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Kidney Research Institute to hold special event to discuss current studies

Seattle, WA (Oct. 8, 2010): The Kidney Research Institute, a collaboration between Northwest Kidney Centers and UW Medicine, will host a laboratory tour and educational event Wednesday Oct. 20, 2010, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Visitors will learn about the breakthrough research studies the institute has been working on since its inception two years ago.

Researchers will give brief talks about:

- The role of genetics in kidney disease
- Efforts to optimize outcomes for dialysis patients
- The impact of lifestyle factors

The event will take place at the Kidney Research Institute at Harborview Medical Center, 3rd floor, Ninth and Jefferson Building, 908 Jefferson St., Seattle. Parking is free and light refreshments will be served.

The Kidney Research Institute's long-term vision is to find better ways to detect kidney disease, slow its progression, and create optimal treatments. It currently has 17 studies under way to look at how to improve the lives of people with kidney disease. Investigators have been awarded nearly \$20 million in research funding from the National Institutes of Health and other sources – a big vote of confidence for a new institute.

“Kidney disease is a public health issue, up 30 percent over the last decade,” said Dr. Jonathan Himmelfarb, director of the Kidney Research Institute. “We are working to find new, effective treatments for advanced kidney disease through relevant research, and then translating these discoveries back into direct and improved care for the patient.”

The new research facility and laboratory on the Harborview Medical Center campus in Seattle were equipped using seed money from Northwest Kidney Centers and generous individuals.

One in seven adult Americans has chronic kidney disease, which is linked to premature cardiovascular disease, fractures, infections, and diminished physical and mental functioning. Despite robust basic research, clinical practice has lagged in developing new treatments for kidney disease. Dialysis technology has changed little in the last 50 years, and the mortality rate

A collaboration between Northwest Kidney Centers and UW Medicine

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of people on dialysis has not decreased significantly either. The Kidney Research Institute was founded to tackle those problems.

For information about the event, contact Janice McGee at 206-720-8548 or Janice@nwkidney.org. More information about the Kidney Research Institute is available at www.nwkidney.org/research.

The Kidney Research Institute was established in 2008 in Seattle as a collaboration between Northwest Kidney Centers and UW Medicine Division of Nephrology. The institute is focused on developing early detection, prevention and treatment of kidney disease and its complications. For more information about the Kidney Research Institute, go to <http://kri.washington.edu>.

Northwest Kidney Centers keeps people in the Seattle area alive with dialysis care, educates the public about kidney health, and collaborates with UW Medicine in the Kidney Research Institute. Founded in 1962, it was the first out-of-hospital dialysis program anywhere in the world. Northwest Kidney Centers is one of very few community-based, nonprofit dialysis providers in the country. Its mission remains critical today. One in seven American adults now has kidney disease, up 30 percent in the last decade. For more information, visit www.nwkidney.org.

The University of Washington Division of Nephrology is dedicated to providing excellent medical care for patients with hypertension, diabetic kidney disease, glomerulonephritis, acute and chronic renal failure, and for kidney transplantation through research and education. The Division of Nephrology is consistently recognized as an international leader in cutting-edge research, bringing innovations from the laboratory to the patient's bedside. For more information, visit <http://depts.washington.edu/nephron/index.html>.

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