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Global Kidney Health 2017 and beyond: A roadmap for closing gaps in care, research, and policy

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Abstract

The global nephrology community recognizes the need for a cohesive plan to address the problem of chronic kidney disease (CKD). To address this, a meeting was held in Vancouver, Canada (July 2016) by the International Society of Nephrology. Participants included over 85 individuals with diverse expertise and professional backgrounds from around the globe. The purpose of the meeting was to identify and prioritize key activities for the next five to ten years in the domains of clinical care, research, and advocacy; to identify potential partners within and outside the nephrology community; and to create an action plan and performance framework. Intended users of the action plan include clinicians, patients, scientists, industry partners, governments, and advocacy organizations.

Clinicians, basic scientists, clinical researchers, epidemiologists, methodologists, and industry scientists met for 2.5 days to develop the plan, based on 10 themes: 1. Determine and monitor prevalence of CKD in different regions/countries; 2. Identify and reduce major risk factors for CKD; 3. Reduce progression of CKD by targeting AKI episodes; 4. Improve understanding of the genetic causes of CKD; 5. Improve diagnostic methods to assess alterations in kidney structure and function; 6. Improve understanding of the natural course of CKD and define prognostic biomarkers for renal progression, CVD complications, and other adverse events; 7. Evaluate and implement established treatment options in patients with CKD; 8. Improve understanding and management of the complications of CKD; 9. Validate and establish novel therapeutic interventions to slow CKD progression and reduce CKD complications; 10. Optimize the design of clinical trials in CKD. Using an iterative process, each group produced a prioritized list of key issues, goals, activities, and a set of key deliverables. Proposed activities include clinical care, research, and advocacy.

We articulate, for the first time, a cohesive set of activities to improve the global outcomes of people affected by CKD.

10 Background Statements

CKD affects as much as 10-15% of the population worldwide, and is due to multiple causes.

CKD is associated with impaired quality of life and strongly reduced life expectancy.

CKD is associated with enhanced rates, altered manifestations, and adverse outcomes of all types of cardiovascular disease.

CKD reflects the most serious complication of many different diseases, including diabetes, hypertension, and systemic immune disorders.

The aetiology of CKD remains uncertain in a large proportion of affected individuals; knowledge of the aetiology of CKD is important for targeting of specific therapies.

The mechanisms causing progressive kidney failure and associated systemic complications, including cardiovascular disease, remain incompletely understood, resulting in a lack of targeted therapies.

Nephrology lags behind other medical disciplines with respect to the conduct of clinical trials.

CKD and AKI should be considered as related manifestations of renal impairment with mutual predisposition, functional and structural overlap, and potentiating adverse consequences.

The costs of treating CKD-associated complications (including kidney failure) provide a strong challenge for health care budgets that cannot be met in many parts of the world.

Successful prevention and treatment of CKD is strongly linked to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

5 Key Messages

A global collaborative effort of all stakeholders is required to execute a multifaceted action plan to combat the growing burden of CKD and its complications.

More work is needed to define the aetiology and pathophysiology of CKD at the individual patient level, and at the population level in regions where CKD is endemic.

A concerted effort is required to increase the number, size, and quality of clinical trials investigating how to reduce the burden of CKD and its complications.

Existing data and biomaterial sources need to be better utilized by promoting collaborative efforts and reducing administrative hurdles.

The existing clinical and research workforce is inadequate to address the global burden of CKD, especially in low and middle income countries (LMIC)

Overview

Defining the Problem

Increasingly common. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is increasingly recognized as a global public health problem.¹ Kidney failure is the most severe form of CKD, and is fatal without treatment by renal replacement therapy (RRT; dialysis or kidney transplantation). The prevalence and associated burden of CKD and kidney failure is rising worldwide;²⁻⁴ the fastest growth occurring in low- and low-middle-income countries (LMIC). The incidence of acute kidney injury (AKI) has also substantially increased over the last two decades, and AKI is now recognized as an important driver of CKD and kidney failure.

Exerting a major impact on individuals and society. CKD is associated with impaired quality of life and substantially reduced life expectancy at all ages, and is associated with excess risk for all types of cardiovascular disease (CVD), as well as with other conditions such as diabetes, infections, and cancer.⁵ Even patients in wealthy countries lack optimal access to prevention and early detection of progressive CKD. Although RRT has been available for decades in high income countries (HIC), relatively little is known about the benefits of RRT compared to conservative care in certain important patient groups, such as those with multi-morbidity, or older individuals. In LMIC, people with kidney failure routinely die of uraemia due to lack of access to life-saving dialysis and kidney transplantation.^{6,7} Worldwide, only half of those requiring RRT can be treated and estimates of those untreated range from 2.5 million to 5 million, based on epidemiological data.⁶ The costs of treating CKD and its complications, including kidney failure, are unaffordable for governments and individuals in many parts of the world. Annual costs of dialysis and kidney transplantation alone range between \$35K and \$100K per patient year. Although better access to dialysis and transplantation in LMIC reflects progress on development goals, the costs have profound consequences for families and health care systems. Apart from costs, the provision of RRT depends on sustainable health care infrastructure, personnel, and supplies.⁸ The costs of medications that attenuate the course of CKD and its consequences are substantially less, but also out of reach of many.⁹

Under-recognized by the public and policy-makers. Despite affecting as much as 10-15% of the population worldwide, CKD is not included in most priority lists of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and few countries have explicit policies or public programs aimed at CKD prevention and control. While there remain issues related to the ascertainment of these percentages, there is surprising concordance amongst many international estimates, irrespective of the methodology used to gain those estimates. CKD is defined as abnormalities of structure or function of the kidney, present for greater than three months, with implications for health.^{4,10} Despite the many recognized causes such as diabetes, hypertension, vascular disease, or glomerulonephritis (GN), the aetiology of CKD remains uncertain in a large proportion of affected individuals, hindering prevention, cause-specific treatment, and cure. In addition, acute events, such as infection, dehydration, and exposures to toxins and contrast media for imaging can

all impact kidney function and are especially common in those with underlying CKD. Global advocacy initiatives such as World Kidney Day, Oby25, and the Lancet Kidney Campaign have all aimed to raise public awareness of the consequences, costs, and importance of CKD. World Kidney Day (www.worldkidneyday.org) showcases public awareness of CKD in over 120 countries around the world; Oby25 (www.Oby25.org/) promotes awareness of AKI while devising and testing strategies to prevent AKI-related deaths; and the Lancet Kidney Campaign (www.thelancet.com/campaigns/kidney) aims to improve public and professional knowledge about kidney diseases, scientific breakthroughs, and clinical and ethical issues related to kidney care delivery.

Hampered by major knowledge gaps. Despite substantial efforts from basic, translational, and clinical scientists, optimal care of kidney patients is hampered by insufficient knowledge about mechanisms causing progressive loss of kidney function and its complications. Inconsistency and variability of clinical information and limited samples collected from individuals hinder pooling of data across studies to enable analyses with sufficient statistical power and adequate representation of less common diseases. Several high profile trials failed to show a significant benefit of promising therapies, which creates barriers to innovative treatment approaches. Overall nephrology lags behind other medical disciplines in terms of the number, size, and quality of completed clinical trials. There are multiple reasons for this, including a lack of attractive molecular targets, the relatively slow rates of progression seen in many forms of CKD, uncertainty about the value of surrogate markers, a lack of culture that fosters the robust testing of focussed hypothesis, and a failure to recognize clinical equipoise that would justify such trials. In the last three years, a number of international initiatives have emerged to address these issues, e.g., Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO; www.kdigo.org), International Society of Nephrology Advancing Clinical Trials (ISN-ACT), International Network of CKD cohort studies (ISN-iNET CKD), CKD Prognosis Consortium (CKD-PC; <http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/chronic-kidney-disease-prognosis-consortium/>), and the Kidney Health Initiative (KHI; <https://www.asn-online.org/khi/mission.aspx>).

The need for a plan

The global nephrology community recognizes the need for a cohesive plan to address the problem of CKD. The International Society of Nephrology (ISN) therefore organized a summit that was held in Vancouver, Canada in July 2016 which was co-chaired by the two first and the senior author of this paper, Levin, Tonelli, and Eckardt. Participants included more than 85 individuals with diverse expertise and professional background from around the globe. The purpose of the meeting was to identify and prioritize key activities for the next five to ten years in the domains of clinical care, research, and advocacy; to identify potential partners within and outside the nephrology community; and to create an action plan and performance framework. Intended users of the action plan include clinicians, patients, scientists, industry partners, governments, and advocacy organisations.

Brief Methods

Clinicians, basic scientists, clinical researchers, epidemiologists, methodologists, and industry scientists from different regions of the world met for 2.5 days to develop the plan, which was based on the following 10 themes pre-defined by the 3 co-chairs with input from the ISN Executive Committee: 1. Determine and monitor prevalence of CKD in different regions/countries; 2. Identify and reduce major risk factors for CKD; 3. Reduce progression of CKD by targeting AKI episodes; 4. Improve understanding of the genetic causes of CKD; 5. Improve diagnostic methods to assess alterations in kidney structure and function; 6. Improve understanding of the natural course of CKD and define prognostic biomarkers for renal progression, CVD complications, and other adverse events; 7. Evaluate and implement established treatment options in patients with CKD; 8. Improve understanding and management of the complications of CKD; 9. Validate and establish novel therapeutic interventions to slow CKD progression and reduce CKD complications; 10. Optimize the design of clinical trials in CKD.

Delegates participated in two out of ten working groups, each of which addressed a single theme. Pre-work for the meeting consisted of identification of key issues, supporting literature searches, and facilitated discussion. Using an iterative process, each group produced a prioritized list of key issues, goals, and activities. All groups were asked to develop a set of deliverables to inform the performance framework (Table 5), demonstrate progress, and hold stakeholders to account. Progress will be reported regularly according to the framework, and leveraging the parameters identified in the Global Kidney Health Atlas¹¹ (GKHA; which describes CKD-relevant access to care, health infrastructure, national and regional policies, and research capacity).

Developing the plan

The plan for each theme includes a set of high-level goals and specific activities aiming at achieving the goals. The details of these activities vary by theme, but there are some common characteristics for activities in all themes. Special emphasis was placed on aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relevant to improving child and maternal health, ensuring access to education, clean water, essential medications and vaccines, focusing on prevention and reduction of infections, and improving access to care and health infrastructure, especially in the context of risk factors for CKD ¹² (Theme 2).

A performance framework, based on the overarching goals and specific working group action plans, is presented at the end of this document (Table 5).

Chapter 1. Where Are We Now?

The number, geographic distribution, size, and quality of the studies examining CKD prevalence and incidence has increased over the past decade, but global capacity for CKD surveillance remains far less developed than that for hypertension, diabetes, and CVD. General population prevalence studies of CKD have been done in multiple settings and have provided important baseline information. Some of the earliest, largest, and most rigorous studies were conducted in Australia, Europe, Japan, and the United States of America (USA). Fewer data on prevalence are available in LMIC.

Prevalence of Dialysis and Transplantation

Liyanage et al. estimated that in 2010, globally 2.6 million people received renal replacement therapy (2 million on dialysis and 0.6 million living with a kidney transplant).⁶ They further estimated that this only represents approximately 50% of people who need RRT. These estimates are likely to be conservative. The availability of RRT is quite variable worldwide. Availability is high in the Americas, Europe, and other HIC. In contrast, Asia has nearly one million people on dialysis or with a kidney transplant, but the actual need may be three times higher. The situation is worse in Africa and low-income countries (LIC), where the impact of dialysis on personal finances can be devastating. As per capita incomes increase in LMIC, the prevalence of renal replacement is expected to rise, posing substantial challenges to health systems.

Total CKD Prevalence

A 2010 systematic review identified 33 studies that reported age and sex-specific prevalence of CKD in representative populations worldwide.¹³ The global prevalence of CKD was estimated as approximately 10%, corresponding to almost 500 million people; the estimates in men, women, and HIC vs LIC were relatively similar. Hill et al. meta-analysed 100 studies of CKD prevalence.¹⁴ After accepting the limitations of variable quality and pointing out the marked heterogeneity across studies, they estimated global CKD prevalence to be 13% (web appendix Figure 1), which may overestimate the true prevalence somewhat given the limitations in the source literature. Other work has documented dramatic variation in the apparent prevalence of CKD across studies done in different European populations (5-fold between Norway and Italy on the low end and Northern Germany on the high end).¹⁵ As yet, it is unclear how much of this variation is due to research methods vs. true population differences.¹⁶ Recent data from the USA suggests that initial increases in CKD prevalence¹⁷ have plateaued since the mid-2000s,¹⁸ largely due to a decrease in CKD at older age. However, CKD prevalence in high-risk groups (African Americans and diabetics) has continued to rise.

Major CKD risk factors

Prevention of CKD begins with identification of risk factors followed by mitigation strategies. CKD is caused by multiple aetiologies, both inherited and acquired. On a global scale, diabetes and hypertension are the dominant risk factors for CKD. Obesity is closely linked to diabetes and hypertension, and may also predispose to CKD. Suboptimal maternal and foetal environments and other life-time exposures such as infections, nephrotoxins (e.g., prescription drugs, ingestions, and traditional remedies), and episodes of AKI may also increase risk for CKD.^{19,20}

Despite what is known about prevention, the prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, and obesity continue to rise worldwide. Poor diet, poverty, and unhealthy lifestyles overall increase the risk of CKD and are antecedents to traditional CKD risk factors.²¹⁻²⁸ Good management of diabetes, hypertension, and excess weight reduces the risk of CKD and improves outcomes among those with CKD.²⁹⁻³⁵

Nephrotoxin exposure is a common and under-recognized risk factor for AKI and CKD.³⁶⁻⁴² Nephrotoxic agents, e.g., non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), iodinated contrast media, and certain alternative remedies among many others, are widely available and frequently used in patients at risk of CKD. For example, over 80% of people in LMIC use traditional remedies that are often the only affordable or accessible means of healthcare.⁴³ Many of these remedies are untested and unregulated, leading to high inter-product variability and risks of toxicity.⁴⁴ Kidney stones are another important CKD risk factor.⁴⁵⁻⁴⁷ Modifiable contributors to stone risk include diet and environmental exposures.^{46,47} Individuals experiencing a stone event are at higher risk for another one, and secondary prevention is key to reduce risks of recurrent stones and CKD.^{46,48}

Infections are an important cause of AKI and CKD, especially in resource-limited regions.^{37,49-51} Under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), malaria, and tuberculosis (TB) received particular attention.⁵¹⁻⁶⁰ These and other infections (e.g., impetigo, hepatitis B [HBV] and hepatitis C [HCV], various tropical diseases) are associated with increased risk of CKD.^{51,61-65}

Low birth weight (LBW), prematurity, and high birth weight (HBW, e.g., infants of diabetic mothers) are associated with increased risks of hypertension, diabetes, obesity, CVD, and CKD.⁶⁶⁻⁶⁹ Childhood obesity and pre-term birth are important CKD risk amplifiers.⁷⁰⁻⁷² Mothers who experienced pre-eclampsia/eclampsia have an increased life-time risk of hypertension and CKD.⁷³⁻⁷⁵ Both conditions are common.⁷⁴⁻⁷⁶ Antenatal clinics and delivery sites are central locations for identification of women and children at risk of AKI and CKD who will require long-term follow up.

Pre-existing albuminuria and reduced eGFR are strong risk factors for AKI.⁷⁷⁻⁸¹ Chronic renal damage, impaired renal reserve, and compromised vascular autoregulation may be contributors to AKI risk in the CKD population. However, the pathophysiology underlying this association remains incompletely understood (web appendix Figure 2). Conversely, AKI is a strong risk factor for de novo CKD, CKD progression, and end-stage renal disease (ESRD) in multiple clinical settings.⁸²⁻⁸⁴ In a recent meta-analysis, survivors of hospital-associated AKI had an 8-fold increased risk of developing CKD.⁸⁴ AKI is common in all populations irrespective of geographical location: while aetiologies may vary, the impact of episodes of AKI due to ischemia, toxins, inflammation, or some combination is profound.

