



Kidney Research UK



The gift of your lifetime.

How a gift in your Will can help prevent,
treat and cure kidney disease.

Welcome.

A gift in your Will to Kidney Research UK could be the most important gift you make in your lifetime. So many of the successes and breakthroughs achieved by our researchers were made possible by thoughtful people like you, who chose to leave a legacy to Kidney Research UK.

Gifts in Wills of all sizes make up around a third of all the funding we invest in research each year. Our researchers use that funding to find ways to make life better for people who have, or are at risk of developing, kidney disease. They are discovering ways to improve treatments, making them kinder and more effective. They are finding ground-breaking new processes for making kidney transplantations more successful and available to a greater number of people. And they are developing new ways to diagnose kidney disease earlier, and slow its progression, to prevent kidney failure.

You can read about some great research successes in this booklet. You'll also find practical tips for making and amending your Will to include a gift to Kidney Research UK.

If you have any further questions, you'll find contact details for our legacy team on the back cover. They would be glad to hear from you, and happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you so much for considering making a gift in your Will to Kidney Research UK.

Warmest wishes,

Sandra Currie

Sandra Currie
Chief executive



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Why invest in stopping kidney disease?

Kidney disease can happen to any of us, at any stage of our lives. But right now there is no cure.

If kidney disease is diagnosed late, when too much damage has already been done to the kidneys, there is no way back. The only treatments available when your kidneys fail are dialysis or a kidney transplant.

Around 30,000 people – adults and children – are on dialysis right now¹. They each spend at least 12 hours per week anchored to a dialysis machine, which keeps them alive. Patients lose even more time travelling to their appointments, and some have to dialyse for even longer.

Dialysis takes a heavy toll on every aspect of a person's life. It impacts their time, their energy levels, their income, their mental health and relationships.

While a kidney transplant takes away the burden of dialysis, it can come with a new set of issues to manage, and is not a permanent cure. Transplant patients need to take medicine which weakens their immune system and leaves them vulnerable to illness. And transplanted kidneys only last on average 20 years².

Even though 20 people in the UK develop kidney failure every day³, research to beat it does not receive anywhere near the level of public funding it deserves. Despite the large and rapidly growing impact of kidney disease to people's lives, to the NHS, and to the UK economy, it received only 1.4% of relevant public healthcare research funding – just £17.7 million – in financial year 2021/ 2022⁴.

How could a gift in your Will change lives?

Together we can transform treatments for kidney disease, and perhaps one day find a cure.

Kidney Research UK works to make life better for people with kidney disease.

Since 1961 we have used generous gifts from our supporters to fund pioneering research into kidney disease. It is people like you, supporting Kidney Research UK, who are the driving force behind the life-changing progress being made by some of the best and brightest researchers in the UK. By making a gift in your Will to Kidney Research UK, you are ensuring that this vital research can continue to happen.

Pledging a gift costs you nothing today, but gives you peace of mind, knowing that you will one day offer hope for the kidney community.

One day, a gift in your Will could help find a new treatment for kidney disease, or even a cure. One day, a diagnosis of kidney disease may not be the devastating news it is today. It could be completely treatable. Just imagine it! A world where no one loses a loved one to kidney disease, thanks to you. What an amazing legacy to leave.

¹UK renal registry report

²www.nhs.uk/organ-transplantation/kidney/is-a-kidney-transplant-right-for-you/kidney-transplant-faqs/

³UK renal registry report

⁴Kidney Research UK – Health Economics Report

Meet the researchers.

On the next few pages, meet some of the researchers who are creating a brighter future for kidney patients. Gifts in Wills from people like you helped to make their work possible...

Professor Grazia De Angelis is revolutionising dialysis.

Professor De Angelis is using the latest machine learning technology to create a brighter future for dialysis patients.

Just imagine if dialysis machines were not the big, heavy machines of today, which keep you tied to one place for hours of treatment. Imagine if they were small enough to fit inside a backpack. You could carry one around with you, dialyse on the go, at a time that works for you. Imagine the difference it would make to people whose kidneys have failed. Life would no longer have to fit around dialysis. Dialysis could fit around life.

