



The NKC's mission is to improve the health of newborns with or at risk for kidney disease through multidisciplinary collaborative research, advocacy, and education.

**March 2022**

Dear NKC Members,

Spring is in the air and we hope you are feeling renewed excitement to stamp out neonatal kidney disease!

## ALMOND Call for Proposals

The NKC Research Committee is excited to introduce a unique opportunity for NKC members to interact with the Research Committee. We are announcing a call for proposals for the ALMOND (Assessing Longitudinal Micropremie Outcomes in Neonates at risk for renal Disease) project.

The ALMOND project allows for secondary analyses of the PENUt (Preterm Erythropoietin Neuroprotection Trial)/REPaired (Recombinant Erythropoietin for Protection of Infant Renal Disease) study. The PENUt trial was a randomized controlled trial of the effect of erythropoietin on neurocognition. The REPaired study was an NIH/NIDDK ancillary study which has published several manuscripts and abstracts on the short and long-term kidney outcomes in over 900 extremely low gestational age neonates (ELGANs), with at least one 2-year kidney follow-up outcome on over 700 of the participants.

Three ALMOND projects have already been commissioned and are well underway:

- Caffeine exposure and 2-year kidney outcomes
- Impact of fluid balance on respiratory outcomes
- Risk Factors for Acute Kidney Injury

There are numerous other questions that could be answered with this rich data set. **We invite proposals from NKC members for investigator-initiated projects utilizing the PeNUT/REPaired database.**

Each proposal will be evaluated for scientific integrity according to the proposed scoring system which can be found <https://www.babykidney.org/research/almond>. Prioritization for statistical support will be made based on feasibility, scientific merit, methodological rigor, and authorship plan in accordance with the values of the NKC.

Keeping with our NKC mission, we strongly encourage partnerships between Neonatologists/ Intensivists and Pediatric Nephrologists. We hope this project will help foster relationships and provide mentoring and academic opportunities for trainees and early-stage investigators.

If your proposal is accepted, the NKC will provide statistical support at UAB through funding from Nuwellis Inc. Abstracts and manuscripts will be published via standard NKC Research Committee procedures.

Please use the link (<https://www.babykidney.org/research/almond>) to access the proposal form, case report forms and a list of previous publications. We will be accepting proposals until midnight Central Time on 5/13/22. Accepted proposals will be announced on 6/30/2022.

## SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US IN DENVER!

The Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) 2022 meeting is rapidly approaching and abstract acceptance emails have been sent out. If you have an accepted abstract and would like us to publicize it to the NKC, please log on to the [babykidney.org](https://www.babykidney.org) website and submit information about your presentation here:

<https://www.babykidney.org/nkcmembers/pas-abstract-information-form>. Next month we will send out the list so you can stop by and support your fellow NKC members!

***Please RSVP if you plan to attend the NKC Event – Details below***

You're Invited  
to the Eighth Annual



Neonatal  
**KIDNEY**  
Collaborative

**Dinner and Networking**  
*at the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting*

**Saturday, April 23, 2022**  
6:30 until 9:30 in the evening

**Panzano**  
909 17th Street  
(inside Kimpton Hotel Monaco Denver)

***Please RSVP by Monday, April 4***  
**nkc@uabmc.edu**



**PICAN**  
Sponsored by  
Pediatric and Infant Center for Acute Nephrology



Children's  
of Alabama



**UAB MEDICINE**  
PEDIATRIC NEPHROLOGY

## #NephMadness

What is NephMadness? NephMadness is a March Madness style tournament of nerd-dom, put together by the adult nephrologists as an educational opportunity each March. There are 8 regions (which are topics in nephrology) and a total of 32 “teams” - concepts in nephrology that “compete” head to head. Unlike March Madness where the teams can actually play, in NephMadness, the winner of each “matchup” is chosen by a group of experts (both peds and adult nephrologists) based on their importance/novelty/impact on the field and your bracket is matched up against their expert consensus picks. <https://ajkdblog.org/>

This year neonatal nephrology is one of the regions. This is a HUGE thing - usually they focus on adult concepts like diabetes and hypertension and we very rarely have a pediatric focused region. To have neonatal nephrology highlighted in this way (which will get thousands of eyeballs on our work) is really amazing and I think reflective of a lot of the amazing work done by the NKC over the last several years. Two of our own fearless leaders, David Askenazi and Michelle Starr, wrote the section, which you can check out here: <https://ajkdblog.org/2022/03/01/nephmadness-2022-neonatal-nephrology-region/>

What are the 4 teams in the Neonatal Nephrology region?

1. Neonatal dialysis devices (eg Carpediem, Aqua, NIDUS)
2. Novel therapeutics (eg caffeine and theophylline)
3. The importance of AKI in the life course of kidney health
4. The importance of nephron number and prematurity in the life course of kidney health

So what should you do about NephMadness?

This is an incredibly fun and interactive way to increase our footprint in the nephrology space, and really point out the importance of neonatal kidney health amidst all of nephrology.

Here is how to get involved:

1. Highlight why you think neonatal nephrology is important on social media (Twitter dominates these conversations. Use the hashtag #NephMadness).
2. Spread the word - share with your division (especially the peds nephrologists), friends and family (only somewhat kidding) and fill out a bracket.
3. Fill out a bracket by March 31, 2022

Best Wishes,

Michelle Starr and Matthew Harer

NKC Communication Committee Co-Chairs

Jennifer Chmielewski and Bis Cole

Six-2 Crew Interns