Genetic causes of CKD

The past decade has witnessed several important advances in human genetics, including the sequencing of the human genome, establishment of patterns of genetic variation in worldwide human populations, the development of high-throughput genotyping and massively parallel sequencing technologies, as well as advances in statistical genetics and bioinformatics. These advances have enabled the discovery of novel risk genes and variants at unprecedented speed.⁸⁵⁻⁸⁸

Understanding the genetic component to kidney function in health and disease and the interaction between genetic susceptibility factors and the environment can provide

important insights into renal physiology and pathophysiology, including the identification of novel therapeutic or preventive targets. Genome-wide associations studies (GWAS) as well as whole-exome and whole-genome sequencing have become standard techniques to identify genetic loci in which variation associates with complex forms of CKD as well as with kidney function and to detect mutations causing monogenic kidney diseases.⁸⁹⁻⁹¹ Several hundred genes are currently known in which mutations can cause single-gene disorders with a kidney phenotype, as well as dozens of genetic loci in which common genetic variants are associated with kidney function and with complex diseases of the kidney⁹¹ (web appendix Figure 3).

Diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment

CKD encompasses a wide spectrum of conditions, of various aetiologies, that result in glomerular filtration barrier failure and/or loss of renal filtration capacity and tubular functions. Although estimates of glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) and albuminuria are clinically useful for identifying and staging CKD, they are insensitive and non-specific. Kidney biopsies can be used to stratify CKD into distinct subgroups of diseases based on structural evaluation of specific histological patterns in combination with the clinical presentation. In addition, kidney biopsies can provide information on disease activity, molecular mechanisms and prognosis.

However, even in HIC, renal biopsy is only performed in a small fraction of CKD patients – usually in patients with suspected glomerular disease in whom knowledge of biopsy findings may trigger a change in management. For the more common causes of CKD such as diabetes and hypertension, renal biopsies are only performed in instances where the presentation or clinical course is atypical. Increasing the use of kidney biopsy materials to gain better diagnostic and prognostic insights is important in all regions of the world.

Given the variability in kidney and CVD outcomes of CKD patients, there is a need to identify and thoroughly validate novel prognostic biomarkers that help to predict future risk and understand the underlying molecular mechanisms. Current CV risk algorithms are based on traditional CV risk factors and do not include albuminuria or eGFR, which provide additional prognostic information. Although novel biomarkers have been identified within the CKD and CVD populations, most studies to date have focused on assessing the predictive value of single biomarkers at a single time point, e.g., CRIC,⁹² CanPREDDICT,⁹³ PREVEND,⁹⁴ REGARDS,⁹⁵ and TREAT.⁹⁶

The utility of biomarkers in clinical care, for resource planning, for targeting of novel pathways, or for enriching clinical trials and the utility of biomarker panels and dynamics has not been well examined in nephrology: much work needs to be done, specifically in the research arena.

While there are many unanswered questions in CKD care, there are nevertheless strategies and treatment options that have been shown to be effective in improving outcomes. A fast and efficient way to improve outcomes of CKD patients would be to fully implement those therapies. Specific strategies which have been shown to improve

outcomes of patients with CKD include: blood pressure (BP) lowering;^{97,98} reduction of proteinuria;^{97,99} use of ACEi or ARB;¹⁰⁰ and the use of statins to reduce atherosclerotic events.^{101,102} Glycaemic control in both type 1 and type 2 diabetics also improves outcomes^{103,104} and newer agents such as SGLT2 inhibitors have the additional benefit of reducing albuminuria, CV outcomes, and progression of CKD in diabetics.¹⁰⁵⁻¹⁰⁷

Recent studies suggest that specific therapies targeted at specific kidney diseases may be of long-term benefit.¹⁰⁸ However, the implementation of established therapies is variable within and between regions. Physician, patient, and health care system factors may all play a role. Access to care or therapies is often restricted by poor availability, expense, or limited access to expert advice. Physicians may fail to adopt best practices, or lack the tools to ensure standardization of care. For example, the uptake of well-established therapies such as renin-angiotensin blockade in CKD patients followed by nephrologists is less than 70%.¹⁰⁹ In some cases, there are problems with tolerance of specific medications or adherence.¹¹⁰

In addition to progressive kidney function loss, CKD is associated with multiple complications that cause morbidity, mortality, and reduce quality of life. Some of these complications (e.g., CVD, hypertension, anaemia, and metabolic bone disease [hyperphosphatemia, hyperparathyroidism]) are important in day-to-day clinical practice and have been extensively studied. Others (e.g., sodium/fluid retention, metabolic acidosis) are clear clinical priorities but have been less well studied, and a third group (e.g., symptoms such as pruritus and nausea) are neither clinical nor research priorities.¹¹¹ Although more research is needed for all three of these groups, increasing attention appears warranted for the causes and optimal treatment of CKD-associated symptoms.¹¹²

Clinical trials

High quality clinical trials are the cornerstone of evidence-based prevention and treatment of disease, but nephrology has a strikingly weak base of such trials. The number of trials conducted in nephrology is less than any other specialty, and shows little evidence of improvement.¹¹³ Available trials in kidney disease populations tend to be smaller than those in other specialties, and are less likely to be randomized or blinded.¹¹⁴ Building the evidence base to improve outcomes for people with kidney disease therefore requires both greater quantity and quality of trials.

Most Phase 2-4 trials in CKD populations have not shown benefit for their primary endpoint and several have been stopped due to safety concerns (web appendix Table 1). Different specific causes of CKD probably require targeted therapies to alter initiation of injury. On the other hand, once CKD is established, some mechanisms for progression may be similar (regardless of cause) and an inclusive approach by clinical trialists and regulatory authorities is required. Clearly the appetite for investment in new therapies for CKD by the private sector is driven by large clinical need, but hampered by the high risk of failure reinforced by the history of disappointing large studies and the lack of intermediate endpoints/biomarkers that the regulatory agencies will accept for approval. Although not exhaustive, web appendix Table 1 Recent Clinical Trials in CKD,

details important recent and ongoing Phase 2-4 clinical trials in CKD, excluding trials in the transplant population.

A number of factors have contributed to this situation. The science of designing clinical trials needs innovation, but has received limited attention to date in nephrology, with no dedicated discussion forum and a relatively low profile at existing major kidney meetings. As a result, designs have been relatively static. Trials have mostly focused on the needs of HIC, with little input from (and limited relevance to) LMIC.

The selection of valid and appropriate endpoints in kidney disease trials has proved especially problematic. The most clinically important outcome in CKD patients is kidney failure requiring dialysis or transplantation, or leading to death. However, this endpoint typically develops over many years (or decades) so defining the effects of interventions on this endpoint is often difficult if not impossible. To make trials feasible, many enrol large numbers of people with advanced stages of CKD, where progression is considered to be more predictable than in earlier stages. However, interventions that slow progression during earlier stages of kidney disease may not be effective in later stages. A doubling of serum creatinine (equivalent to a 57% decline in eGFR) has been accepted as a surrogate for the development of kidney failure for many years. A workshop convened by the US National Kidney Foundation (NKF) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended the threshold may be reduced to 40% or even 30% GFR decline under specific circumstances, improving trial feasibility.¹¹⁵

Chapter 2. What We Don't Know – Knowledge Gaps

Dialysis and kidney transplantation registries are non-existent or incomplete for most of the world's population. Furthermore, RRT is only one measure of the burden of kidney failure given that many patients either choose not to receive or are unable to receive RRT. Population-based registries of less severe forms of CKD are infrequent even in wealthy countries. Estimates of the total burden of CKD suffer from methodological limitations, with sampling often relying on convenience rather than random approaches, and regional rather than national coverage. Creatinine standardization is much improved, but prevalence estimates remain very sensitive to calibration errors. The CKD-EPI equation for estimating GFR is becoming the global standard, but much of the older literature used the MDRD study equation, which results in somewhat higher prevalence estimates.^{116,117} Urine measures for CKD are more difficult to standardize and suffer from high physiologic variation (morning levels of albumin to creatinine ratio being lower than during daytime, and substantial day-to-day variation),¹¹⁸ with dipsticks providing even lower accuracy. Few studies fully staged CKD by cross-classifying GFR and ACR categories, as recommended by the most recent guidelines.¹⁰ That estimates of reduced GFR or increased albuminuria have not been confirmed in most studies may have led to some overestimation in prevalence figures.^{119,120} Finally, knowledge is lacking on how the burden of CKD may vary in different settings (e.g., excess risk of ESRD, CVD, and infections). This limited knowledge contributes to a poor appreciation of the disease burden among patients, clinicians, and policy makers.

Within specific regions, CKD of undetermined origin (CKDu) is an important and growing problem. It may be the leading cause of death affecting young field workers in parts of Sri Lanka, Central America, and South India.¹²¹ Despite the increasing recognition of the CKDu hotspots, there has been limited success in determining the root cause: candidates include recurrent AKI, heat stress, dehydration, infections, exposure to agrochemicals, over the counter medication, heavy metal contamination, and poor quality drinking water.¹²²⁻¹³¹ Due to limited resources and infrastructure, diagnosing and characterising CKDu, determining its incidence/prevalence, and assessing exposures is a challenge.

Despite the recognized importance of hypertension and diabetes as CKD risk factors, several important questions remain. For example, only about a third of patients with diabetes develop CKD. Barriers to population-based strategies to reduce dietary sodium, fat, and calories, and to increase physical activity must be identified in local contexts. Studies are required to identify risk factor targets (e.g., HbA1c, BP, weight) for CKD prevention and variance of targets, e.g., by age, gender, race/ethnicity. Greater understanding of regional risks for kidney stones is important for prioritization of CKD risk-reduction strategies. The impact of medication and alternative/traditional remedy use requires surveillance and further study.

The regional CKD burden related to infections is also not well documented, and thus the impact of prophylaxis (vaccines), clean water, or treatment of these infections remains unknown. Bacterial, mycobacterial, fungal, and viral infections have all been shown to impact the incidence and prevalence of AKI and CKD. How much of this burden could be avoided by increasing effectiveness and reach of public health interventions requires coordination and collaboration within and across communicable disease programmes.

The true burden of CKD associated with maternal or foetal risk factors is poorly defined in all regions of the world. Pregnancy surveillance and delivery health care reduced risks for AKI, but whether interventions during pregnancy or soon after birth may reduce subsequent CKD risk in mother and/ or foetus remains unknown. Despite the epidemiological association of AKI and CKD, the impact of preventing AKI on long-term CKD remains to be demonstrated. Patients who develop AKI often have a higher prevalence of risk factors for CKD and CKD progression, and therefore it is possible that the observed association between AKI and rapid kidney function loss is confounded by illness severity. Moreover, it remains difficult to distinguish AKI from progressive CKD and it is possible that the observed associations are due to misclassification – especially in LMIC, where lab testing is infrequent or unavailable and baseline kidney function is often unknown.¹³²

There are four main limitations in understanding the genetic causes of CKD. First, education and awareness of the value and importance of genetic research is limited. This is true not only for the lay public, but also for patients, researchers, and clinicians. Lack of education can pose a particular challenge in clinical genetics, especially with respect to the initiation and type of genetic testing, the assessment of the pathogenicity of detected genetic variants, and the counselling of patients. In addition, realistic

expectations and timelines for the translation of genetic findings into the clinics (web appendix Figure 4) are not well communicated.

Second, most existing genetic research has been carried out for individuals of European ancestry, although indigenous populations of non-European ancestry often show high rates of kidney disease and evidence for region-specific genetic risk factors for CKD exists.¹³³ Current knowledge may therefore not be representative globally, which can have significant implications.¹³⁴

Third, genetic research can reach its full potential only through wide-spread data sharing, which currently is limited and often occurs in unstandardized formats. Thus, comprehensive and current inventories of existing genetic datasets as well as their findability and accessibility are prerequisites to maximize the use of existing data.

Fourth, the limited existence of tools for functional genomics research, particularly in kidney cell types, are a major roadblock for the identification of causal genes and variants, improved mechanistic insights, and translation to the clinics.¹³⁵ Finally, our current understanding of gene environment interactions and their relevance for CKD are incomplete. A better understanding of these interactions will provide insights into important patient subgroups and is necessary for targeted therapy and prevention.

Diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment

Even after biopsy-driven disease categorizations, there is substantial heterogeneity in pathophysiology and prognosis among diseases within a category. Most current histologic diagnoses lump diseases with multiple underlying mechanisms together into syndromic categories. Different, specific pathogenetic events (i.e., mutations in different genes causing familial nephrotic syndrome) exhibit indistinguishable structural alterations (i.e., diagnosis of Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis [FSGS]). Conversely, the same single mechanism (i.e., mutations in podocin causing nephrotic syndrome, type 2 [NPHS II]) can give rise to different histological diagnoses in different patients (minimal change disease to FSGS).

These challenges concerning diagnoses are particularly prominent in LMIC, where access to sequential laboratory evaluations of eGFR, albuminuria, and kidney biopsies are all limited or non-existent. Consequently, the spectrum of diseases responsible for CKD in the population is often unknown, severely hampering efforts at prevention and control. How best to increase the utilization of albuminuria and eGFR in clinical practice (both HIC and LMIC) is unknown but critically important given their diagnostic and incremental prognostic value. Although the appeal of novel biomarkers is obvious, few (if any) have been shown to modify predictably with disease progression or successful treatment. In addition, most new biomarkers do not undergo thorough external validation and are not rigorously assessed for incremental clinical utility. Finally, studies examining biomarker profiles often fail to include populations from LMIC and people of non-European origin.

“Treatment gaps,” defined as the difference between the number of people who have an indication for a therapy and who actually receive the therapy, represent opportunities to improve outcomes in the short-term and are common even in HIC.¹³⁶ Ongoing, systematic surveillance of treatment gaps is rare at present, although the advent of electronic medical records (EMRs) and other internet based tools offers a potential mechanism. Little is known about the magnitude and determinants of treatment gaps in LMIC; most focus has appropriately been on which treatments are available or affordable. As access to care improves in LMIC, focus should shift to identifying and closing other potential causes of treatment gaps in these settings.

There are a variety of approaches to close treatment gaps. Studies have suggested that reminders, checklists, and pre-printed orders may be of value in HIC, and universal health coverage (UHC) or income supplementation are logical in situations where economic barriers are important. Where possible, strategies to close treatment gaps should be accompanied by studies of process-based outcomes (e.g., uptake of the treatment) and patient-important outcomes. Pragmatic trial designs such as stepped-wedge trials, cluster-randomised trials, and/or registry-based trials lend themselves to implementation science evaluations and represent valuable opportunities to rigorously evaluate implementation methods and the comparative effectiveness questions. In LMIC, implementation science will maximise the efficiency of the health service investment as well as outcomes for patients.

Pruritus, restless legs, nausea, poor appetite, and sexual dysfunction are all common in CKD patients, especially those with kidney failure. These symptoms are likely multifactorial, their pathophysiology is incompletely understood, and little is known about their treatment. Similar but less pronounced knowledge gaps exist for CVDs (especially atypical coronary disease, uremic cardiomyopathy, and peripheral vascular disease) which are major causes of mortality in CKD patients. While the risk of conventional atherosclerotic CV events does increase at lower levels of kidney function, the majority of the excess risk associated with CKD are “non-Framingham/non-atherosclerotic” pathologies including LV hypertrophy with diastolic and systolic dysfunction, dysrhythmia, sudden death, valvular calcification, arterial calcification, and haemorrhagic stroke. The pathophysiology of these conditions appears to be partially due to a high burden of traditional CV risk factors as well as uraemia-specific factors.¹³⁷ Although there is some evidence that management of traditional CV risks improves outcomes in earlier forms of CKD, it is unknown how best to reduce CV risk in advanced CKD or kidney failure.¹³⁸

Much research has focused on the management of hypertension, anaemia, and metabolic bone disease in CKD populations, but data demonstrating that these treatments improve outcomes has been sparse, and the results of randomized trials have typically been disappointing.¹³⁹⁻¹⁴¹ In addition, these haematological, hormonal, and metabolic abnormalities per se are not patient-important outcomes – and monitoring and treating these abnormalities accounts for a substantial proportion of the costs of CKD care, especially for patients with kidney failure. On the other hand, it seems clear that these abnormalities contribute to symptom burden and possibly

outcomes in CKD populations.¹⁴² More research is needed to assess the mechanisms by which these abnormalities impact on outcomes, and determine how they can best be treated. In addition, a key priority worldwide is determining how to reduce the clinical and economic burden of appropriately monitoring them, especially in LMIC.

