



Mission: The NKC’s mission is to improve the health and well-being of newborns with or at risk for kidney disease through multidisciplinary collaborative research, advocacy, and education.

6/8/2023

Dear Neonatal Kidney Collaborative Members,

The NKC Research Committee is seeking to expand opportunities for NKC members to participate in Research. We are announcing the 3rd call for proposals for the ALMOND (Assessing Longitudinal Micropremie Outcomes in Neonates at risk for renal Disease) project.

As a reminder, 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^{1,2}. The REPaIRED study was an NIH/NIDDK ancillary study which looked at short and long-term kidney outcomes in over 900 extremely low gestational age neonates (ELGANS), in the NICU with at least one 2-year kidney follow-up outcome on over 700 of the participants³⁻⁶. We understand that many may not be familiar with the details of this project. We plan to host a webinar this fall for those that seek more information on the data available.

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

- Caffeine exposure and 2-year kidney outcomes – *published in Pediatric Research*
- Impact of fluid balance on respiratory outcomes – *published in JAMA open*
- Risk Factors for Acute Kidney Injury – *writing in progress*
- AKI and neurodevelopment – *writing in progress*
- DCC and outcomes – *writing in progress*
- PDA treatment and outcomes – *analyses in progress*
- Infections after AKI – *analyses in progress*
- Steroid use – *analyses in progress*

There are numerous other questions that could be answered with this rich data set. **We invite proposals for investigator-initiated projects utilizing the PeNUT/REPaIRED database from NKC members.** We recognize that many members may have ideas, but they may be hesitant to step forward. For these ideas, the research committee can help connect you with a writing group with interest and additional expertise in the area.

Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis with the following dates for scientific merit review. Each proposal will be evaluated for scientific integrity, feasibility, scientific merit, methodological rigor, and authorship plan in accordance with the values of the NKC, prior to analysis, however working groups will be created based on shared interest

Submission Deadline	Reviewed By	Tentative Meeting Target
1/2/24	2/5/24	ASN, CHNC, PAS 2025 Deadline
4/1/24	5/1/24	PAS 2024, AKI/CRRT Abstract deadlines

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 and promotes general membership to become involved and interact with the research committee.

If your proposal is accepted, the NKC will provide statistical support at UAB through funding from Nuwellis Inc. The NKC Research Committee will review all publications derived from the data including abstracts and manuscript. Should an idea be proposed, but need further time for development, it may be moved to the following quarter and will be discussed with the lead investigator and team.

Please use the link (<https://www.babykidney.org/research/almond>) to access the proposal form, case report forms and a list of publications.

Sincerely,

Shina Menon and Cara Slagle
Proposal Sub-Committee Chairs on behalf of the NKC Research Committee

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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3. Askenazi DJ, Halloran BA, Heagerty PJ, et al. Gestational age, sex, and time affect urine biomarker concentrations in extremely low gestational age neonates. *Pediatr Res* 2021. DOI: 10.1038/s41390-021-01814-x.
4. Askenazi DJ, Heagerty PJ, Schmicker RH, et al. The Impact of Erythropoietin on Short and Long-term Kidney-Related Outcomes in Extremely Low Gestational Age Neonates. Results of a Multi-center Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Randomized Clinical Trial. *J Pediatr* 2021. DOI: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2021.01.031.
5. Askenazi DJ, Heagerty PJ, Schmicker RH, et al. Prevalence of acute kidney injury (AKI) in extremely low gestational age neonates (ELGAN). *Pediatr Nephrol* 2020. DOI: 10.1007/s00467-020-04563-x.
6. Hingorani S, Schmicker RH, Brophy PD, et al. Severe Acute Kidney Injury and Mortality in Extremely Low Gestational Age Neonates. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol* 2021;16(6):862-869. DOI: 10.2215/CJN.18841220.