



Haimanot (Monnie) Wasse, MD, MPH

The Muehrcke Family Professor of Nephrology

Advancement of Medicine

In 2023, I continued to serve as director of interventional nephrology, focused on the planning and maintenance of dialysis vascular access for patients with kidney diseases.

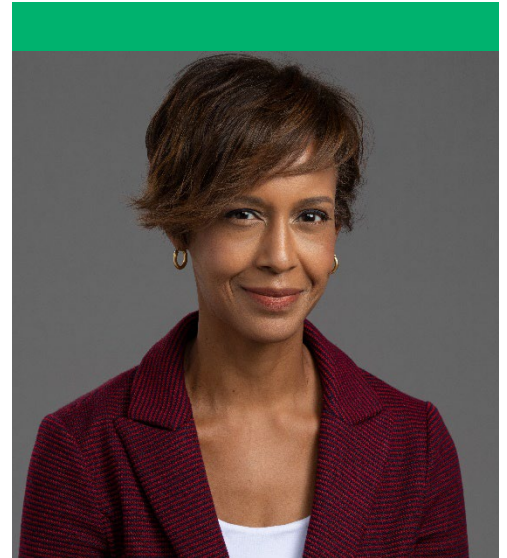
My ongoing professional mission combines my clinical work in interventional nephrology with clinical and translational research in the field of hemodialysis vascular access. I am one of only two U.S. interventional nephrologists whose research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, or NIH, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. A past president of the American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology, or ASDIN, I remain involved in a variety of local and international scientific and educational programs, including ASDIN, National Kidney Foundation, Vascular Access Society of the Americas and American Society of Nephrology.

Research

Thanks to your generous support, I have been able to accomplish multiple activities that have led to increased education and research in nephrology at Rush.

Along with a post-doctoral fellow that your generosity helped enable, we have reported an animal model of dialysis vascular access stenosis that is integral to future studies, and we are currently conducting RNA sequencing on cells obtained from endovascular biopsies in patients who experience central venous stenosis and have dialysis access dysfunction.

These results were presented at the 2023 ASDIN scientific meeting and include our gene expression findings within stenotic blood vessels. The collection and processing of biological specimens, storage and equipment for experiments could not have been realized without your generous support, which has allowed me to continue my research to find treatment for dialysis vascular access dysfunction and advance the academic investigations at Rush.





Also, your support in 2023 helped me to hire two general nephrologists and an advance practice provider, or APP. Our new APP, Andrea Pabon, DNP, was able to attend an eight-week interactive course specifically for APPs that covered foundational knowledge required to deliver care to patients with kidney disease. Thanks to your support, Pabon also attended a home hemodialysis course in preparation for the initiation of a peritoneal dialysis program at Rush. We continue to enhance this new peritoneal dialysis program, which will improve the education of renal fellows and offer research opportunities for faculty and trainees.

Education and Community Outreach

Your generosity continues to bolster my research, clinical and academic efforts focused on the pathogenesis and treatment of dialysis vascular access dysfunction.

By establishing the Chicago Dialysis Access Club, I have worked to create a community of practitioners dedicated to improving dialysis vascular access care for patients in Chicago. Twice a year, we invite nationally known speakers to our Symposium Dinner, which I host. During the dinner, physicians, nurses and trainees from over 15 Chicago hospitals share and discuss clinical cases while receiving updates on trends in dialysis access care and new technologies.

I am also actively engaged in resident and fellow education, having partnered with a colleague at University of Illinois Chicago to initiate the Chicago Citywide Renal Fellow Lecture Series, a virtual teaching series on dialysis vascular access. For this series, I delivered five recorded lectures attended by program directors and nephrology trainees at Chicago-area academic medical centers including Northwestern, University of Chicago, University of Illinois Chicago, Loyola and Rush. These recordings continue to be used for teaching the renal fellows.

Additionally, I delivered the dialysis vascular access lecture at the American Society of Nephrology Board Review Course and have been a speaker at several national and international dialysis access scientific meetings, including a recent American Society of Nephrology annual meeting. Also, I have been invited to speak at the Nephrology Grand Rounds at Baylor College of Medicine, where I will serve as inaugural speaker for the William E. Mitch Endowed Lectureship.



Finally, your generosity has supported community kidney disease screening programs in conjunction with the National Kidney Foundation, so that we can identify kidney disease earlier among members of our community and halt progression.

The Year Ahead: 2024 and Beyond

My goal is to grow the Rush Nephrology Division. Your support will be used to support junior faculty who have an interest in teaching and research, as well as to initiate a Rush home dialysis program that will allow us to provide individualized care to our kidney patients.

With Gratitude

Thank you for your support, which allows me to accomplish multiple activities that have led to increased education and research in nephrology at Rush, as well as outreach and education within our Chicago and national communities.