Better treatments to reduce the risk of progression from CKD to kidney failure are needed, and there is a limited evidence base for therapies to reduce CV mortality in CKD. Although controlling traditional risk factors has arguably not been as successful in reducing mortality in patients with kidney disease compared to the general population, BP control,¹⁴³ statin use,¹⁴⁴ and blockade of the renin angiotensin aldosterone axis^{145,146} have reduced CV events. However, excess CV mortality remains a major clinical problem in patients with CKD.^{97,147}

Progress will require that research consortia are developed among academia, industry partners and biotechnology companies, philanthropy and funding bodies, policy makers, and government. Scientists from varied domains will need to be engaged and clinicians across the world will require education regarding novel therapeutics to involve themselves and patients in the necessary clinical trials to develop the evidence base required for the introduction of new therapies into clinical practice. Consortia members will inevitably be required to 'do things differently,' as continuing with current strategies to develop new therapeutics in CKD has not been as successful as patients, clinicians, and indeed all stakeholders, would expect. Hence, a focused strategy is required that is coupled with regional adaptation by HIC and LMIC. The hurdles – breaking down structural impediments, and scientific, regulatory, legal (including protection of intellectual property), financial, risk allocation, and management silos represent a formidable but not insurmountable challenge.

Clinical trials

There continues to be debate as to the appropriate endpoints for clinical trials. The role of change in albuminuria as an endpoint in kidney trials continues to be debated, with no clear consensus.^{148,149} In general, using changes in markers of kidney damage as endpoints for specific kidney diseases may also be appropriate, e.g., total kidney volume in polycystic kidney disease (PKD), but requires definition, validation, and consensus. Safety endpoints have received insufficient attention. Both efficacy and safety endpoints have generally been developed by researchers with little or no input from patients, who may have very different priorities, which is being addressed by the Standardised Outcomes in Nephrology (SONG) initiative.^{150,151} Much work is still required to define appropriate trial endpoints, particularly those important to patients and payers, and that are applicable in early stages of CKD.

Compared to other specialties, the nephrology community has a relative lack of experience, infrastructure, and capacity in conducting trials. Much of the existing trials infrastructure in nephrology has been funded from industry partner-run trials, without a clear overarching framework for engagement of participating centres. Similarly, there is little support for multicentre clinical trial groups from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or other government sponsors. Collaboration between national, regional, and

global trial networks has been limited and ad-hoc, leading to under-utilisation of existing resources. Interaction with other health care providers (nurses, allied health, primary care, other specialties) has also been under-developed. Finally, limited training and capacity development opportunities have also meant that little infrastructure exists in many parts of the world. This leads to limitations in recruitment capacity and challenges for trial conduct in kidney disease in countries with large affected populations. The sum effect of these factors is that trials in CKD are not prioritized, and are seen as a relatively high-risk endeavour compared to other therapeutic areas.

A broad, strategic, sustained, collaborative approach is required to address these major challenges; it requires prioritization of CKD trials, better trial design, and increased capacity to deliver these trials. As a stretch goal for the community, we propose that 30% of patients with CKD should be involved in relevant clinical trials by 2030. This will require transformative change and big ideas, but will dramatically improve methods for preventing and treating CKD.

Chapter 3. What Do We Do About It?

Strengthen CKD surveillance

The first step to making progress in improving CKD monitoring activities (see Table 1) is to fully engage stakeholders by making sure the rationale for monitoring programs is clear and tailored appropriately for different settings.

Measurement of creatinine and albuminuria are central to the diagnosis and staging of CKD. Much progress has been made over the past decade from an era when creatinine was one of the most poorly standardized measurements in clinical chemistry. However, even relatively small errors in creatinine measurement can have a substantial impact on inferences about CKD prevalence.¹⁵² Therefore, to achieve valid comparisons over time (where meaningful trends are often a small relative change of 2-10%/year) and across regions, standardization and methods must be of high quality. For similar cost compared with local assays (given economies of scale), large studies could ship samples to a known reference laboratory. Conversely, reference materials could be prepared with known values for use in multiple studies worldwide. Where appropriate, point-of-care testing with reliable accuracy could be implemented which would increase the accessibility of diagnostic testing around the world.

Efforts should be made to add CKD to large ongoing surveys and cohorts that do not already include eGFR and albuminuria. The cost of drawing a valid random sample, recruiting participants, and measuring covariates could be shared by all the diseases studied: the incremental cost of including and standardizing measurements of serum creatinine and albuminuria should be modest compared to the total cost of the survey and the importance of CKD (high prevalence, high risk, and often growing burden). A systematic effort to assure the inclusion of CKD measures in large ongoing or planned chronic disease studies could markedly enhance global efforts for CKD surveillance.

A systematic effort to harness medical claims data for CKD surveillance would be complementary and should also be seriously considered. As EMRs are becoming standard worldwide, the potential for aggregating information is large. The validity of claims or International Classification of Diseases (ICD) code for various medical conditions is limited. CKD codes are often very insensitive, missing the majority of disease, but are quite specific.^{153,154} Thus, health services data need to be scrutinized carefully with ongoing efforts for quality improvement. However, even unvalidated codes can give important clues to the evolving CKD epidemic. For example, a recent publication from China showed that among 19 million tertiary hospital discharges, the prevalence of CKD due to diabetes is now higher than the prevalence of GN (substantially different than the situation a decade ago).¹⁵⁵ When EMRs include laboratory data, researchers can apply standardized definitions and staging of CKD to large populations. For example, the SCREAM investigators tracked the prevalence of CKD in over 1 million people in the Stockholm region,¹⁵⁶ and showed that even in a HIC with UHC not all patients with advanced CKD ultimately consult a nephrologist. Given the high cost of dedicated research studies and the increasing computerization of health care, developing methods to increase the validity of imperfect health care utilization data appears to be a promising option for improving global CKD surveillance. Using large but unvalidated databases in conjunction with focused validation studies could help with this.¹⁵⁷

Incorporating the new CKD classification system in the World Health Organization (WHO) ICD coding¹⁵⁸ is an important potential enabler for future CKD surveillance activities. ICD coding forms the foundation for the systematic classification and enumeration of disease globally. Therefore, it is vital that ICD codes identifying CKD follow the most recent guidelines, which reflect staging with respect to cause and consider both eGFR and albuminuria to assess risk.¹⁰ The prevailing ICD-10 coding system includes staging for eGFR (codes N18.1/5), but not for albuminuria. Efforts should be taken to integrate the globally accepted KDIGO CKD classification scheme that is based on eGFR and albuminuria in the upcoming ICD-11 coding system. In addition, a uniform system for specific coding of aetiologies should be adopted worldwide; a potential candidate is the scheme by the European Renal Association-European Dialysis and Transplant Association (ERA-EDTA), which was developed in collaboration with the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO).¹⁵⁹

One key special population of interest is people with kidney failure treated by dialysis or transplantation; since all have CKD by definition, the goal of surveillance is to monitor the total number of treated patients, representing access to care as well as disease burden. Therefore, emphasis should be placed on establishing registries of chronic dialysis and transplantation in all countries – especially LMIC, where registries are rare. Capturing those patients in LMIC who ‘warrant’ RRT, but do not receive it for whatever reason is an important task for these registries, and will be important in long term monitoring in different health care environments. Given the specialized and expensive nature of this treatment and the rapid computerization of medical care, there is an excellent opportunity to improve the quality and coverage of dialysis and transplantation

registries. Shared minimal data standards and architecture could greatly facilitate this work.

A second important group of special populations includes children, rare diseases, and residents of regions where CKD appears to be endemic (i.e., hotspots). These populations should be targeted by simple registries, aiming to collect data that would support targeted efforts for improved care and prevention as well as vital clinical trials. Establishing and promoting a minimum dataset for registries (regardless of population or location) would enhance comparability across countries and facilitate global estimates of CKD prevalence.

A third population of interest is high-risk groups (e.g., subjects with known hypertension, diabetes, or CVD) in which testing for CKD is already recommended by an international guideline. Supporting efforts to improve implementation of this guideline worldwide by testing with both albuminuria and eGFR will help to understand and compare patient-level risk across countries while enabling delivery of targeting therapies at the individual level. Increasing efforts to use albuminuria and eGFR in combination should be coupled with attempts to report eGFR wherever serum creatinine is measured. This is already the standard in much of the world and can be implemented at minimal cost in labs elsewhere if computerized data on age and sex are available¹⁶⁰ -- saving health care professionals the time and potential errors associated with doing the calculations. Point-of-care testing is now available for use in rural and remote areas, which improves ability to determine eGFR in LMIC, although the practicality and sustainability of long-term use in these settings has not been evaluated.

Once CKD is identified, community workers, primary care and other non-specialist practitioners will need support with management. One option could be to develop and share computer-assisted tools such as protocols and electronic decision support for identification and follow-up of CKD cases. Such tools are being used in multiple settings to identify, follow, and care for CKD patients.^{161,1623} Sharing these tools can be an enormously efficient way to advance CKD monitoring and care; combining implementation efforts with cluster randomized designs to demonstrate efficacy should lead to continued improvement and further investment by payers. Symptom burden for functional status assessment should also be considered as part of standardized collection in studies.

Although there is much enthusiasm for population-based CKD screening, the evidence base supporting this approach is lacking. Since expectations for potential benefits of screening are often substantially different than true benefits, screening strategies should be developed and tested in a randomized setting so that efficacy can be appropriately measured. This has never been done for CKD, probably due to limited resources. However, there are opportunities to at least evaluate new strategies with control groups, possibly using a stepped wedge design with cluster randomization.

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
Monitor the prevalence of CKD	Develop and disseminate a clear rationale for monitoring CKD prevalence	Policy experts, third party payers	Published position statement Clarify the different measures of CKD burden (RRT, CKD stages, health care utilization, kidney mortality, costs) in general population and high-risk groups
	Achieve a uniform measurement of CKD markers in CKD prevalence studies	International Federation of Clinical Chemists (IFCC)	Published position statement Develop and share quality control procedures and materials
	Promote inclusion of measuring CKD and its awareness in all large chronic disease cohort/health surveys	Organizers of large studies, registries, such as WHO STEPS (102 countries), CVD, diabetes, oncology surveillance, and studies	Inventory of studies including and not including CKD and CKD awareness Task force to identify key contacts and include CKD and CKD awareness reporting
	Develop a plan to harness claims data for CKD surveillance	Health care providers, aggregators of health data (e.g., US Medicare, national health data repositories)	Established collaboration with regional and national societies and registries Workshop to assess feasibility and define action plan details Encourage validation of diagnostic codes in different regions Develop a plan to monitor strengths and limitations of claims data over time
	Incorporate new CKD classification in WHO ICD coding	WHO	Incorporation into ICD 11
Establish CKD registries in special populations	Establish registries of chronic dialysis and transplantation in all countries	Established registries	Inventory of CKD registries as part of the GKHA project Task force to explore the development of a generic software application Define minimal dataset required for these registries,

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
			<p>facilitate implementation, suggest methods to assess comprehensiveness</p> <p>Encourage the use and usefulness of the registries to enhance policy, observational research, and clinical trials</p>
	<p>Establish registries for special CKD groups, e.g., children, rare diseases, special aetiologies, and regions where CKD appears to be endemic (i.e., hotspots)</p>	<p>Established registries, special interest groups</p>	<p>Inventory of CKD registries as part of the GKHA project</p> <p>Task force to explore the development of a generic software application to facilitate the establishment of CKD registries</p> <p>Define criteria for when a registry is high-priority C</p> <p>Encourage impactful use of the registries to enhance policy, observational research, and clinical trials</p>
<p>Identify individuals with CKD in high-risk groups</p>	<p>Implement the respective KDIGO CKD guideline</p>		<p>Implementation survey</p> <p>Case finding strategies in high-risk groups to be implemented in most countries</p>
	<p>Support efforts to strengthen the evidence base underlying additional screening strategies</p>		<p>Research reports (focus on high-risk groups by condition, ethnicity, and region)</p>
	<p>Ensure that wherever serum creatinine is measured, eGFR is reported</p>	<p>Clinical chemists (IFCC)</p>	<p>Focussed extension of the GKHA project</p> <p>IFCC committees; National and international laboratory professional groups and health care institutions</p>
	<p>Develop and share computer-assisted tools for identification and follow-up of CKD cases</p>	<p>EMR experts, health care systems</p>	<p>Workshop to assess feasibility</p> <p>Position statement</p>

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
Table 1 Action Plan: Strengthen CKD surveillance			

Tackle major risk factors

Since measures of kidney function (serum creatinine/eGFR or albuminuria) are rarely included in population-based health surveys or assessments of NCD burden (see CKD surveillance section), there is limited capacity to evaluate the importance of risk factors, identify contributors to CKD hotspots (e.g., CKDu), and evaluate the impact of interventions on CKD burden. Therefore, work to enhance CKD surveillance systems will facilitate discovery of novel risk factors as well as assisting efforts to control known risk factors. For example, the inclusion of CKD measures in all large communicable and NCD surveys (including eGFR and albuminuria) can be used to identify regional variation in CKD prevalence, particularly CKDu.^{163,164} This will permit a true assessment of CKD prevalence in all regions of the world, allow tracking of secular changes in incidence and prevalence, identify hotspots, and facilitate between-country comparisons.

Once CKDu hotspots are identified, global expertise supplemented by scientists and practitioners familiar with the local settings should be convened. Activities should be strengthened to develop protocols with consistent definitions of cases and exposures which can be implemented in all regions where CKDu are suspected (see Table 2). Comparative studies of patients with CKDu from different areas are needed to identify similarities and differences that may help to determine the cause(s). Engagement with policy makers and stakeholders at multiple levels and a concerted multi-sectoral approach will be required to successfully tackle CKDu.

Better CKD surveillance systems (especially if coupled with surveys of other health information) will also identify regions where CKD due to traditional risk factors is especially common. Prevalence of CKD tracks in parallel with diabetes and hypertension. Moreover, obesity is a common antecedent of hypertension and diabetes and thus also linked to CKD. The prevention of obesity, diabetes, and hypertension, requires activities primarily outside the influence and responsibility of those caring for patients with kidney disease, and will probably have a significant impact on CKD prevalence. However, the impact of such prevention programs on CKD onset and CKD complications, including renal failure and CV complications, has not been quantified and deserves to be tested in population-based studies. In addition, barriers and facilitators for effective prevention programs for diabetes, hypertension, and obesity across populations in different parts of the world need to be identified. This could be coupled with efforts at case-finding for CKD among people with established indications for eGFR and albuminuria testing, such as those with diabetes, hypertension, or CVD (see Table 2).

Other risk factors besides diabetes and hypertension also warrant consideration (see Table 2). Since long-term medication use is a key risk factor for CKD, it seems likely that electronic prompting and prescription tracking can be used to reduce medication errors, reduce medication overuse and nephrotoxicity, in HIC

especially. There is increasing interest in 'de-prescribing' medications, especially in the elderly due to high incidence of side effects and questionable effectiveness.¹⁶⁵⁻¹⁶⁸

Efforts to enhance this electronic infrastructure should be combined with education of the public and health practitioners about correct prescribing methods of potentially nephrotoxic medications and the need for surveillance. In addition, the examination of alternatives to known and emerging nephrotoxins (including traditional remedies), and surveillance for CKD among those exposed to such nephrotoxins should both be priorities, especially in LMIC.