Professor Grazia De Angelis and her team at the University of Edinburgh are in their lab right now creating that amazing future.

They are harnessing the power of artificial intelligence (AI) to solve one of the biggest challenges of miniaturising a dialysis machine – identifying a suitable filter material for the water used. There are thousands of potential materials, but testing them all would take a very long time. Using AI will speed up this process considerably, narrowing the choices and bringing the hopes of many nearer.

The team hopes to have a shortlist of materials within two years. Lab tests will reveal the best material, and then they can begin testing it in a portable device. Watch this space...



Machine learning accelerates work which would traditionally take years into just a matter of months."

Professor Grazia De Angelis.



For Stuart, a portable dialysis machine could make a massive difference to his quality of life and restore his independence.

"Dialysis takes up six hours of my life, every other day. Sometimes I have good sessions, but others are not so good and can leave me with an absolute headache from hell."

Stuart Rose

Dr Sadr Shaheed is solving a transplant mystery.

Dr Shaheed believes it's vital that we understand more about why kidney transplants fail in some patients.

Sometimes, two patients waiting for a kidney transplant receive a kidney each from a single deceased donor. But the operation may not be equally successful for both patients. Might factors inside the patients' bodies contribute to whether a transplant is successful or not?

This is the question that Dr Shaheed at the University of Oxford has set out to answer, with funding from Kidney Research UK. By studying blood samples from pairs of patients who each received a kidney from the same donor, he is looking for differences in how their bodies have reacted.

His work could help doctors find better matches between patients and donor kidneys, increasing the chances of a successful transplant.

"We are enormously grateful for this opportunity to push the boundaries of transplant research. Thank you, Kidney Research UK supporters!"



Moin, Wen and Gavin are looking for a cure.

Professor Moin Saleem, Dr Wen Ding and Professor Gavin Welsh are working towards a future where gene therapy could cure a rare kidney disease.

Nephrotic syndrome is a condition that damages the tiny filtration structures in the kidney, eventually leading to kidney failure. With funding from Kidney Research UK, Dr Wen Ding and her team at the University of Bristol are investigating whether it might be possible to cure the condition in some people who have an inherited form of the disease.

They are using gene therapy to target the faulty gene that causes nephrotic syndrome and replace it.

Professor Moin Saleem, said: "With most kidney diseases, there is a reasonable window of opportunity, often years, before you get irreversible damage to the kidneys, where we would hope to be able to intervene with gene therapy and avoid the need for dialysis or transplantation."



Meet the patients.

Kidney disease impacts every aspect of a person's life. Over the next few pages, meet some of the amazing people who are sharing their experiences to help raise funds and make more research possible.

Kola is full of gratitude.

Despite many years of dialysis and two failed transplants, Kola is so grateful for the amazing help he has received on his journey.

Kola's life changed suddenly when a blood pressure surge caused severe kidney damage. His father and brother both donated kidneys so he might be able to live free from dialysis. But sadly both transplant surgeries failed.

His consultant, Dr Sian Griffin, discovered the reason Kola's transplants failed. He has a rare condition called atypical Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome (aHUS). The good news was that Professor Tim Goodship at Newcastle University had recently discovered aHUS could be treated with a drug called eculizumab.

The research that led to his breakthrough was funded by Kidney Research UK.

At the time, eculizumab was not available to patients in Wales, but Kola's consultant was about to change that...

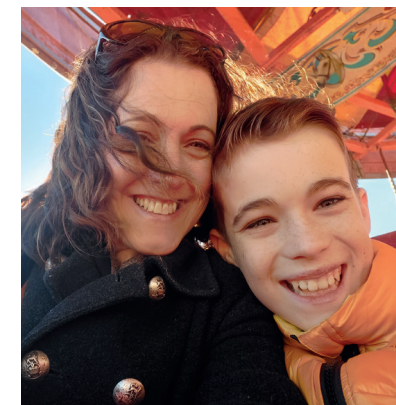
"Dr Griffin was amazing. She gave me a glimmer of hope and the more I walked through that corridor of hope the more the light became brighter. She started a campaign with the Welsh Government to ensure that I, and others like me, could get eculizumab. I will be forever grateful."



