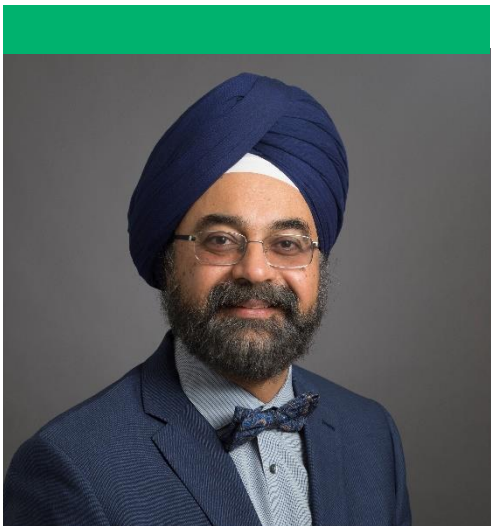
RUSH

Sumant S. Chugh, MBBS, MD

The Dr. Andrew and Peg Thomson
Professor of Internal Medicine



Advancement of Medicine

In 2025, my research enterprise at the Glomerular Disease Therapeutics Laboratory, or GDTL, continued several ongoing projects to develop and validate the first mechanism-based drugs for a subset of human kidney diseases called glomerular diseases. We have now been able to demonstrate reversal of chronic kidney disease due to diabetes and focal and segmental glomerulosclerosis in animal models, which has never been achieved in the past. Once this is established in humans through clinical trials, it will significantly reduce the number of patients who develop terminal kidney failure. It will also decrease the need for dialysis and kidney transplantation in the future.

Research

Your generosity supported GDTL-related research efforts and expenses. We added another mass spectrometer to our lab, which allows us to study therapeutic proteins in substantial detail. Funds from this endowed chair have been used to train GDTL principal investigators, or PIs, and postdoctoral fellows in the use of this mass spectrometer. We added a new National Institutes of Health, or NIH, research grant to our portfolio to study a very severe form of glomerular disease called collapsing glomerulopathy, and the first year of funding is expected soon.

I continue to serve as PI or co-investigator, or CI, for the following studies funded by the National Institutes of Health:

- “Soluble mediators of relapse” investigates the cytokine storm induced by common cold infections to prevent relapse of MCD and FSGS. (PI)
- “Recombinant hANGPTL4 and CKD” studies the role of human ANGPTL4 mutant in slowing the progression of CKD. (PI)

- “COVID-19 induced worsening of glomerular disease.” This grant explores how cytokine storms associated with COVID-19 infection can have an irreversible effect on kidney function in patients with chronic kidney disease. (CI)
- “Hodgkin’s Lymphoma-induced nephrotic syndrome”. This grant will investigate soluble proteins secreted from the Hodgkin lymphoma tumor that can cause kidney disease in the form of nephrotic syndrome. (CI)

Grants

- I have three active non-modular NIH grants and am PI in all three grants.
- Lionel Clement, PhD, a second-generation GDTL PI, has been funded by his own NIH grant since 2021.
- Camille Macé, PhD, a second-generation GDTL PI, has been funded by her own NIH grant since January 2023.
- Eduardo Molina-Jijon, PhD, a third-generation GDTL PI, is funded by his own R01 grant since January 2025.

The Year Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

We continue to work on several major manuscripts related to novel mechanisms and therapies in kidney disease.

We submitted a large R01 grant application to the NIH for potential funding in 2026.

We will continue to develop six Intellectual Properties into therapeutic initiatives.

With Gratitude

Thank you for your generous support. It furthers our research and academic goals. We are determined to improve health outcomes for people living with kidney disease. Your generosity has played a key role in our success.