Activities to reduce the risk of kidney stones (e.g., ensuring adequate intake of clean water, healthy diet, and work conditions that avoid dehydration) and appropriate follow-up of people with prior stones to evaluate for CKD should be considered, and may prevent long-term complications such as kidney failure. Similar initiatives aimed at prevention, timely identification, and appropriate management are potentially important for other conditions, such as infections which are linked to AKI or CKD or both, (e.g., rotavirus, pneumococcus, influenza, HBV, HCV, HIV, TB).

Also worthy of consideration are activities to support optimal maternal and foetal health (see Table 2). Improved understanding of the link between variations in birth weight, gestational age, exposure to gestational diabetes or pre-eclampsia, and the development of perinatal AKI and CKD during child- and adulthood will be valuable. Developmental programming of risk of CKD results from many factors which impact a woman and baby's health and nutrition throughout pregnancy, as well as early childhood growth and nutrition. Research is required to better understand the pathophysiology of renal risk related to developmental programming, how to rescue kidney development, how premature babies should be optimally treated and nourished, how to screen for, diagnose, and effectively treat pre-eclampsia, and potential modification of the long-term risk through healthy lifestyle or early interventions. Interventional studies targeted at addressing some of these variables are needed.

In the first instance, documentation of birth weight, gestation age at birth, exposure to gestational diabetes, or pre-eclampsia, and any neonatal AKI could be documented and this information maintained in health records. This information will be valuable in understanding the impact of foetal and maternal health on outcomes. While this should be manageable in HIC, LMIC will struggle with this: nonetheless, some form of tracking should be encouraged in LMIC as well. Strategies to improve maternal and foetal health through reduction of risk factors (including smoking, obesity, diabetes, alcohol, infections) and improvement of socioeconomic factors (including access to family planning, equity and education for women, reduction of poverty, and adequate nutrition) should be promoted.

Control AKI: a special risk factor for CKD

Progress will require efforts to target patients with CKD who are at risk for AKI for preventive activities, identify such episodes when they occur; and increase the quality of follow-up care after AKI occurs (see Table 2). Regardless of whether the relationship is causal, patients with CKD are at high risk of developing AKI, which may in turn lead to a progressive decline in kidney function. In LMIC where access to nephrology care is scarce, hospitalization with an AKI episode may represent the only opportunity to detect and treat pre-existing or de novo CKD.

Greater recognition of CKD as a risk factor for AKI and selective assessment of kidney function prior to high-risk exposures (e.g., cardiac catheterization) is achievable through education, quality improvement processes, and leveraging existing tools such as EMRs. The ability to identify and flag such patients allows an opportunity for intervention (prophylactic hydration, reduction in contrast load, staged procedures) and also creates the opportunity for follow-up and specialist referral if required. Research collaborations using large population-based datasets (including participants from LMIC) may allow a more precise understanding of the exact contribution of CKD to global AKI risk and the attributable risk of AKI to CKD progression.

Educational tools for the public, CKD patients, and families may help to avoid high-risk exposures that can result in AKI (as proposed for the 0by25 initiative for AKI).¹⁶⁹ The requisite tools and methods of dissemination will vary by location. Education for providers is also important. CKD patients worldwide are predominantly managed by primary care providers and only a small minority are under nephrology care, particularly in LMIC. Routine follow-up of CKD patients is often guided by the presence of comorbidities (e.g., diabetes, heart failure, hypertension), and testing for albuminuria and reduced eGFR may be infrequent. It is thus imperative that CKD patients be considered at risk for AKI and that providers be educated about the need for follow-up testing with measures of albuminuria and eGFR following potentially nephrotoxic insults (e.g., addition of ACEi/ARB, diuretics) in such patients. Urinalysis for proteinuria and urine microscopy with evaluation for eosinophils and casts are inexpensive methods for diagnosing AKI even in resource-poor settings.^{170,171}

Patients should be guided to report symptoms (e.g., diarrhoea, vomiting) that might facilitate earlier recognition of AKI.³⁷ Toolkits based on the 5R approach (risk, recognition, response, renal support, and rehabilitation) for AKI management can be customized for this purpose and be utilized to disseminate information, improve knowledge, and facilitate changes in health policy that may limit specific investigations. For instance, outpatient cardiac catheterizations and contrast CT scans are commonplace occurrences in HIC, and are frequently done in patients with or at risk for CKD. However, post-contrast testing for serum creatinine is rarely done as home visits for lab tests are generally not covered by payers. It is likely that AKI episodes are undetected in these settings and may result in CKD progression. In LMIC or remote areas in HIC, telemedicine for

guided management of AKI and CKD may be useful. In LMIC, patients, community workers, and pharmacists should be educated about CKD and its risk factors, as often medications are dispensed without adequate patient instruction and self-medicating is prevalent.

Even with optimal efforts at education and prevention, the incidence of AKI is likely to further increase, and parallel efforts are needed to improve the quality of follow-up care. Evidence-based international guidelines for AKI management¹⁰ recommend longitudinal patient follow-up after hospitalization, targeted at providing appropriate care for patients with, or at high risk of, long-term sequelae of CKD. In settings where access to medical care is limited, the detection of AKI may represent the sole opportunity to identify and treat CKD. Several centres in Canada and the USA have established AKI survivor clinics.¹⁷² However, resources are required to establish and sustain these clinics, and no AKI-specific post-discharge interventions have been proven to improve outcomes. It is neither practical nor feasible for nephrologists to provide care for all patients with CKD who develop AKI and thus a targeted approach is needed. This further highlights the importance of education and capacity building for AKI care among primary care practitioners.

Identify genetic causes of CKD

Activities for reducing the burden of genetic causes of CKD should work toward five goals (see Table 2). First, to increase awareness about the value of genetics for understanding and treating CKD; second, to increase the diversity of genotyped populations beyond those of European ancestry; third, to increase accessibility of genetic data to a broader range of scientists; fourth, to generate new tools for functional genomics; and fifth, to promote better understanding of gene by environment interactions that are relevant to causes and consequences of CKD.

To ensure that adequate resources and public support are available for these goals, efforts are needed to educate patients and families about the value of clinical genomics and genetic research. Education for clinicians and researchers should discuss challenges (e.g., ethical aspects, limitations in variant interpretation), as well as realistic timelines for mechanistic understanding and translation.

Professional organisations including the ISN, patient advocacy organisations, scientific journals, media, the pharmaceutical industry, medical schools, and teaching hospitals should develop and disseminate relevant educational materials. Topics should include the discussion of challenges of genetic research (e.g., privacy; how to report incidental findings)^{173,174} as well as opportunities (e.g., discovery of novel pathophysiological mechanisms; development of new therapies). Educational activities should include the communication of realistic timelines for the translation of genetic findings¹³⁵ (web appendix Figure 4), and should include learners in LMIC as well as HIC.¹⁷⁵

Findings from large-scale sequencing projects of CKD patients and healthy individuals can be relevant to patients and clinicians.¹⁷⁶⁻¹⁸⁰ The data provide adjusted estimates of the prevalence and penetrance of presumably pathogenic variants and give insights into the phenotypic presentation spectrum for variants in a given gene necessary for counselling and more precise risk prediction. Knowledge of current estimates of mutation prevalence and penetrance has important implications for which variants to pursue experimentally, timing and scope of genetic testing, pharmacogenomics decisions, and for patient counselling.¹³⁴

The identification of *APOL1* as a major kidney disease susceptibility gene in individuals of African ancestry^{133,181} illustrates that important ancestry-specific findings exist. Some indigenous populations, often found in LMIC, show high rates of CKD. Genetic research in these populations may therefore be particularly informative about additional susceptibility genes and/or important gene environment interactions (Goal 5), in addition to a better understanding of allelic diversity which can reduce the risk of falsely attributing pathogenicity to ancestry-specific variants.¹³⁴ Genetic investigations in CKD high-risk populations can also address the question whether kidney function variants identified in the general population¹⁸²⁻¹⁸⁵ translate to the setting of endemic or advanced CKD.

To increase the application of clinical genomics to such higher risk populations (including indigenous populations, rare disease groups, ethnic minorities, and small communities) specific work will be needed. For example, existing study protocols and policies need to be reviewed to ensure the protection of indigenous populations, rare disease groups, ethnic minorities, small communities, as well as family/heritage beliefs, and to allow for culturally sensitive genetic research. The value of and challenges related to genotyping ethnically diverse populations should also include education of patients, populations, and other stakeholders. The development and implementation of culturally sensitive methods by which to engage communities worldwide is imperative if new knowledge is to be comprehensive.

Working with genotyping companies and computational scientists to provide affordable and comprehensive genotyping for worldwide populations as well as improved imputation reference panels for non-European ancestry populations is likely to considerably broaden the knowledge base.

As outlined in the FAIR (“findability, accessibility, interoperability, reusability”) guidelines,¹⁸⁶ individual and aggregate datasets should be available with limited access barriers in a useful, standardized format. The accessibility and utility of existing and future datasets could be increased by promoting standardized formats, common data elements/standard, and broad data sharing – especially if complemented by efforts to catalogue and aggregate existing data repositories, biospecimens, and to link biomarkers to genetic data to determine causality

(Mendelian Randomization) using publicly available summary statistics databases.

There are tremendous potential benefits from developing common data elements relevant to kidney research. Comparable measurements and definitions maximize the potential for interoperability and full usage of existing datasets as well as for their combination. Important partners in this process are biomedical journals, international research collaborations (e.g., CKDGen Consortium, CKD-PC, ISN-iNet CKD) for the definitions of common renal phenotypes, and data scientists who develop and maintain resources for the establishment of data sharing formats (e.g., the NHGRI GWAS Catalogue).¹⁸⁷ Government funders and/or the pharmaceutical industry should support data sharing infrastructure such as platforms generated as part of the BD2K Project¹⁸⁸ or the AMP Project for type 2 diabetes.¹⁸⁹ Although many of these resources already exist in HIC, making them more broadly available will also benefit scientists working in LMIC, where primary data generation can be challenging.

To capitalize on this increased quantity of genetic data and materials, new tools for functional genomics will be needed. The purpose of these tools is to enable the translation of loci uncovered through genetic screens including GWAS and sequencing studies¹³⁵ (web appendix Figure 4). Functional genomics tools are used to determine causal genes and variants and to illuminate their mechanisms of action. Although challenging, this is necessary to focus on translation of the most promising findings.^{190,191} An example is the original discovery of the *APOL1* gene region, where the signal was initially attributed to a neighbouring gene, *MYH9*.¹⁹²

Recent technologies such as epigenetics,¹⁹³ metagenomics, metabolomics,^{194,195} and proteomics will generate additional information to enable the interpretation of genetic data. The resource generated by the Genotype-Tissue Expression (GTEx) Project¹⁹⁶ is presently limited by lack of kidney cell types. Development of libraries of kidney cell types with epigenetic maps as well as robust cellular assays in disease- and cell-type relevant models will both be necessary to realize the potential of the current discoveries in kidney disease genetics. While the short-term deliverables for this goal will include the tracking of published datasets and accessible tools, the ultimate goal is to gain insights into biologic pathways and novel biomarkers to enable prevention and drug development. In support, drug targets with underlying human genetic support are twice as likely to be ultimately approved compared to drug targets without underlying human support.¹⁹⁷

Additional efforts will be needed to better understand how environmental factors interact with genetic variants to modify the risk of CKD. Examples of such interactions include IgA nephropathy risk and the intestinal immune response to helminthic infections that correspond to higher prevalence of IgA nephropathy in East Asia¹⁹⁸ (web appendix Figure 5) and *APOL1*-associated kidney disease and

trypanosomiasis that correspond to higher rates of ESRD in individuals of African ancestry.^{133,199}

An improved understanding of gene environment interactions is necessary for understanding how certain forms of CKD originate from a combination of genetic and environmental risk factors. Interactors of CKD risk variants could be diabetes and hypertension,^{200,201} the main causes of CKD in many regions of the world, or other yet unknown environmental factors reported in CKD hotspots (CKDu), mostly in LMIC.^{202,203} However, unravelling the effects of genes and environment can be challenging when their interaction is required to cause disease and/or the genetic effect or interaction is not large.

The existence of multiple hotspots (Mesoamerica, Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia) allows the possibility of determining if there is a genetic underpinning to CKDu in a given population. Prerequisites for success include the availability of inexpensive and ethnicity-specific high-throughput genotyping arrays (see Goal 2), the ability to identify individuals exposed to certain environmental factors (perhaps using existing data from populations surveys and/or EMRs, and ideally pre-existing standardized data collection tools (see Goal 3)).¹⁶³ Improved phenotyping can increase the power of detecting gene environment interactions and allows for the conduct of genetic studies in more homogeneous subgroups (i.e., those exposed to a certain environmental factor), which should enhance the ability to identify CKD risk genes.²⁰⁴ These activities can be tracked by monitoring the published literature and presentations at major scientific meetings.

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
Identify yet unknown risk factors for CKD in the population	Promote inclusion of measuring CKD in all large communicable and non-communicable disease surveys		Inventory of studies including and not including CKD (and CKD awareness) Task force to identify key contacts and include CKD and CKD awareness reporting
	Establish and implement comprehensive research strategies to identify the causes of endemic CKDu hotspots using a life-cycle approach	ISN, WHO, governments	Position statements and research reports including: case definitions, research agendas, standardization of data collection tools Consistent framework for surveillance and investigation for epidemics of CKD around the world with reduction in time from identification to solving of problem, through this consistent approach
Mitigate known risk factors for CKD - Diabetes	Promote healthy lifestyles and food composition, prevention programs; implement surveillance, screening and treatment according to local/regional needs/guidelines	Governments, payers, regulatory authorities, health care organisations, patients, community, professional groups, global, regional, and national societies, public health practitioners	Appropriate references to the respective recommendations in publications, educational, and advocacy activities of Nephrology Organisations Reduction in % of patients with ESRD and diabetes
	Assess for the presence of CKD in individuals with diabetes (this is not screening)		Implementation survey
Mitigate known risk factors for CKD - Hypertension	Promote healthy lifestyles and prevention programs; implement surveillance, screening and treatment according to local/regional needs/guidelines	Governments, payers, health care organisations, regulatory authorities, patients, community, professional groups, global, regional, and national societies (hypertension, CV), public health practitioners	Appropriate references to the respective recommendations in publications, educational, and advocacy activities of Nephrology Organisations Improved BP control in populations at risk
	Assess for the presence of CKD in individuals with hypertension	Governments, payers, regulatory authorities, health care organisations, patients,	Implementation survey

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
		community, professional groups, global, regional, and national societies, public health practitioners	
Mitigate known risk factors for CKD - Prescribed medications	Enhance the identification of long-term medication use as a risk factor for CKD	Funding agencies, industry partners, research networks	Research reports Reduction in % of patients with ESRD attributable to medication overuse/misuse
	Educate public and health practitioners about correct prescribing methods of potentially nephrotoxic medications, and need for surveillance	Non-government organisations (NGOs), governments, practitioners, pharmacists, continuing medical education (CME) organisations, communities, health insurance organisations	Inclusion in CME Programs
Mitigate known risk factors for CKD - Traditional and alternative remedies	Determine which (if any) traditional, alternative, and herbal remedies are risk factors for CKD		Research reports
	Establish health promotion and public education program on the risk of the use of traditional and complementary medicine	NGOs, governments, traditional healers, alternative practitioners, media, communities, public health practitioners	Inclusion in CME Programs
	Require regulation of alternative medicine manufacture, labelling, marketing	Ministries of Health (MOH), industry partners, alternative remedy manufacturers	Task force to establish a concrete strategy with tailored approaches
	Assess for the presence of CKD in individuals with significant exposure to risky remedies	Governments, NGOs, practitioners, traditional healers, communities, global, regional, and national societies, researchers	
Mitigate known risk factors for CKD - Kidney stones	Promote access to adequate amounts of clean water, healthy diet (e.g., intakes of sodium and dietary protein) and work	Communities, governments, professional associations (Center for Disease Control [CDC], American College of	