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Melina just wants to be a mum.

Kidney disease has taken so much from Melina and her son Charlie, but it hasn't taken their hope for a better future.



"Charlie has not had a normal childhood. Kidney disease stole that from him. After years of symptoms, he was diagnosed with kidney disease at the age of 8. Since the age of 11, dialysis has been keeping Charlie alive. Without it, he wouldn't live two weeks. The reality of that is so hard to bear.

I'd let myself believe that dialysis would transform his life and he could get on as normal. But more often than not, Charlie is in a wheelchair because he's so exhausted. This is really hard for him because he was always such a sporty child. He misses out on so many things that other children take for granted.

I often feel as though I've lost my identity as Charlie's mum. I have just become his carer, his nurse, his counsellor and even his teacher when he is on dialysis. I desperately just want to be his mum again.

For us as a family, supporting Kidney Research UK is important because without research there can't be answers and there can't be progress.



In his lifetime Charlie will inevitably need more than one transplant. His life will be dependant on the progression of the research that Kidney Research UK fund, but they can't do this without support from people like you."

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Meet the legacy givers.

We're so grateful when supporters let us know they have left a gift in their Will to Kidney Research UK. Over the next few pages, hear why some of our brilliant supporters have already remembered us in their Wills.

Deborah's gift.



In 2010 I went to the doctor with what I thought were gastrointestinal problems.

After investigation, I was diagnosed with myeloma – an incurable but treatable blood cancer, known to damage kidneys – mine were indeed failing. I was to undergo chemotherapy for the myeloma and start peritoneal dialysis. It was a terrible shock for me and for my husband John. Our lives changed irreversibly.

My brother-in-law Danny, who had seen what I was going through, decided to give me an incredible gift – one of his kidneys. I had a successful transplant in 2013, and then a year of good health. But sadly the myeloma returned, damaging my new kidney. It was tragic news of course for all of us.

A stem cell transplant helped to protect the remaining kidney function I still had. And thankfully I've been in remission from myeloma for eight years.

I now only have 15-17% kidney function, so every three months I have to go to the kidney clinic for a check up, alongside regular check ups at the myeloma clinic. We live from appointment to appointment. That is the hardest part as you do not get much of a breather in between. When I do get the results and they are good, we can relax a bit for a while and get on with life.

During the pandemic when I was shielding, John and I decided to do our Wills. Writing a Will was straightforward. We've prioritised each other first, and then my nieces and nephew, and then our chosen charities which include Kidney Research UK.

I like all that Kidney Research UK is doing to try and eradicate kidney disease, reduce the burden of dialysis on patients, and to promote organ donation. The biggest achievement will be developing replacement kidneys. I hope they achieve that before my present kidney gives up the ghost!



People put off talking about death and the related administrative issues. But if you do not talk about these things, you will not be prepared, and your family may not know what your wishes are. We found when we made our Wills, it was a weight off our minds knowing our wishes had been captured and the instructions for our estates set out clearly."



Deborah (left) with friends, and above, with her husband John.

Christopher's gift.



Leaving a bequest to Kidney Research UK was an easy decision. My father was diagnosed with IgA nephropathy in his 30s and throughout his life he participated in clinical research to help ensure future generations would have better access to treatments. Leaving a bequest is my way of remembering his efforts and helping him continue his mission to find better treatments for kidney disease."

Keith and Sue's gift.



Supporting Kidney Research UK on your own won't achieve much but by working together the possibilities are endless. We do, will you?"

Susie's gift.



Try to leave this world a little better than you found it. This sentiment was at the heart of our decision to leave a legacy in our Wills to Kidney Research UK, ensuring that when we are gone, our hard earned money will be used to improve the lives of others.

There are many deserving charities but Kidney Research UK really makes a difference; the charity has funded amazing research projects that have led to huge advances in treatments for this awful disease that affects so many people, young and old.

The progress that has been made over the last 20 years has given our family hope that treatment is constantly improving and the world is becoming a better place."

How to leave a gift in your Will.

If you've decided that you'd like to leave a gift to Kidney Research UK in your Will, wonderful! Thank you so much.

