

NephCure Kidney International Health Equity Internship Program

NephCure Kidney International is seeking two candidates for our Health Equity Internship Program. If you are a minority student interested in protecting the health of underrepresented populations and eliminating health disparities, we encourage you to apply. This is an opportunity for undergraduate students to apply both academic skills and real world experience that will make a significant impact on addressing health inequalities. Ideal candidates will have completed their freshman year by June 2021, and be public health, communications, health sciences, social work, nursing or social justice majors at a Historically Black College/University (HBCU) or Minority Institution of Higher Education (MIHE).

NephCure Kidney International's mission is to accelerate research for effective treatments for rare forms of Nephrotic Syndrome, and to provide education and support that will improve the lives of those affected by these protein-spilling kidney diseases.

More than 1 in 7 adult Americans have some form of Chronic Kidney Disease. One of the most common and aggressive sub-types of CKD is FSGS, characterized by protein in the urine, kidney scarring, and having the potential to cause relatively rapid decline in kidney function.

CKD and FSGS disproportionately affect Black Americans at rates at least 4 times greater than White Americans. Black Americans comprise 13.2% of the United States population but represent more than 35% of all patients in the US receiving dialysis for kidney failure. A variation on the APOL1 gene is often found in people of West African descent and is thought to be associated with one of the most severe forms of kidney disease.

Earlier this year, NephCure formally launched our Health Equity Initiative, focused on addressing access to research and care for diverse families living with chronic, protein-spilling kidney diseases. The goal of this initiative is to improve patient outcomes by identifying solutions to strengthen the participation of underrepresented individuals in the kidney disease patient and medical arena.

Activities/Projects

- Report directly to the Executive Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement.
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- Participate in Health Equity Steering Committee meetings and contribute to workgroup projects.
- Assist with the creation of web-based and social media content aimed at educating and engaging communities of color about kidney disease.

- Curate and inventory educational materials for various patient audiences (adults, young adults, dialysis, and transplant patients) to be shared with faith-based ministries in pilot markets.
- Participate in Patient Advisory Board meetings to identify knowledge gaps and creative approaches to reaching diverse populations.
- Research Black Fraternities and Sororities and other potential partner organizations to expand NephCure's Health Equity footprint.

Eligibility

NephCure's Health Equity Internship Program is open to undergraduate students entering their sophomore, junior or senior year who come from underrepresented minority groups and/or attend a Historically Black College/University (HBCU) or Minority Institution of Higher Education (MIHE).

Duration, Schedule and Stipend

Internships will last for 8 weeks from the period of June 8-August 3.

Interns will be required to work 20 hours a week (Monday-Thursday) and have the flexibility to set their schedule with their supervisors' approval at the beginning of June.

All internships for the summer of 2021 will be virtual.

Interns will receive a stipend of \$1000 at the conclusion of their 8-week tenure.

How to Apply

- Please complete our online application
- Send a cover letter and resume to lee@nephcure.org. Include why you would like to be considered for this opportunity.

Deadline to apply is May 15, 2021.