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
	conditions that avoid dehydration	Physicians, [ACP], Caring for Australians with Renal Impairment [CARI], Urology associations), health care organisations, water companies, public health practitioners	
	Assess for the presence of CKD in individuals with prior stones	Urologists, primary care providers, nephrologists	Survey existing guidelines on kidney stones for the inclusion of this recommendation and work towards inclusion in future updates
Mitigate known risk factors for CKD - Infections	Endorse population-level infection prevention and control policies and participate in educational activities	Public health, Centres for Disease Control, primary care providers	
	Increase access to vaccinations against infections which are linked to AKI or CKD or both	Public health, Centres for Disease Control, primary care providers	
	Conduct studies to evaluate the impact of interventions that increase access to treatment for infections on the incidence and prevalence of infection-related AKI and CKD	Centres for Disease Control (regional and national)	Epidemiological studies demonstrating impact
Mitigate known risk factors for CKD - Maternal and foetal health	Enhance the understanding of the link between variations in birth weight, gestational age, exposure to gestational diabetes or pre-eclampsia and the development of CKD in the foetus during child- and adulthood	Obstetricians, paediatricians, epidemiologists, public health practitioners, researchers	Research reports Increase surveillance practices of high-risk births and mothers in specific
	Document each child's birth weight, gestation age at birth, exposure to gestational diabetes, or pre-eclampsia, as well as any neonatal AKI and maintain this information in their health record in	MOH, WHO, traditional birth attendants, community health workers, health information systems, paediatricians, neonatologists, obstetricians, patients (build upon MDG	Survey existing documentation policy as part of an extension of the GKHA project

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
	HIC, and determine methods for data capture in LMIC	advances in maternal/child health)	
	Promote strategies to improve maternal and foetal health through reduction of risk factors (including smoking, obesity, diabetes, alcohol, infections) and improvement of socioeconomic factors (including access to family planning, equity and education for women, reduction of poverty, and adequate nutrition)	Patients, communities, public health practitioners, WHO guidelines, public health practitioners	Appropriate references to the respective recommendations in publications, educational, and advocacy activities of nephrology organisations
Mitigate known risk factors for CKD - AKI	Promote strategies to avoid and mitigate episodes of AKI in people without CKD according to regional needs and established guidelines	Non-nephrology disciplines, 0by25	Progress reports of 0by25 initiative
Identify CKD patients at risk for AKI	Develop and implement educational tools identifying known risk factors including prediction equations	Health systems, government	Inventory of countries/ regions where there are/are not tools accessible for general use Improved ability to identify those at risk exists within all communities
	Identify regional risk factors for AKI in individuals with CKD	Regional health systems, industry partners	Research report Complete catalogue with participating countries within 2 years
	Identify patient with CKD (tagging) to health care providers	Health systems, primary care, industry partners	
Identify episodes of AKI in patients with CKD	Monitor kidney function in high-risk clinical scenarios/exposures	Relevant non-nephrology specialties - radiology, cardiology, infectious disease; government	Demonstration of capacity to monitor kidney function longitudinally in high-risk populations Improved ability to identify those at risk exists within all communities

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
	Identify and assess methods to better assess structural/ functional aspects of the kidney in CKD and post AKI	Industry partners, research funders	Advocate to funding agencies Improved access to diagnostic facilities in all regions of the world
	Leverage EMR alerting - include kidney function in checklists for health care workers managing high-risk scenarios	Health systems, government	Conference to discuss research and clinical possibilities
	Educate patients and providers regarding AKI	Governments, health systems, public health	Coordination of efforts with 0by25 and accomplish
	Identify indications for biopsy in cases where there is question about AKI vs progressive CKD	Industry partners	Consensus conference with published report Increase access to diagnostic tools in all regions
Improve AKI/post AKI care	Promote and monitor kidney function surveillance and CKD care post AKI	Governments, health systems, primary care	Identify capacity for AKI care as part of the GKHA project
	Promote/ conduct trials of appropriate interventions post AKI to minimize risk of CKD progression		Adding representation to trials groups Improved evidence base for clinical decision making; better outcomes of AKI
	Promote/conduct trials of AKI prevention in CKD patients	Industry partners, ISN-ACT, other interest groups - international cardiology trials networks, etc.	Adding representation to trials groups
Increase awareness about the value and importance of genetics for understanding and treating CKD	Educate clinicians and researchers about the value and importance of clinical genomics and genetic research for CKD, including challenges (e.g., ethical aspects, limitations in variant interpretation), opportunities, and realistic timelines for mechanistic understanding and translation	Nephrology fellows, medical schools, geneticists, professional organisations, patients advocacy organisations groups, industry partners, technology and biotechnology companies, pair with other organisations	Inventory of existing training and educational programs; double the number of programs in 5 years Offer training programs in nephrogenetics at international nephrology meetings or as stand-alone meetings Increase in consent to participate in genetic research

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
	Educate patients and the public about the value of clinical genomics and genetic research	Geneticists, professional organisations, patients advocacy organisations groups, journals, offprint media, industry partners, pair with other organisations	Increased media coverage in the next 2-5 years Increase in consent to participate in genetic research
	Educate clinicians and researchers about findings from large-scale sequencing projects of nephrology patients and asymptomatic individuals that provide adjusted estimates of prevalence and penetrance of presumably pathogenic variants necessary for counselling and risk prediction	Medical Schools, teaching hospitals, nephrology divisions, professional societies, patient advocacy organisations groups, industry partners, nephrology journals	Research reports and review articles in the next 2 years, including discussion of potential implications for counselling Increase in consent to participate in genetic research
	Educate clinicians about the diverse clinical presentations of genetic kidney disease and revise genetic testing accordingly	Medical Schools, teaching hospitals, professional societies, patient advocacy organisations groups, industry partners, journals, clinical sequencing laboratories	Research reports and reviews on spectrum of clinical presentations for kidney disease genes Published recommendations about which genes to sequence for which presentation Development of standard gene panels for different nephrological diseases (tubular, FSGS, etc.) with region-specific content
Increase diversity of genotyped populations beyond European ancestry	Protect indigenous populations, rare disease groups, ethnic minorities, small communities, family/heritage beliefs in order to enable their inclusion in genetic analysis and increase diversity of genotyped populations	Communities, governments, regulatory authorities, Institutional Review Boards	Inventory of genotyped populations and their diversity in CKD hotspots; review of existing protocol/policy recommendations and publication of recommendation where to focus genotyping efforts in the next 2 years Increase in consent to participate in genetic research
	Improve SNP diversity on commercially available chips; improve imputation reference	Genotyping companies (Affymetrix, Illumina), computational biologists (for	Development of affordable genotyping for world-wide populations; provision of improved genotype imputation for non-European ancestry populations

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
	panels for ethnically diverse populations	enhanced and diverse imputation platforms)	Promote comprehensive SNP array genotyping for CKDu in CKD hotspots in order to identify a potential major gene effect, research report
	Educate groups, patients, populations and other stakeholders about the value of genetic research in diverse populations	In addition to the above: media	Increase of media and journal coverage of the value of genetic research in diverse populations
Increase accessibility of genetic data	Increase accessibility and usability of existing and future datasets by promoting standardized format, broad data sharing and enhanced usage	ISN-iNET CKD, journal editors, technology companies, CKDGen, biobanks and biorepositories, dbgap, BD2K initiative, AMP portal, CHARGE consortium, NHGRI GWAS catalogue (now EMBL)	Development and publication of position statement on standardized format for data sharing Tracking of number of publications, number of requests for data, review of catalogued resources, reduction of redundancies
	Develop data mining tools and search functions to catalogue existing datasets	Computational scientists, industry partners	Shared tools (e.g., search functions) to investigate publicly available data; research publications based on existing datasets (secondary use)
	Promote common data elements/phenotypes/standards in existing and future datasets (e.g., age, sex, SCr, UACR, ethnicity). Improve renal phenotype harmonization and lab assays used to measure renal function parameters. Develop EMR search tools for renal patients	Clinical chemistry, epidemiologists, lab assay developers	Establishment of consensus on a set of core nephrological parameters to enable kidney disease genetics research and consensus of how to identify CKD patients from EMRs More focussed research in genetics within renal space
	Create incentives for data sharing	Journals, industry partners	Develop journal guidelines that require data sharing for publication; sponsor platforms/portals/infrastructure to share data More focussed research in genetics within renal space

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
	Catalogue and aggregate existing data repositories and biobanks / biospecimens to enable more rapid and accessible research	Computational scientists, industry partners	Develop concept for centralized platforms / portals/infrastructure to share data and identify funding mechanisms More focussed research in genetics within renal space
	Link biomarkers to genetic data to determine causality (Mendelian Randomization) using publicly available summary statistics databases	Statisticians, industry partners	Development of software that facilitates MR analyses and make publicly available
Generate tools for functional genomics	Develop tools for functionalization of genetic findings to identify the causal gene/variant and genetic mechanism of action to facilitate translational research. Tools should be shared broadly	Geneticists, bioinformaticians and computational biologists, technology companies, industry partners, funding agencies	Inventory of available tools, cell types, cell lines in the next 2-5 years Tracking of published papers with mechanism of action of genetic findings and collection in a centralized resource Faster time from discovery to phase 1, 2 trials in nephrology with less failure of compounds
	Promote the creation of disease relevant cellular assays, bioinformatics pipelines and tools for use in the scientific community	Geneticists, bioinformaticians and computational biologists, technology companies, industry partners, funding agencies	Published research reports elucidating mechanism of action of newly uncovered genetic loci Development of assays that are available upon request Faster time from discovery to phase 1, 2 trials in nephrology with less failure of compounds
	Generate tools to study genetic modifiers including epigenetic effects to understand mutations in their genomic context and identify potential therapeutic targets	Geneticists, bioinformaticians and computational biologists, technology companies, industry partners, funding agencies	Creation of tools as documented in published research reports of epigenetic catalogues of different kidney cell types Faster time from discovery to phase 1, 2 trials in nephrology with less failure of compounds

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
Promote better understanding of gene by environment interactions	Leverage existing large initiatives such as the Precision Medicine Initiative or the UK Biobank data to elucidate gene by environment interactions	CKDGen, iNET CKD, biobanks and biorepositories, CKDu investigators	Research reports
	Develop EMR search tools for the most common environmental CKD risk factors	Computational scientists, specialists for environmental risk factors, epidemiologists	Consensus on a small set of potentially most important interactors and standardization of their definition and methods for data capture
	Develop renal endo-phenotypes to increase the power of GXE interactions; use renal endophenotypes (including genetics) to identify more homogeneous subgroups of patients to facilitate GxE discoveries		Use of biomarkers and -Omics data for identification of more homogeneous subgroups of CKD to identify novel genes and GxE interactions Research reports
	Promote comprehensive SNP array genotyping for CKDu in CKD hotspots in order to identify a major gene effect present in populations exposed to a specific environment	Environmental scientists	Research report
Table 2 Action Plan: Tackle Major Risk Factors, Control AKI, and Identify the Genetic Causes of CKD			

Establish better diagnostic methods

The current international guideline recommends attempts to establish a specific renal diagnosis (assess or attempt to assess aetiology) in addition to staging of CKD based on measuring or estimating GFR and measuring albuminuria. The KDIGO definition enables the diagnosis of CKD in the absence of knowledge about the aetiology in individual cases.¹⁰ While this has been an essential concept to determine the incidence and prevalence of CKD, to identify CKD cases, and to increase disease awareness, attempting to assess the aetiology is nevertheless another explicit KDIGO recommendation. Working towards global implementation of the diagnosis together with staging of CKD based on measuring or estimating GFR and measuring albuminuria is considered of high importance (see Table 3).

Even when concerted attempts are made to determine aetiology, the underlying cause of CKD is often not apparent. However, this is likely due in part to the frequent failure to obtain a kidney biopsy in patients with non-proteinuric CKD or with AKI; specific causes and potential opportunities for treatment may be uncovered by considering biopsy in a broader range of clinical presentations. Successfully increasing the use of kidney biopsy will require education (endorsing the need to obtain renal biopsy in a broader range of presentations, including CKD, AKI, and GN); capacity building (increasing capacity to perform renal biopsies; establishing regional centres of excellence for renal biopsy interpretation globally); and enhancing efforts to compare biopsy findings across centres and settings (supporting implementation of standards for renal biopsy reporting).

Regional centres to perform renal biopsies should be established and sustained worldwide, with appropriate access to technical expertise and supplies. For optimal renal biopsy analysis and interpretation, there must be a network of regional centres performing these services. Key elements will include: technical expertise with hands-on training of histology technicians and sectioning and staining technologies, including additional special stains beyond haematoxylin and eosin (e.g., periodic acid Schiff and silver stains). Such sophisticated staining technology is key because multiple steps are needed to detect focal lesions. For example, immunofluorescence or immunohistochemistry staining is essential for diagnosis of specific GN. Specifically, to distinguish between different variations of kidney disease, staining for IgG, IgA, IgM, C3, C1q, kappa, and lambda should be performed. Specific technical protocols for allocation, processing, and staining are detailed in the ISN Histology Manual (available online).²⁰⁵

Renal pathology centres should also perform electron microscopy (EM) for optimal diagnostic sensitivity. Some specific conditions, such as IgA nephropathy and membranous nephropathy, can be adequately diagnosed from light and immunofluorescence/IHC alone. However, allocating tissue for and performing

EM is ideal, as patients are misdiagnosed about 15-20% of the time when EM is not performed.²⁰⁶

These biopsies should be reported by expert renal pathologists using standard nomenclature and formats. A lack of well-trained renal pathologists is a major obstacle to biopsy utilization in many LMIC, and ISN is working worldwide to enhance development of local renal pathology expertise. Current standards for biopsy reporting have been published by the Renal Pathology Society (RPS) and by a joint working group of renal pathologists and nephrologists from the Mayo Clinic.²⁰⁷

Although even traditional pathological evaluation of biopsy tissue would be extremely useful if more broadly available, the potential for impact would be magnified if attempts to increase use of kidney biopsies were coupled with broader availability of techniques for molecular diagnosis of renal biopsies, as well as with capacity to link existing and novel renal biopsy registries with clinical data. To ensure impact of such registries, standard values like minimum needed data and clinical follow-up variables need to be defined, as well as additional parameters for specific subcategories of diseases. After diagnosis, remaining tissue should be stored for potential future studies to explore aetiology and pathogenesis of disease. Unfortunately, lack of funding is a major obstacle to the establishment of such central registries.

Although enhanced use of kidney biopsies will be extremely important, it will not be sufficient on its own. Accurately defining potential treatment options for a given CKD patient relies on blood and urine-based laboratory assays and ready access to renal imaging. Identification, validation, and implementation of diagnostic biomarkers for CKD is discussed in the next section. Ultrasound-guided visualization of the kidney and the lower urinary tract is safe, requires minimal training, and can be performed with low-cost equipment -- but is rarely available in LMIC. Therefore, working towards global availability of diagnostic ultrasound imaging should be a priority, as well as developing better non-invasive imaging tools of renal structure and function.

Imaging and tissue diagnosis are the mainstays of current clinical diagnosis for CKD patients; based on developments in other fields, it appears likely that blood- and urine-based biomarkers will play an increasingly important role in future. This will require sustained and enhanced efforts to identify and validate biomarkers that indicate aetiology, dominant pathophysiological mechanisms, and/or therapeutic responsiveness. To avoid knowledge silos and maximize statistical power, it appears worthwhile to facilitate translational research networks that support sustainable and integrated biobanking and biomarker research – including the use of common protocols and practices. A key early activity would be to develop best practice rules for research network governance including internal network policies, biosample usage policies, and policies on sample sharing within and between networks.

