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Authors

Ingelfinger, Julie R
Kalantar-Zadeh, Kamyar
Schaefer, Franz

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AVERTING THE LEGACY OF KIDNEY DISEASE--FOCUS ON CHILDHOOD

Contributors (currently listed alphabetically):

Julie R Ingelfinger

Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh

Franz Schaefer

on behalf of the World Kidney Day Steering Committee*

Correspondence:

World Kidney Day,

International Society of Nephrology,

Rues de Fabriques 1B,

1000, Brussels, Belgium

E-mail: info@worldkidneyday.org

*Members of the World Kidney Day Steering Committee are: Philip Kam Tao Li, Guillermo Garcia-Garcia, William G. Couser, Timur Erk, Julie R Ingelfinger, Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh, Charles Kernahan, Charlotte Osafo, Miguel C. Riella, Luca Segantini, Elena Zakharova

World Kidney Day 2016 focuses on kidney disease in childhood and the antecedents of adult kidney disease that can begin in earliest childhood. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) in childhood differs from that in adults, as the largest diagnostic group among children includes congenital anomalies and inherited disorders, with glomerulopathies and kidney disease in the setting of diabetes being relatively uncommon. Children born early or who are small-for date newborns have relatively increased risk for the development of CKD later in life. Persons with a high-risk birth and early childhood history should be watched closely in order to help detect early signs of kidney disease in time to provide effective prevention or treatment. Successful therapy is feasible for advanced CKD in childhood. Because there are disparities in access to care, effort is needed so that those children with kidney disease, wherever they live, may be treated effectively, irrespective of their geographic or economic circumstances. Our hope is that World Kidney Day will inform the general public, policy makers and caregivers about the needs and possibilities surrounding kidney disease in childhood.