

## ASN Research Survey Policy

### *Background and Motivation*

Surveys play a key role in addressing knowledge gaps in areas lacking definitive data sources. In training and workforce research, surveys may provide the only data to address focused questions. ASN receives numerous requests to distribute surveys to its members every year, and member feedback shaped the Society's previous policy prohibiting distribution of external surveys. Now, several established annual surveys (portfolio detailed below) offer the opportunity to advance extramural research in collaboration with the ASN Data Analytics Program.

### *ASN Research Survey Portfolio*

ASN currently supports the following research surveys:

- Annual *ASN Nephrology Fellow Survey*—Captures leading job market indicators and of the specialty and fellowship training
- *ASN Nephrology Graduate Medical Education (GME) Census*—Captures required information NRMP on fellows entering training, and program-level data on adult nephrology programs to monitor trends in the training landscape (data collated in ASN's Nephrology Database)
- *ASN In-Training Exam (ITE) Survey*—Administered to fellows in concert with the ITE each year April, the survey offers the best opportunity for a high response rate

### *ASN Research Survey Policy*

The Society's new policy is modeled on the recent experience of using the ASN Nephrology Fellow Survey as a distribution vehicle (*JASN* doi:10.1681/ASN.2016101061). The Fellow Survey and ITE Survey afford external investigators the opportunity to disseminate brief surveys aimed at nephrology trainees.

### *Standard Operating Procedure for Submission, Review, and Approval of Extramural Research Survey Requests*

#### **SUBMISSION**

Extramural researchers interested in disseminating survey research in concert with ASN's existing survey work must submit an application with a cover letter and the following supporting documentation:

1. Research question(s) and hypothesis, detailing survey audience, knowledge gaps to be addressed, end product(s), and utility to the kidney community
2. Survey tool (questions and response options), including skip patterns, A/B testing, and other formatting
3. IRB documentation outlining scope of research, exemption declaration (if applicable), and approval
4. Commitment to publicly sharing research results in peer-reviewed literature and/or at meetings
5. Detailed plan for securely transferring and storing deidentified responses

Applications to distribute research survey questions in ASN research surveys must be submitted in writing to ASN Data Science Officer Kurtis Pivert at [kpivert@asn-online.org](mailto:kpivert@asn-online.org) no later than **5:00 p.m. EDT on the following dates:**

- *ASN Nephrology Fellow Survey*—January 31 of the same calendar year as the Survey
- *ASN ITE Survey*—September 30 before the ITE Survey calendar year

## **REVIEW**

ASN staff will assess each application on multiple factors, including:

- Research question(s)
- Efficacy in addressing knowledge gaps
- Survey length

Reviewed applications and recommendations will be delivered to the Chair and Members of Workforce and Training Committee (WTC) for review and final selection as follows:

- ASN *Nephrology Fellow Survey*—February WTC call the same calendar year as the Survey
- ASN *ITE Survey*—November WTC call before the ITE Survey calendar year

WTC members will vote to select which applicant's research survey will be incorporated into ASN's portfolio. All WTC decisions are final.

## **APPROVAL**

Only **one application each** for the Nephrology Fellow Survey and ITE Survey may be accepted for inclusion each calendar year.

Successful investigators are responsible for coordinating directly with the ASN Data Science Officer and providing required materials in a timely manner.

## **PUBLIC DISSEMINATION**

Successful investigators must be committed to public dissemination of results from research incorporated in ASN Research Surveys. Investigators must provide copies of the resulting publication(s) and/or presentation to ASN within 30 days of publication/presentation.

## **REQUIRED DISCLAIMER**

Investigators must include the following disclaimer when publishing and/or presenting results from research incorporated in ASN Research Surveys:

*The opinions and findings in this research are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN).*