of the global scientific and medical communities to increase or begin research leading to a PKD treatment and cure; generate momentum in the PKD field; and produce positive public awareness about PKD.

Since 2002, Thomas Kaplan has given more than \$4.5 million dollars to the PKD Foundation, which includes \$1,238,487 in support of the Lillian Jean Kaplan International Prize.

“It is my distinct honor to present both Dr. Pei and Dr. Yoder with the Lillian Jean Kaplan International Prize for their most significant research in the polycystic kidney field. And, we deeply appreciate Mr. Kaplan’s generous commitment in recognizing researchers in their quest to advance treatments for PKD,” said Betts. “The pioneering studies of these researchers provide great hope for the future for all PKD patients.”

Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) is one of the most common life-threatening disorders in the world, affecting 12.4 million people, and is a chronic, genetic disease, characterized by uncontrolled growth of cysts in the kidneys and other organs that can lead to kidney failure. As of today, there is no known cure and only one known treatment to slow the decline of the disease.

To learn more about the PKD Foundation, visit www.pkdcure.org. For more information on the International Society of Nephrology, visit www.isn-online.org.

About the PKD Foundation

The PKD Foundation has been dedicated since its founding in 1982 to supporting and improving the lives of patients affected by polycystic kidney disease. These efforts are accomplished through promoting research to find treatments and a cure, as well as providing education, advocacy and awareness on a national level. The Foundation provides direct services to local communities nationwide and is the largest private funder of PKD research.

The PKD Foundation is the only organization in the United States solely dedicated to finding treatments and a cure for PKD. **Our mission:** We give hope. We fund research, advocate for patients and build a community for all affected by polycystic kidney disease (PKD). **Our Vision:** #endPKD

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