

Shilpanjali Jesudason



Short Bio/CV

My career reflects my commitment to advancing nephrology driven by my strong desire for equitable kidney care. I am Fijian-born, trained in Adelaide and London, completing a PhD in transplantation immunology. I am a Clinical Associate Professor, University of Adelaide and staff nephrologist at the Royal Adelaide Hospital's Central Northern Adelaide Renal and Transplantation Service (CNARTS) since 2011.

I am passionate about elevating patient voices to drive change in nephrology care. From 2017-2020, I was the Clinical Director of Kidney Health Australia (KHA), the peak patient organization. In this role, I developed skills in advocacy, working to advance kidney health priorities, forging collaborations within the Australian kidney community – patients, health professionals and government. I co-led the Commonwealth National Strategic Action Plan for Kidney Disease, delivered in 2020, setting a roadmap for future innovation. I oversaw consultations with First Nations communities (2018-20) which informed inaugural Guidelines for Kidney Care for First Nations Australians. I led a national program focused on primary care education to improve early detection and management of CKD, and best-practice recommendations for management of youth with CKD. Overall, I was privileged to represent people living with kidney disease at many levels, working with patients and colleagues across Australia.

My current leadership roles have provided a valuable understanding of advocacy and governance – I have delivered on projects where ideas become policy. I have leveraged my roles to innovate and catalyze change in health services, and delivering data-driven and patient-centered improvements in care. Within my department, I chair committees for Clinical Research, Safety and Quality, Consumer Engagement, and Data Governance. External roles include Chair, Kidney Transplant and Diabetes Research Australia Charity Advisory Board; Co-chair for Community Engagement, National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce; ANZSN Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee; Kidney Health Australia Clinical Advisory Council and Primary Care Education Committee. I have served on committees for ANZ Society of Nephrology, the ANZDATA Registry and CARI Renal Guidelines Group.

I have experience in supporting change and growth in the Pacific region - I have supported nephrology in Fiji since 2014, working within an International Society of Nephrology (ISN) Sister Renal Centre Program that delivered growth of nephrology skills and services. As Patron of Friends4Fiji, I support Fiji medical student exchanges. I contributed to an ISN Academy Ethics

Series on Women's health in 2022. In 2023, I will lead an ISN Train-the-trainer program for pregnancy and kidney disease care.

I am a highly active research collaborator, supervisor and mentor. I remain deeply embedded in national initiatives for enhancing consumer involvement in kidney research and advocacy. My research program addresses symptom burden in CKD and transition to dialysis, primary care-tertiary renal care integration, and advancing kidney health in First Nations people. I am an internationally recognized expert clinician-researcher in pregnancy in people with kidney disease. I am active in multiple CKD and dialysis clinical trials, and serve as Associate Editor for the Journal of Nephrology.

My total professional experience has provided diverse exposure to the pressing issues for nephrology at local and global levels.

Candidate's Statement

I am privileged to have this opportunity to serve the global kidney community through the work of the ISN. I commit to being a proactive contributor, working in partnership with ISN members and affiliated societies to ensure the vision of the ISN has maximal impact across the region.

I aim to leverage the multitude of valuable opportunities ISN offers for research, education and advocacy as well as learnings from other regional boards to benefit the region. There is enormous potential to tangibly elevate nephrology and support kidney health professionals at the coal-face of care. This starts with mapping the needs of countries within the region, identifying priority areas where ISN engagement will have significant impact, and then initiating specific activities to address these goals.

I will continue to strengthen regional relationships to grow education and research collaborations, strategically creating opportunities to foster the next generation of leaders especially where nephrology is recently developing. I am particularly interested in including diverse voices at all levels, leveraging virtual/digital connectivity to deliver greater reach, and partnering beyond nephrology to promote CKD early detection and prevention strategies.

Thank you for considering this nomination and my commitment to advance the mission of the ISN.