As the field moves toward more complete assessment of CKD based on imaging, tissue and fluid-based biomarkers, it will be important to incorporate assessments of functional status into diagnostic processes. Tools for evaluating renal functional domains and pathological mechanisms are already available, and could be refined to target more specific parameters (function of different tubular segments, presence of inflammation or fibrosis, renal endothelial function). Assessment of renal function reserve could be considered as an adjunct, but would require a careful assessment of its diagnostic and prognostic utility.

Work in this area should aim to improve capacity for prognostication in people with CKD, including progressive loss of kidney function over time and CV events (see Table 3). The initial focus should be on optimally using existing tools: guidelines already recommend to measure albuminuria periodically over time in people with CKD.²⁰⁸ This recommendation is inconsistently followed even in HIC, which compromises our understanding of CKD progression for individuals and populations.

Although much is already known about how to use temporal trends in albuminuria and eGFR for prognostication, more needs to be learned about how such changes should influence clinical action. Key research questions include: 1) What changes in albuminuria and eGFR over time are clinically meaningful, and how should they affect clinical management? 2) Should higher levels of GFR (i.e., GFR >60 mL/min/1.73m²) without albuminuria be included in the CKD definition, given that CKD prevalence, sex ratios, and KDIGO composite risk groupings varied widely depending on the eGFR equation used?²⁰⁹ Once these studies are complete, they should be rapidly incorporated into international practice guidelines and their results disseminated to end-users.

The ability to better predict CVD in CKD patients would permit evaluation of targeted therapies in clinical trials and risk stratification in clinical practice. Given the different CVD phenotypes observed with increasing severity of CKD, risk prediction instruments should be evaluated for their ability to discriminate between events mediated by traditional atherosclerotic processes vs. those mediated by CKD-specific processes. Therefore, there is obvious potential for developing a risk prediction tool that integrates CKD markers with traditional CVD risk factors, but the benefit of this approach would need to be demonstrated.²¹⁰

The renal community should take advantage of existing large observational cohort studies with stored biomarkers and long-term follow-up to study and validate established and novel biomarkers. Testing of novel web-based CV risk scores involving the renal risk markers albuminuria and eGFR can be accomplished with existing databases and collaborations (e.g., EUTox),²¹¹ industry partners, and various CKD biomarkers consortia. It will be important to achieve agreement on strategy by which to investigate and validate the potential

complex and diverse expression of CVD in CKD. Given that CV risk profiles, CKD populations, and health systems vary worldwide, special consideration should be given to whether recommendations should differ by setting (e.g., LMIC vs HIC).²¹² After validation/calibration, and once incremental clinical utility has been shown, it will also be important to promote the implementation of these prognostic models in practice.

Although additional benefit can be derived from better use of existing parameters such as eGFR and albuminuria, new prognostic biomarkers in CKD are needed. Creating formal collaborations between existing research consortia will sustain efforts to identify and rigorously evaluate such biomarkers. Given the clinical heterogeneity of most unselected CKD populations, progress may be most likely in well-characterized cohorts of people with specific kidney diseases. Real-world assessments of the performance of new biomarkers should be performed to determine whether or not they improve clinical care at reasonable cost before recommending their uptake into practice.²¹³ As for genetic epidemiology cohorts, this will require specific efforts to standardize outcomes, identify sharing protocols, protect the privacy of subjects, and enhance relationships with regulatory authorities and industry partners (see genetics sections). An international meeting of key stakeholders worldwide should be arranged in 2018-2019 to advance the biomarker research agenda.

Important, and often forgotten, is the determination of how these novel biomarkers modify with disease progression or with therapy, and whether such changes predict clinical outcomes including CKD progression. High-throughput screening techniques (i.e., transcriptomics- proteomics- metabolomics) in conjunction with well phenotyped clinical cohorts offer an opportunity to achieve this objective²¹⁴ (see genetics sections). There is an initial success story of the -omic marker identification and replication in global cohorts,²¹⁵ and thus we are encouraged that this technique has promise.

To increase the likelihood of success, it will be important to enhance the training of young researchers on all aspects of biomarker research, from discovery to clinical implementation.

Ensure more consistent implementation of effective treatments

Better use of available treatments will require a combination of education in parallel with improving access for underserved populations, especially in LMIC. Clinical practice guidelines and associated tools are important potential mechanism for achieving these goals (see Table 3).

Worldwide, most people with access to care for early CKD receive such care in primary and general health settings. Non-nephrologists therefore have access to the vast majority of people at risk and the greatest opportunity to intervene in the course of CKD progression. A toolkit that provides simple targeted advice regarding medications and goals of care to slow common causes of CKD

progression targeted at non-nephrology health providers could reduce the global burden of CKD. To promote uptake and utility, the recommended approaches should be generalizable to different work forces and health settings.

Historically, much of the effort to reduce the burden of CKD has focussed on discovering new therapies and improving treatment modalities. The yield from this investment will be maximised by a similar investment in ensuring the effective dissemination of established therapies to all those who will potentially benefit.

Several treatments have been well established in large randomised trials and endorsed by guideline bodies but are underused in CKD populations in LMIC, constituting a major treatment gap. These include medications for controlling BP and blood sugar as well as interrupting the renin-angiotensin system (to slow the progression of CKD) and statins (for preventing CV events in the CKD population). Insights from prior studies should be used to inform the design of interventions to reduce the treatment gap. Affordable versions of these medications should be available in all health settings but particularly in low and middle income settings. The renal community should advocate for the widespread uptake of the WHO Model List of Essential Medications²¹⁶, which will also help to achieve this objective.

Primary glomerular diseases are the third most common cause of ESRD, often affect young and working people, cause faster progression to ESRD, and may be associated with other systemic complications. Unlike most other causes of CKD, some primary glomerular diseases are potentially curable with relatively short periods of treatment, so identifying patients who may benefit from specific therapy is key. Therefore, like proven medications such as antihypertensives and statins, access to appropriate renal biopsy services is an essential tool for improving the management of people with glomerulonephritis and other common forms of CKD. Work is needed to establish best practices and indications for biopsy procedures and sample handling; enhance capacity for trained pathologists to interpret specimens; establish key accessible medications for treatment of common GN.

Centres of expertise could potentially service a relatively wide area and better access to kidney biopsy (see section on diagnostic methods) is critical. However, identification and characterization of disease is only valuable if treatments are accessible, so making low-cost immunosuppressive medications more widely available is also paramount. An inventory of current and potential capacity for diagnosis and treatment is an important short-term goal to define unmet need and inform health services planning.

In parallel with efforts to make these treatments and infrastructure available, work is needed to help practitioners optimally use them in practice. One option could be the expanded use of decision support tools where guideline-based advice is

automatically generated from the entry of routine clinical data, for example in laboratory systems or EMRs. These tools are particularly useful in assisting the delivery of CKD care by non-specialists, and coupled with the toolkit would facilitate the identification of patients at risk, timing of interventions, and changes in medications. Decision support tools are often developed for multiple jurisdictions in parallel, reflecting possible duplication of effort. Although some adaptation for local settings may be appropriate, an inventory of available decision support tools is an achievable short-term goal that should increase efficiency and reduce costs. A longer-term goal is the development of tools to meet identified gaps, particularly for tools that are readily accessible in resource-constrained settings.

The adoption of best practices will promote the delivery of high quality care and efficient resource use. Clinical practice guidelines are an important tool for achieving such practice, and guideline development should continue, aiming to cover the major CKD management issues. Guideline impact will be enhanced if guidelines are routinely adapted for different settings, especially LMIC. There is an increasing need to ensure that guidelines and treatment strategies are also tailored to LMIC, and that decision-makers understand the clinical and socio-economic benefits of improving access to care.

Guideline development must be complemented by effective knowledge translation efforts aimed at end-users, including care providers, patients, and families. A better understanding of the factors driving effective implementation will lead to more effective dissemination of established therapies. Benefits will include an expansion of the number of people receiving current established therapies, reduction in the time to uptake of beneficial new therapies, and potentially increased efficiencies for health service providers. Implementation science capacity should be actively developed that is nephrology-specific. Achievable short-term targets for building nephrology-specific capacity in implementation science include formal curricula and the creation of training positions, perhaps within nephrology residency programs.

The introduction or dissemination of any therapy represents a potential opportunity to evaluate implementation methods and conduct comparative effectiveness studies. Such evaluations should preferably contain a randomised aspect.

Better treatment of symptoms and other complications of CKD

Key complications that should be targeted include CKD-related symptoms, certain haematological, hormonal, and metabolic abnormalities associated with CKD, and CV events (see Table 3). The clinical and epidemiologic characteristics associated with the presence, severity, onset, and remission of CKD-related symptoms are poorly described. How symptoms (individually and collectively) influence HRQOL and other patient-important outcomes such as employability and functional status has not been completely studied. In addition, the relative

importance of each symptom to the total symptom burden is not well understood. This information is required to characterize the impact of symptoms on patient well-being (thus building the case for action), and to identify the symptoms and patient populations that should be the highest priority for immediate study.

Little is known about how to manage symptoms that are associated with CKD, and since their pathophysiology is poorly characterized, there is little prospect of identifying effective treatments.¹¹² Management of these symptoms is a high priority for patients and therefore research that comprehensively addresses the existing knowledge gaps is needed.

Multidisciplinary research efforts should capitalize on new technologies such as metabolomics and proteomics to link uremic toxins with symptoms and to identify the pathophysiology that causes or exacerbates symptom burden. Consideration should be given to creating research teams that study potentially related symptoms together (e.g., pain and pruritus, which have similar neurobiology). Besides scientists from multiple appropriate disciplines, research teams should also include patients and representatives from industry partners to ensure maximum potential for clinical impact and facilitate commercialization.

Few if any drugs to treat uremic symptoms have been approved by regulatory authorities and there often is very little evidence to support the off-label treatments that are recommended. Summarizing what is known about available treatments and evaluating the best candidates in well-designed clinical trials should be a high priority: this could include treatments for similar symptoms associated with other conditions (e.g., chemotherapy-associated nausea) as well as treatments targeted at uremic-specific conditions (e.g., phototherapy for pruritus). As the work and activities needed to move the field forward are realized, these newer candidate treatments should be moved from phase 1 into later phase clinical trials.

Global practice guidelines advise on how the haematological, hormonal, and metabolic abnormalities associated with CKD may be monitored and managed.^{139,141,217} Although based on the best available evidence, many knowledge gaps remain. In addition, this guidance does not account for the practice conditions in LMIC – where the capacity for affordable monitoring and management of these abnormalities may not exist.

Most literature on the management of laboratory abnormalities in CKD population are based on studies done in HIC. However, it is likely that the underlying causes of these abnormalities vary by country, especially in LMIC. For example, parasitic infection or nutritional deficiency likely cause or exacerbate anaemia in certain settings (e.g., nematode infection causing anaemia), whereas country-specific dietary practices may influence the likelihood of hyperphosphatemia. Further research is needed to document how the causes and consequences of laboratory abnormalities may vary by setting, focusing on factors that may

influence monitoring or treatment practices in LMIC. Global practice guidelines for monitoring and management of these abnormalities should be adapted for LMIC. Available global guidelines assume the availability of sophisticated laboratory assays and treatments, but these are often not available or affordable in LMIC. Even if available, they may not always represent good value for money in settings with scarce health resources. Work is needed to adapt existing guidelines for LMIC, incorporating information that is gained from activities in this arena and explicitly acknowledging opportunity cost.

A critical barrier to monitoring haematological, hormonal, and metabolic abnormalities in CKD populations is increasing proportion of such patients who live in LMIC, where the requisite laboratory testing is not available, is very expensive, or is located only in referral centres. Developing new point-of-care devices with acceptable performance at affordable prices should be a high priority for future research and perhaps public – private partnerships. Data from a variety of settings that document the current availability of affordable assays (and lack thereof) would help to make the case that these innovations are worthwhile, and should be included in future global CKD surveys.

Most CV research in CKD has focused on atherosclerotic (or arteriosclerotic) heart and vascular disease. However, it is clear that other forms of CVD also have a major impact on morbidity and mortality in this population (see above).^{137,138} The well-documented but poorly understood regional variations in CVD phenotype among CKD populations may offer new insights into how outcomes can be improved. In addition, much remains to be learned about fundamental aspects of vascular risk reduction in CKD populations (e.g., optimal target BP or benefits of aspirin in dialysis patients).²¹⁸ Finally, continued work is needed to develop novel therapies for CKD-related CVD.

The risks of arrhythmia (including sudden cardiac death), stroke, and heart failure are all substantially increased in people with CKD (especially in those with kidney failure), and the basic epidemiology of these conditions is well-described. However, major gaps remain in understanding the pathophysiology of vascular and cardiac diseases in CKD populations, and especially in how they should be treated. Current approaches emphasize the application of treatments developed for the general population to people with kidney disease, although the efficacy-to-harm ratio of these therapies is unclear. There is an urgent need for focused research programs that rigorously evaluate the benefits of standard treatment approaches (e.g., ARB for heart failure; implantable defibrillators to prevent sudden cardiac death) in kidney populations – as well as novel interventions that might reduce the risk of CV events in people with kidney disease (e.g., intradialytic potassium profiling).

The phenotype of CVD in people with CKD exhibits potentially important regional variation. For example, Japanese haemodialysis patients appear to have a markedly lower risk of sudden death than those in other countries. Whether this

is due to patient characteristics, environmental factors, or treatment practices is unknown. If confirmed, between-country variations in risk and outcomes might lead to new insights about pathophysiology or optimal management, or both. Careful observational studies that use common definitions to compare the epidemiology of these conditions across countries are a high priority.

Although new research is certainly needed, there are other areas in which knowledge translation (rather than knowledge generation) should be the key priority. For example, although the target for BP control in dialysis patients is unknown, severe hypertension is clearly harmful -- and organized programs should emphasize the prevention of very poor blood pressure control without causing side effects. Similarly, there is little controversy about the merits of controlling blood pressure, blood sugar, and dyslipidaemia in people with less advanced CKD -- yet many people worldwide do not have access to these treatments. Knowledge translation and advocacy efforts should focus on the implementation of global guidelines in renal populations, especially in LMIC.

In addition to a high burden of traditional risk factors, CVD in CKD appears to also be driven by novel (CKD-specific) risk factors. For example, abnormalities in phosphate, fibroblast growth factor 23, and Klotho all appear to contribute to CVDs in renal populations. Continued work is needed to translate discoveries from biomedical science into novel therapies that address these risk factors and mitigate the burden of CVD.

Key knowledge gaps exist about fundamental aspects of CVD management and prevention in CKD populations, especially in dialysis patients. Clinical trials are needed to examine the risks and benefits of treatments like aspirin, renin/angiotensin system interruption, and spironolactone in patients with advanced kidney disease and kidney failure. Since these trials are unlikely to be funded by industry partners, their success likely depends on cooperation between public research funders from different countries.