Making your Will to include a charitable gift.

If you are making a Will for the first time, the process can be quite simple, but it requires the help of a solicitor or professional Will writer.

1. Make a list of what you have, including your estate and assets, and anything you owe.
2. Decide who you will leave your estate and assets to.
3. Consider including a gift to any charities you would like to support.
4. Ask two people to be your executors – these are the people who will make sure the wishes in your Will are carried out. They can be a solicitor, a friend, or a relative.
5. Ask a professional solicitor or Will writer to help you write your Will.
6. Keep your Will safe where your executors can find it.

To take advantage of our free Will writing service, visit:

www.kidneyresearchuk.org/gifts-in-wills

Amending your Will to include a charitable gift.

If you already have a Will, it is very easy to make a new one to include a charitable gift.

You can do this by contacting your local solicitor, or you can visit:

www.kidneyresearchuk.org/gifts-in-wills and take advantage of our free Will writing service.

For further information regarding this or any other queries relating to your Will, please do email our legacy team at **legacies@kidneyresearchuk.org** and we will do our best to help in any way we can.

Your Will is private, but we would love to say thank you.

Thank you for taking the first step to helping us transform treatments for patients and their families.

Your Will is a private document, and we would never ask to know anything about your choice to leave us a gift from your estate. However, we realise that the decision to leave us a gift in your Will shows exceptional commitment to finding better treatments and ultimately a cure for kidney disease.

If you are happy to let us know about your decision to support Kidney Research UK in this very special way, you can use the simple form enclosed with this pack. We would love the opportunity to say thank you.

Three types of gift.

There are three types of gift you can leave to a charity.

- Residuary gift: this is a percentage share of your estate.
- Pecuniary gift: a specific amount of money.
- A specific gift: such as jewellery, antiques, and shares.

All gifts in Wills are hugely valuable to us, but you can future proof your gift by leaving a percentage share of your estate rather than a gift of a specific sum. This means that when we receive this gift, it is likely to go further in support of our work.

Reduce your tax.

Making charitable gifts could help you minimise your inheritance tax.

Gifts to charities can help to minimise Inheritance Tax and Capital Gains Tax payable in estates. Your solicitor can advise on the best way to use available tax exemptions so that your family and your chosen charities can benefit rather than the tax man.

When we receive the gift, our legacy administration team can work with the executor of your estate to make sure that all the charity tax exemptions are properly applied and maximise the value of the gifts we receive.

We recommend that you speak to a solicitor about inheritance tax or visit www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax to find out more.

You can use this wording to include a gift to Kidney Research UK in your Will.

Wording for a pecuniary gift.

I give £ (amount) to Kidney Research UK, registered charity numbers: 252892 and SC039245, address: Stuart House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1QF for its general charitable purposes and I direct that the receipt of the treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a valid and appropriate form of discharge.

Wording for a residuary gift.

I give a share of (often included as a %) of the residue of my estate to Kidney Research UK, registered charity numbers: 252892 and SC039245, address: Stuart House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1QF for its general charitable purposes and I direct the receipt of the treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a valid and appropriate form of discharge.

Wording for a specific gift.

I give (name item) to Kidney Research UK, registered charity numbers: 252892 and SC039245, address: Stuart House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1QF for its general charitable purposes and I direct that the receipt of the treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a valid and appropriate form of discharge.

Thank you.

Thank you for taking the time to consider making such a wonderful gift for the future of research. When supporters decide to leave us a gift in their Will, we know it is a decision that is not taken lightly, however it is the perfect way to express your values, hopes and dreams. I feel extremely privileged to be able to help fulfil these dreams. If I can be of any help, or if you would like further information about the impact legacies have on our research, please do get in touch.

Ali

Ali Jones

Legacy officer, Kidney Research UK

Email: legacies@kidneyresearchuk.org

Tel: 0300 303 1100

Find more help online.

You can download helpful forms for making your Will, or get in touch with us, at:

www.kidneyresearchuk.org/gifts-in-wills



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Registered Scottish charity no. SC039245. Registered Office: Stuart House, City Road, Peterborough PE1 1QF

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