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
Promote diagnosis and staging of CKD as proposed by KDIGO	Work towards global implementation of the diagnosis (assess or attempt to assess aetiology) and staging of CKD based on measuring or estimating GFR and measuring albuminuria	Health care providers, clinical chemists	Increased ability to accurately diagnose CKD in different regions
Enhance renal biopsy based CKD diagnosis	Endorse need to obtain renal biopsy in a broader range of presentations, including CKD, AKI, and GN	KDIGO; Health care system, pathology departments	Consensus conference with published report Increased ability to accurately diagnose CKD in different regions
	Sustain or establish regional centres of excellence for renal biopsy analyses and interpretation globally	Ongoing efforts of the ISN Renal Pathology Committee	Consensus report with definition of standards for tissue processing and histological analyses Increase biopsy capacity in all countries
	Support implementation of standards in renal biopsy reporting	RPS	Consensus report, e.g., RPS, Mayo Clinic standardized reporting of GN
	Sustain and expand efforts to increase capacity for performing renal biopsies globally	ISN interventional Nephrology	Offering of renal biopsy training courses, covering indication, risk, performance and monitoring Increase biopsy capacity in all countries
	Evaluate and implement opportunities for molecular diagnosis of renal biopsies	Funding agencies, research networks	Research reports Increase biopsy capacity in all countries
	Link existing and novel renal biopsy registries with clinical data		Establishment of a global network and exploration of opportunities for data sharing and joint analyses
Enhance non-invasive imaging analyses of the kidney in CKD	Work towards global availability of diagnostic ultrasound imaging	Public policy	Monitoring of access to ultrasound diagnosis as part of the GKHA project
	Develop better non-invasive imaging tools of renal structure and function	Funding agencies, Radiology Society	Research conference devoted to this topic Increase number and types of tools available for assessment of CKD
Facilitate identification,	Sustain and enhance efforts to identify and validate biomarkers	Research networks, industry partners	Research reports

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
validation and implementation of diagnostic biomarkers in CKD	that indicate aetiology, dominant pathophysiological mechanisms and/or therapeutic responsiveness		Increase number and types of tools available for assessment of CKD
	Advocate for local / (inter) national biobanking efforts to include "renal" samples		Task force to explore opportunities and develop a concrete strategy
	Provide guidance on biosampling for markers of renal structure and function	CKD research networks	Development of a consensus statement with minimum standards and outline of how sample collection and storage procedures impact sample utility Increase engagement of CKD networks in collaborative research
	Promote sharing of biobanking inventories, protocols and biosamples	Funding agencies, CKD research networks	Development of a guidance document for governance of research network: network internal policy developments / biosamples usage / sample sharing / challenges of international collaboration
Enhance the clinical assessment of renal (dys) function and underlying pathomechanisms in CKD	Endorse research efforts to assess renal functional domains and pathomechanisms with their interaction and complexity (function of different tubular segments, inflammation, fibrosis, renal endothelial function)	Funding agencies	
	Evaluate the diagnostic and prognostic utility of renal functional reserve assessment	Funding agencies	
Improve monitoring of kidney disease progression among patients with CKD	Implement regular measurements of ACR and serum creatinine based eGFR for monitoring CKD	Policy makers, professional societies, guideline developers, WHO	Increase in number of countries able to measure ACR/eGFR relative to current state
	Increase awareness and empower patients in self-management and their understanding of their health (e.g., by implementing health technology applications)	Patient organisations, print and electronic media, ISN	Formal interactions with partners to develop a collaboration to accomplish the goal (e.g. International Federation of Kidney Foundation)

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
	Define changes in albuminuria and GFR that are meaningful for individual patients and how they should relate to clinical action	Scientists, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), European Medicines Agency (EMA)	Report on optimal change in albuminuria and association with outcome in 2018 International collaboration with ongoing initiatives (e.g. NKF/FDA/EMA workshop)
Improve CVD risk prediction in patients with CKD	Develop a risk prediction tool, integrating CKD markers in CVD risk assessment among CKD patients	Endocrinologists, cardiologists, general practitioners, if possible renal pharmacists	Web-based risk scores for CVD involving renal risk markers (albuminuria / eGFR) Evidence of use of risk scores in clinical practice
Facilitate identification, validation and implementation of prognostic biomarkers in CKD	Sustain and enhance efforts to identify and validate biomarkers that indicate the progression and/or therapeutic responsiveness of CKD	Regulatory authorities (e.g., FDA, EMA), Industry partners, payers	Conference with the partners to develop guidance and principles
	Sustain and enhance efforts to identify and validate biomarkers that indicate the development of CVD events in CKD patients	EUTox, CKD biomarkers consortium, industry partners	Conference with the partners Correlation of uremic toxins to phenotype Increased acceptance and uptake of diagnostic tests for specific conditions in many regions
Enhance global access to strategies and agents that retard progression of CKD	Development of early stage CKD toolkit	Non-nephrology health care providers, health care politicians	CKD-toolkits for different regional settings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distillation of generic summary • Generation of toolkit - multi-interventional, specific goals, simple interventions, (simple measures: BP, urine dipstick); • Identification of workforce with capacity to deliver package; • Translations into different languages
	Work towards global access to: 1) affordable BP lowering drugs 2) glucose lowering drugs 3) renin-angiotensin system blockade for proteinuric diabetic kidney disease, 4) statins for CVD prevention n	WHO, regional health care providers	Monitor availability of the four treatments; evaluate implementation delta and publicise results Extend the GKHA project to include this monitoring Increase availability of these agents or polypill for at risk populations

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
	Develop and implement decision support tools		Create inventory of existing decision support tools for early CKD by country (e.g., NZ, Aus, SA, etc.) Extend the GKHA project
Enhance global capabilities to treat glomerular diseases	Establish best practices and indications for biopsy procedures and sample handling; enhance capacity for trained pathologists to interpret specimens; establish key accessible medications for treatment of common GN	Pathologists, laboratory supporters	Inventory of current capacity and potential capacity; identification of barriers and work plans to address Extend the GKHA project
Sustain and enhance development, dissemination, and awareness of clinical practice guidelines	Continue to develop, update, and enhance clinical practice guidelines pertinent to CKD on a global scale	KDIGO and other guideline organisations	Novel guidelines and guideline updates Conference sessions on guidelines Ensure global access to guidelines International Ambassador programs to incorporate guideline education
	Promote guideline dissemination and education	KDIGO and other guideline organisations	Task force to survey non-nephrology guidelines, to establish contacts with non-nephrology guideline organisations and to work towards inclusion of CKD-related recommendations in future updates Inclusion of guidelines in CME Programs and dissemination of Nephrology Guidelines to other specialty guideline groups Increase number of individuals being treated according to recommendations
Develop implementation science expertise in nephrology	Develop and expand implementation science infrastructure within the nephrology community	WHO	Task force to explore opportunities and develop a concrete plan, taking into account experience in other fields; possibly supported by workshops and/or a consensus conference Developing expertise through expert group,

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
			<p>educational meetings, and training mechanisms; tool and curriculum/plan</p> <p>Funding for international and country specific Fellowships, Ambassadors</p> <p>Regional presentations, collaboration on specific projects</p>
	<p>Evaluate implementation strategies pertinent to CKD in clinical trials, tailor effective trial design to local circumstances and scale/spread successful dissemination strategies for maximum global impact</p>	<p>Government health ministries, industry partners, funding agencies</p>	<p>Conduct a trial to evaluate pre-intervention use versus short-term and long-term effects of intervention; tailor effective trial designs to the local circumstances (e.g., comparative effectiveness, step-wedge trials)</p> <p>Partner with government and health services to embed research in clinical care – facilitation of comparative effectiveness studies when previously unused therapies are introduced to ensure focus of resources on high-yielding interventions</p>
	<p>Inclusion of considerations related to implementation in guidelines</p>	<p>KDIGO and other guideline organisations</p>	<p>Future guidelines consider recommending an 'ideal' and an 'absolutely acceptable minimum' recommendation for increase uptake in HIC and LMIC alike</p>
<p>Improve symptoms associated with CKD</p>	<p>Develop better understanding of symptoms associated with CKD and their impact on HRQOL, employability, and functional status</p>	<p>Patients and caregivers</p>	<p>Task force to establish interaction and joint plan with patient groups</p> <p>Symptom survey of patients with CKD</p> <p>Review summarizing current evidence and gaps in knowledge</p> <p>Reduction in suffering of pts with CKD</p>
	<p>Promote basic and clinical research into understanding the pathophysiology of the key symptoms, in order to better target</p>	<p>Industrial partners, Funding agencies</p>	<p>Research reports</p>

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
	therapeutic efforts		
	Improve symptom management in patients with CKD		Multidisciplinary meetings Educational materials for different target groups Consider educational and advocacy activities about the symptom burden (e.g., World Kidney Day) (patients, health care providers,...)
Optimise the management of haematological, hormonal, and metabolic abnormalities associated with CKD	Promote research to understand links between laboratory abnormalities and clinically relevant outcomes (symptoms; CVD outcomes; progression of CKD)	Funding agencies, industry partners	Research reports More research \$\$ spent on this area
	Promote consistent assessment and documentation of laboratory abnormalities in CKD populations according to KDIGO guideline	Patients	Survey of guideline implementation
	Promote research and education into region-specific causes of abnormalities in CKD patients (e.g., nematode infection causing anaemia)	KDIGO	Research reports Educational tools
	Promote availability of affordable point-of-care measurement devices and treatments for hormonal, haematological and biochemical abnormalities	Policy Makers	Survey availability as part of the GKHA project Access to point-of-care testing in many areas where it does not exist now
Improve prevention and management of CV complications in people with CKD	Develop an integrated research program to better understand vascular and cardiac diseases occurring in the context of CKD populations	Funding agencies, industry partners	Research reports Research conferences

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
	Improve understanding of global variation in CVD associated with CKD	Cardiologists	Analysis of CVD morbidity in cohort studies established in different regions
	Determine barriers to dissemination and implementation of existing guidelines on dyslipidaemia and hypertension management to reduce CV risk in CKD, and implement strategies to overcome those barriers	KDIGO	Research reports More patients receive appropriate care (current reports <65%)
	Develop new therapeutic approaches to reduce CVD risk in CKD patients	Funding agencies, industry partners	New therapeutic agents Clinical trials focussing on CVD outcomes in CKD patients
	Promote further research into optimal therapeutic targets for CVD risk factor management (e.g., BP control) and how best to achieve them	Policy makers	Research reports Clinical trials

Table 3 Action Plan: Improve Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Treatment of CKD

Develop novel interventions in partnership with industry

To drive the availability of new treatments for CKD, three linked sets of activities are required: identifying "druggable" therapeutic targets; enhancing capacity for pre-clinical and early clinical development; and encouraging increased investment in the development of CKD therapies (see Table 4).

The likelihood of identifying druggable targets will be enhanced by coordinated efforts to interrogate human samples using state of the art 'omics approaches, merged with detailed patient phenotyping and existing biomarkers to identify and qualify new therapeutic targets. Such efforts should link genetic data with existing phenotypic information and/or generate personalized human tissue models using induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS) cells and targeted mutation followed by differentiation to human kidney tissue. To support these efforts, better models of disease (animal and human) are needed to reflect the complexity of human CKD (e.g., AKI in the setting of CKD, CKD in the setting of vascular disease, diabetes, metabolic syndrome).

Building capacity for pre-clinical and early clinical development could be facilitated by better use of existing infrastructure (e.g., leveraging research networks for CKD to facilitate data acquisition and trial recruitment), as well as developing new infrastructure to collect and analyse biological materials (e.g., kidney biopsy specimens). Human capacity will also be critical: there is a need to facilitate interaction and exchange of ideas between academic researchers and drug/device/diagnostic manufacturers with the aim to promote collaborations and mutual understanding of each other's environment and objectives.

Partnerships with industry are critically important for drug discovery, but existing paradigms for academic-industry collaboration do not incent (and may even inhibit) such collaborations. Work is needed on how best to recognize and support academic nephrologists and kidney PhD scientists who move in and out of an industry/biotechnology research environment. An essential element will be determining how to give academic credit to researchers who participate in such interactions, which may not always yield traditional scholarly deliverables.

Other factors will require consideration in addition to the development and validation of novel targets. Given the explosion of therapeutics beyond small molecules to DNA and RNA therapeutics together with targeted bioavailability to reduce side effects and enhance efficacy, drug delivery systems are of parallel importance to novel targets. Although the focus has been on scientific development, many of the problems in developing novel therapeutics relate to identifying project-funding sources, finding suitable contract manufacturing companies that are Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) compliant, and protecting intellectual property generated from the scientific studies when collaboration is essential. Taxation and regulatory policies, including offering patent exclusivity and expedited review for breakthrough therapies for CKD, should provide incentives to develop innovative therapeutics in CKD. Trials with the aim of repurposing generic therapeutics should be prioritised if sufficient scientific evidence

is available. Examples include allopurinol and metformin, both of which demonstrate potential in the attenuation of progression of CKD through mechanisms related to oxidative stress and fibrosis.^{219,220} Furthermore, strategies used to extend the patent life of drugs, but without investment to assess repurposing, should be discouraged. If the above goals are achieved, new therapies will certainly become available to stop, slow, or reverse CKD. Most importantly, these therapies may actually be accessible to populations around the globe.

Increase the quantity and quality of clinical trials

Given the importance of clinical trials for changing clinical practice and improving outcomes, it is critical to increase the number of trials relevant to the care of CKD patients, and (to improve the likelihood that such trials yield useful information) to optimize the design of future CKD-related trials. Both goals will be facilitated by thoughtful efforts to build capacity for conducting clinical trials in this population (see Table 4).

Greater investment in kidney disease trials is required, and will require a business case, with clear articulation of the benefits that are achievable, and the value for money gained. This will involve a multi-pronged strategy, starting with advocacy from relevant bodies, and include identification of both the health and financial benefits of trials in the area. For example, hospitalisation is a common and expensive outcome in CKD and needs to be considered and assessed.

Many individual kidney diseases are uncommon or rare, have protracted time courses, thus rendering so called “hard outcome studies” less feasible. Motivated people with kidney disease, advocacy organisations, and health care funders are important stakeholders in kidney disease trials, and have been inadequately engaged to date. They are key partners who can advocate strongly for greater investment in kidney disease trials. Advocacy efforts should aim at increasing investment in CKD research, and at aligning the efforts of researchers with the needs of patients – including the development and selection of appropriate, meaningful, and feasible outcomes for such trials. Markers of kidney damage, including biopsy findings or biomarkers of disease activity, might be suitable in some kidney diseases. For example, the FDA has approved total kidney volume as a prognostic marker for PKD trials, but required substantial scientific collaboration by members of the PKD Outcomes Consortium.²²¹

A key barrier to greater investment in kidney disease trials generally (but especially by smaller biotechnology companies) is the long-term nature of trials required to generate regulatory approvals and allow revenue to be generated. In other areas of medicine, conditional approval is granted by regulatory agencies based on benefits on approved surrogate outcomes while requiring appropriate trials assessing effects on hard outcomes to be undertaken as post approval (e.g., glucose lowering agents approved based on glycaemic effects). A similar approach in CKD would likely increase investment in the area, so should be promoted by kidney disease organisations.

Many trials routinely exclude participants with CKD; in some cases this is due to concerns about the safety profile of novel agents, but limits generalizability, given the high prevalence of CKD as a comorbid condition and the likelihood of approved agents subsequently being used in CKD. More generally, the incorporation of people with CKD into trials should be encouraged to provide specific data on safety and efficacy in this population, of medications for conditions that are common and impactful in CKD populations.

Unlike other disciplines such as cardiology, CKD trialists lack a regular stand-alone meeting to review ongoing and planned clinical trials with CKD patients on a global scale. Development of such a meeting is a priority for the field. Issues that could be discussed include endpoint selection: better and more relevant endpoints are crucial to facilitate appropriate trials and several initiatives are already underway. A workshop by the US NKF, FDA, and EMA is being planned for 2018 to address changes in albuminuria and rates of GFR decline (slopes) as surrogate endpoints for earlier stages of CKD. This and other activities, such as the SONG initiative and KHI, should be aligned and endorsed to ensure a single set of appropriate endpoints is approved globally.

More broadly than endpoint selection, a dedicated CKD trials meeting would offer opportunities to learn from prior work. Many trials in kidney disease have demonstrated evidence of harm or lack of efficacy, e.g., ALTITUDE,²²² BEACON,²²³ ASCEND,²²⁴ VANEPHRON D,²²⁵ and TREAT.²²⁶ The reasons for this may relate to the endpoint chosen, or to aspects of study design or conduct. The regular stand-alone meeting proposed above offers an ideal opportunity to ensure future trials learn from these experiences.

The likelihood of successful trials, and the appropriate generalization of evidence from these trials, will be enhanced if participants can be enrolled based on likelihood of a positive response as well as risk of progression. Active 'run-in' periods are one way that this is being done, but enrichment and/or adaptive approaches are likely to add value. They will also add complexity so more work to understand the trade-offs is required.

A number of novel or alternative approaches to conducting trials are being undertaken in other areas, but may be particularly well suited to CKD. Large simple trial designs have proven useful in other diseases, but may have limitations for endpoints in earlier stages of kidney disease that require repeated laboratory measures for endpoint ascertainment. Randomised-registry trials, cluster randomised trials, adaptive trials, and other approaches should be considered as methods to dramatically increase the feasibility of trials in CKD. Simple trials with minimal data collection would increase the feasibility of including more countries (with the ethnic diversity that brings), and thus improve the generalisability of studies, once completed.

The limited capacity in conducting kidney disease trials highlights the need to study interventions that are most likely to improve outcomes for people with CKD, rather than those that will deliver commercial returns. Prioritising these interventions is a key goal,

and should be done regionally as well as globally to account for local differences in needs. In parallel, the nephrology community should work to build additional capacity.

A repository of information that can provide information on centres, networks, and coordinating centres with interest (and where possible experience) in kidney disease trials would strongly support better collaboration and more feasible conduct of trials. Finally, training through courses, formal and informal mentorship and structured programs, and partnerships will be crucial to increasing the number and quality of CKD trials.

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
Improve identification of "druggable" therapeutic targets	Interrogate human samples using state of the art 'omics approaches, merged with detailed patient phenotyping and existing biomarkers to identify and qualify new therapeutic targets	Research consortia, industry/biotechnology companies, systems biologists, geneticists	Inventory of current capacity and activities, with annual updating of changes in capacity/ activities and outputs
	Enhance participation in cross-disciplinary research on pathophysiological mechanisms relevant for CKD and other diseases (e.g., fibrosis research)	Global, regional, and national societies, networks, ISN	Development of series of meetings with non-renal scientists around areas/mechanisms (New meeting format/strategy) Number of new targets increased over current state
	Focus academic pre-clinical research on identification of druggable targets	Funding agencies, research networks	
	Improve models of disease (animal and human) to better reflect the complexity of human CKD (e.g., AKI in the setting of CKD, CKD in the setting of vascular disease, diabetes, metabolic syndrome)	Scientists, industry partners, biotechnology companies	Research reports
Enhance the capacity for preclinical and early clinical development	Leverage research networks for CKD and segmented disease populations to facilitate data acquisition and trial recruitment	ISN, industry partners	Inventory of current capacity and changes over time (1-3 years)
	Develop infrastructure to carry out state of the art analyses of human tissue (CKD biopsy collections) to better understand pathobiology of CKD and its progression		Increase in number of new agents available for specific aetiologies of CKD over current
	Facilitate interaction and exchange of ideas between academic researchers and drug/device/diagnostic manufacturers: aiming to promote collaborations and mutual understanding of each other's environment and objectives	ISN, industry partners, scientists	Development of innovative meeting formats, such as "Pitch for Partners" as stand-alone meetings or in conjunction with major conferences

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
	Recognize and support academic nephrologists and kidney PhD scientists to move in and out of a Industry/biotechnology research environment	Industry partners and academic institutions	1 year and ongoing: Establishment of special scholarships to increase capacity; expanding if successful year on year
	Give credit to ongoing involvement academic/industry/biotechnology collaborations in therapeutic development in academic career development	Academic institutions and health sector, biotechnology companies and industry partners	Policy statement at academic institutions recognizing activities and tabulating towards career development
Encourage increased investment in the development of CKD therapies	Document differences in CKD practice patterns and therapeutic needs in different countries	ISN, global, regional, and national nephrology societies	Extension of the GKHA project
	Encourage industry / biotechnology / government investment in development of new therapies for CKD	As per activity	Tailored, leveraged plans for funders, governments, WHO, World Bank, foundations
	Market economic opportunity and develop business case.	Academic institutions, industry partners	
	Evaluate opportunities for repurposing of existing drugs for diverse disease for treatment of CKD and its complications	Industry partners, system biologists	Workshop / conference
Strongly encourage and promote the conduct of clinical trials in people with CKD	Develop value proposition for trials in kidney disease	Health economists, payers	Published position statement
	Promote trials in areas of unmet need and orphan diseases, including outcome development (e.g., biopsy, hospitalisation)	Advocacy organisations, regulatory authorities, KDIGO	Consensus conference with published report
	Engage activated patient groups, payers and other stakeholders, aiming to substantially increase the number of clinical trials in CKD	Advocacy organisations, major payers, WHO	Trial stakeholder workshop within 2 years Increase in number of clinical trials in Nephrology
	Promote models for early conditional approval of new therapies to encourage investment	Regulatory authorities, KHI	Position statement

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
	Work to increase the number of people with CKD who are included in CV, diabetes, and oncology trials, aiming to reflect the prevalence of CKD in such patient populations.	Regulatory authorities, FDA, EMA, non-nephrology disciplines	Position statement Inventory of CKD related 'in- and exclusion criteria' in major non-kidney trials to monitor implementation Increase in number of clinical trials with CKD included (vs. excluded) as important subgroup
	Develop a regular stand-alone meeting to review ongoing and planned clinical trials with CKD patients on a global scale	KDIGO, KHI, global, regional, and national nephrology societies	First stand-alone meeting within 2 years
Optimise the design of clinical trials in people with CKD	Develop and refine appropriate endpoints for CKD trials and promote their uptake and dissemination	NKF, FDA, EMA, KHI, SONG	Conference on albuminuria / eGFR in 2018 (US NKF, FDA, EMA) Position statement
	Evaluate factors that lead to "success" or "failure" of clinical trials in CKD trials	Industry partners	Conference --> report; to be continued as part of the proposed annual meeting
	Facilitate strategies to pre-select patients for clinical trials according to their risk for progression or likelihood to respond to an intervention	Industry partners, bioinformaticians clinicians, scientists	Published reanalysis of selected trials to differentiate progressors/non-progressors and responders/non-responders
	Develop innovative trial designs to enhance feasibility and success of CKD trials		Integration into clinical trial meetings
	Implement priority setting exercises for interventions to be tested in clinical trials globally and by region	ISN, KDIGO, global, regional, and national nephrology societies	Global exercise completed in 2 years At least 2 regional processes within 3 years
	Establish recommendations for clinical trials in people with CKD for use by ethical and regulatory boards, including opportunities for sample collection for future analyses	Industry partners, ISN, global, regional, and national nephrology societies	Convene a panel to address this topic, including stakeholders with appropriate expertise in relevant disciplines

Goals	Activities	Partners	Possible Deliverables
Grow capacity in conducting clinical trials in people with CKD	Develop networks of kidney clinical trialists including community physicians, and other specialties, etc.	Funding agencies	Convene a meeting of established clinical trial groups
	Catalogue sites/centres capable of participating in kidney trials	Academic Research Organisations	Catalogue and mechanism available by end 2017, with mechanism for linking trials and centres Develop mechanisms for internationalisation of trials, particularly including LMIC
	Develop and implement professional training in trial design and conduct, involving nephrology and related specialties	Trial training providers, global, regional, and national nephrology societies	First course at WCN 2017, put online by end 2017, roll out in at least 2 regions during 2018 Award fellowships for the planning and conduct of clinical trials Increase size and quality of clinical trials in nephrology

Table 4 Action Plan: Develop novel interventions and increase the quantity and quality of clinical trials

SUMMARY and CONCLUSIONS

There are significant gaps in research, care, and policy that have seriously compromised our ability to improve the outcomes of patients with CKD around the world. The international community has recognized these gaps, and for the first time, has developed a comprehensive plan to systematically address these gaps.

We involved many stakeholders: individuals with broad and diverse expertise and different professional, scientific, and cultural backgrounds. The content of this document, including the recommendations, was developed in a step-wise process, including several rounds of internal review and plenary discussion at the summit meeting. Despite this strength, the selection of goals and activities and their priorities remains subjective, and views on several issues are likely to differ among members of the community. In the current era of patient centred care, many efforts to engage patients in these processes are ongoing. The broad scope precluded an in depth-analysis of each topic, however, including the full spectrum of themes relevant to the prevention and treatment of CKD is an important strength of this document.

Proposed activities include education, research, and policy creation and implementation. Partners in these endeavours include academic institutions, health care institutions, governmental agencies, industry partners, research funding agencies, clinicians, researchers, policy makers, and patients.

Educational activities to address public and patient awareness in all areas of the world are critical for progress. The development of targeted and culturally appropriate materials for patients, policy makers, and clinicians will improve communication and knowledge. Education about risk factors, the importance of genetics, and the need to be involved in clinical studies will enhance the community's capacity to close many of the gaps identified.

Herein, we have described a wide range of research activities which harness existing databases and biorepositories, both within and outside the nephrology community. This requires the development of standardization of definitions, methods of data collection and storage, and some minimal standard 'dataset' across countries. The development or enhancement of registries in countries around the world will be an important step forward in documenting current disease burden and changes. The existence and accessibility of national or renal registries is easily quantifiable, and thus can be measured as an indicator of progress. The ability to collaborate across borders and disciplines is predicated on a change in policies and attitude about data sharing and academic-industry collaborations: progress towards this goal should be quantifiable using bibliometric indices.

It is clear that activities should be targeted to all regions of the globe, although tools, strategies, and research methods will all need to be adapted based on geographical, socioeconomic, cultural, and political considerations.

Given the potential granularity of each of the plans, it is possible to develop a performance measurement framework by which activities are documented, timelines and responsible parties are identified, and the impact on specific metrics anticipated.

Table 5 offers such the initial high level framework, based on the overarching goals and specific working group action plans, and will hold the nephrology community to account. We are optimistic that this tracking of events, activities, and desired outcomes will galvanize the nephrology community to close the identified gaps -- to reduce the global burden of kidney disease around the world.

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Overarching Goal	Activities	Measurable Outputs	Data Sources
<p>Improve the surveillance of CKD</p> <p>1. Determine and monitor prevalence of CKD in different regions/countries</p>	<p>Support of novel collaborative translational and clinical research</p> <p>Position statements to aid in awareness, advocacy, and collaboration</p> <p>Workshops of multiple stakeholders in order to address complex problems</p> <p>Consensus conferences to develop unified messaging</p> <p>Specific time-limited task forces to address barriers to collaboration and progress across jurisdictions</p> <p>Develop inventories by which to objectively measure current state and progress</p> <p>Surveys to establish current state and perspectives and to use as update tools</p> <p>Develop, update, and implement guidelines</p>	<p>Increase in uptake and knowledge of position statements as outputs of workshops, consensus conferences, and task forces</p> <p>Proportion of high-risk populations receiving simple urine and blood tests to detect CKD</p> <p>Increased number of countries with written policies on CKD identification and care</p> <p>Increased number of countries with capacity to diagnose CKD (kidney biopsies/laboratory)</p> <p>Number of people with access to essential CKD care, basic CKD-relevant medications</p> <p>Global Kidney Policy Forums held: number, participants, and locations</p> <p>Proportion of medical schools with AKI and CKD modules within curriculum</p>	<p>WHO, ISN, national research groups</p> <p>Patient organisations, industry partners</p> <p>Documents in public domain</p> <p>Global Kidney Health Atlas (GKHA)</p> <p>National and regional documents</p> <p>International, national, and regional societies</p>
<p>Identify and reduce the risk factors and identify the genetic causes of CKD</p> <p>2. Identify and reduce major risk factors for CKD</p> <p>3. Reduce progression of CKD by targeting AKI episodes</p> <p>4. Improve</p>	<p>Support of novel collaborative translational and clinical research</p> <p>Position statements to aid in awareness, advocacy, and collaboration</p> <p>Workshops of multiple stakeholders in order to address complex problems</p> <p>Consensus conferences to develop unified messaging</p> <p>Specific time-limited task forces to address barriers to collaboration and</p>	<p>Increase in uptake and knowledge of position statements as outputs of workshops, consensus conferences, and task forces</p> <p>Proportion of high-risk populations receiving simple urine and blood tests to detect CKD</p> <p>Increased number of countries with written policies on CKD identification and care</p> <p>Increased number of countries with capacity to diagnose CKD (kidney biopsies/laboratory)</p> <p>Number of people with access to essential</p>	<p>WHO, ISN, national research groups</p> <p>Patient organisations, industry partners</p> <p>Documents in public domain</p> <p>Global Kidney Health Atlas (GKHA)</p> <p>National and regional documents</p>

<p>understanding of the genetic causes of CKD</p>	<p>progress across jurisdictions</p> <p>Develop inventories by which to objectively measure current state and progress</p> <p>Surveys to establish current state and perspectives and to use as update tools</p> <p>Develop, update, and implement guidelines</p>	<p>CKD care, basic CKD-relevant medications</p> <p>Global Kidney Policy Forums held: number, participants, and locations</p> <p>Proportion of medical schools with AKI and CKD modules within curriculum</p>	<p>International, national, and regional societies</p>
<p>Improve diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment</p> <p>5. Improve diagnostic methods to assess alterations in kidney structure and function</p> <p>6. Improve understanding of the natural course of CKD and define prognostic biomarkers for renal progression, CVD complications, and other adverse events</p> <p>7. Evaluate and implement established treatment options in patients with CKD</p> <p>8. Improve understanding and management of the complications of CKD</p>	<p>Support of novel collaborative translational and clinical research</p> <p>Position statements to aid in awareness, advocacy, and collaboration</p> <p>Workshops of multiple stakeholders in order to address complex problems</p> <p>Consensus conferences to develop unified messaging</p> <p>Specific time-limited task forces to address barriers to collaboration and progress across jurisdictions</p> <p>Develop inventories by which to objectively measure current state and progress</p> <p>Surveys to establish current state and perspectives and to use as update tools</p> <p>Develop, update, and implement guidelines</p>	<p>Number of completed clinical trials focusing on CKD or ESRD patients</p> <p>Number of completed clinical trials including patients with stage 3 or 4 CKD</p> <p>30% of CKD patients worldwide involved in a clinical trial by 2030</p> <p>Number of new agents available for CKD or symptoms treatment</p> <p>Proportion of patients with ESRD who report their symptom burden as “mild” or “very mild”</p> <p>Creation of administrative data platform for kidney research developed in collaboration with international groups</p> <p>Number of international collaborative consortiums conducting CKD-relevant research</p> <p>Median survival among patients with ESRD in HIC and LMIC</p> <p>Uptake of international CKD-relevant guidelines in HIC and LMIC</p>	<p>WHO, ISN, national research groups</p> <p>Patient organisations, industry partners</p> <p>Documents in public domain</p> <p>Global Kidney Health Atlas (GKHA)</p> <p>National and regional documents</p> <p>International, national, and regional societies</p>

		Number of tools and strategies developed to enhance access to ethical dialysis or living donor transplantation	
<p>Develop and test new therapeutic strategies</p> <p>9. Validate and establish novel therapeutic interventions to slow CKD progression and reduce CKD complications</p> <p>10. Optimize the design of clinical trials in CKD</p>	<p>Support of novel collaborative translational and clinical research</p> <p>Position statements to aid in awareness, advocacy, and collaboration</p> <p>Workshops of multiple stakeholders in order to address complex problems</p> <p>Consensus conferences to develop unified messaging</p> <p>Specific time-limited task forces to address barriers to collaboration and progress across jurisdictions</p> <p>Develop inventories by which to objectively measure current state and progress</p> <p>Surveys to establish current state and perspectives and to use as update tools</p> <p>Develop, update, and implement guidelines</p>	<p>Total funding for CKD-relevant research</p> <p>Number of formal agreements with funding partners</p> <p>Number of clinical trials conducted in LMIC</p> <p>Number of clinical trials conducted which include CKD as important subgroup</p> <p>Number of clinical trials which report important outcomes in CKD subgroup</p> <p>Number of knowledge translation tools developed</p> <p>Number of knowledge translation events held</p>	<p>Study registries, clinicaltrials.gov, other publications</p>

Table 5 Performance Framework

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