

News & Updates

For the Rogosin Community

Summer 2025



Message from David Wyman, President



At Rogosin, we have a strong, caring community of staff, patients, and friends. For many patients, Rogosin is an integral part of their community, and they form significant bonds with each other, as well as with our staff. Gifts from donors and grants from foundations help Rogosin make a meaningful difference for our patients and their loved ones.

I am delighted to announce that in May we received a \$15 million grant from the Llewellyn Family Foundation to establish the J. Bruce Llewellyn Kidney Health Initiative. This extraordinary grant will enable us to offer our innovative, successful education and wellness programs to additional

patients throughout New York City. We are so grateful to the Llewellyn Family Foundation for its vision and ongoing support for the patients and families we serve.

I am also very pleased to share that Rogosin received the National Kidney Foundation's prestigious Excellence in Care Award in recognition of our commitment to patients and the kidney community. This Award belongs to every member of our community – staff for their expertise and compassion, friends and foundations for enabling us to do more for our patients, and patients for inspiring us with their courage every day. I hope you all will share my pride in this very special Award and in everything we are accomplishing together.

David Wyman

An Evening with Jazz Greats Launches Rogosin's New Program for the Study of Wellness and the Aging Kidney

Rogosin's new Program for the Study of Wellness and the Aging Kidney is designed to help adults continue to enjoy the very best quality of life as they age. "Everyone experiences some decline in kidney function as they get older," says Stuart Saal, MD, Program Director. "We know that inflammation contributes to this decline, and we can now identify inflammation markers through blood tests. In turn, this enables us to determine when an intervention is necessary, and through diet, exercise, and new medications, delay kidney decline. Currently, testing for inflammation markers is not part of the standard of care, but we are working to change that so physicians can provide a level of vigilance for patients as they age."

The new Program was launched with a fundraising event at Dizzy's Club, Jazz at Lincoln Center. Friends of Rogosin came together to hear performances by jazz greats Wynton Marsalis, Marilyn Maye, Catherine Russell, and Ann Hampton Callaway, and to honor Dr. Saal for his contributions to kidney care over the past fifty years. "Thousands of patients from



Event Co-Chairs Lisa Schiff and June Schorr

every walk of life have benefited from Dr. Saal's care and have been given the chance to live their best lives," says David Wyman. "He has been a trailblazer in drawing needed attention to Wellness – and all that it entails, in our diet, physical activity, and other lifestyle factors – and how it can impact keeping our kidneys as healthy as possible as we age.

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Wynton Marsalis in Dizzy's Club

The Program for the Study of Wellness and the Aging Kidney will build on Dr. Saal's important work."

The evening was a great success and helped raise funds, including corporate sponsorships secured by Development Committee member Kathy Lin and her husband, Brian. "Thank to you to everyone who attended and celebrated Dr. Saal's remarkable career," adds David.

"I especially want to thank Event Co-Chairs Lisa Schiff and June Schorr for all they did to make the evening a reality. Rogosin is so lucky to have friends like Lisa and June, who wholeheartedly share their time and expertise to help improve the lives of others. We are appreciative that the Program is off to a strong start and believe it will benefit aging adults for years to come."

Donors Make a Difference for Patients Today and Kidney Care in the Future

The Program for the Study of Wellness and the Aging Kidney is one of the many programs that are supported by donors, generously giving their time and resources to help others. "Donors often come to us with specific interests," says Christina Bishop-Feeny, Director of Development. "We work with them to channel their gifts to an area that is most important to them and their loved ones. This year, we have extended home dialysis training regionally, invested in Kidney Regenerative

Medicine, and upgraded facilities, all thanks to philanthropy."

Rogosin is also fortunate to receive gifts-in-kind, including artwork, that help create more healing environments for our patients. "We want all our spaces to promote patient and staff well-being," says Christina. "This is especially meaningful for dialysis centers, which often become patients' home away from home. We are thankful to all the friends of Rogosin who are making a difference for patients today and in the future."

Spring Appeal Benefiting the Dr. Bruce R. Gordon Innovation Fund Is Underway

Rogosin's Spring Appeal is benefiting the Dr. Bruce R. Gordon Innovation Fund that honors the legacy of Dr. Gordon, who helped countless patients through his extraordinary skill and humanity. To learn more about the Appeal and other ways to support our work, contact Christina Bishop-Feeny at 646-317-0738 or lsf9003@nyp.org.

The J. Bruce Llewellyn Kidney Health Initiative Will Help More Patients Achieve Better Outcomes

The Llewellyn Family Foundation has just awarded Rogosin a \$15 million grant to establish the J. Bruce Llewellyn Kidney Health Initiative to expand our nationally recognized Program for Education in Advanced Kidney Disease (PEAK). The grant will support targeted efforts to slow chronic kidney dis-

ease (CKD) progression and enable more patients to benefit from preemptive transplants and home dialysis therapies. The J. Bruce Llewellyn Kidney Health Initiative will help improve clinical outcomes and quality of life for medically underserved patients with CKD across New York City.

Rogosin Receives Excellence in Care Award from National Kidney Foundation

This March, the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) celebrated their 75th Anniversary with a Night of Hope and Heroes. At the event, the Rogosin Institute was honored with the NKF Excellence in Care Award in recognition of our role as a leader in kidney care, and the commitment we bring to our patients and the kidney community.

Jeffrey Silberzweig, MD, Rogosin's Chief Medical Officer, accepted the award on behalf of the entire Rogosin

team. "This Award is a tribute to what our providers and staff do every day for



Dr. Silberzweig (center) with members of the Rogosin team at NKF Event

our patients," says Dr. Silberzweig. "At Rogosin, we listen, and we care. Kidney disease can be extremely challenging for patients, and we work with each patient to help them achieve the best medical outcome and enjoy the best quality of life. We are here for them every step of the way. Our collaboration with the NKF helps us provide exceptional care to so many patients on their journey with kidney disease."

Celebrating Staff Service Milestone Anniversaries

At Rogosin, we celebrate employee service anniversaries at 5-year milestones, from 5 to 40 years. During the holiday season, over 80 employees from across Rogosin were recognized at the Griffis Faculty Club. “Our employees are the heart of Rogosin,” says Allyson Pifko, RN, Chief Operating

Officer. “Each person is an important member of the Rogosin team and helps make this such a special place to work and receive care. Our Service Anniversary Celebration is just one way we say thank you for all you do.”



Top row from left: (individual photos) Kisha Atkinson, Cecelia Porter, Linh Dinh; (group photo) Maxine Chambers, Holly Young, Jen Potocki, Jen Carbone, Robin Santos, Debbie Williams, Karina Rojas, Marianna Pollack, Jeimy Messina
Bottom row from left: Cassandra Lombardi and Sujung Ko, Reginald Stvil, Martine Denizard, Eric Chabran

Ongoing Education for Patients and Medical Professionals

A leader in research and a champion of new, innovative treatments for kidney disease, Rogosin is at the forefront of educating both medical professionals and our patients. In April, we presented two educational programs – an IgA Nephropathy (IgAN) Webinar for patients and their loved ones, and our Annual Symposium designed for healthcare professionals.

IgA Nephropathy (IgAN) Webinar

IgAN is a chronic autoimmune kidney disease, which can result in kidney damage and eventually kidney failure. Last year, Rogosin began a series of webinars to share updated information about the disease with patients and their loved ones. This April, James Chevalier, MD, Director of Rogosin’s Jack J. Dreyfus Clinic, led a discussion of how IgAN flare-ups negatively impact the kidney and how to avoid unwanted outcomes. He presented a comprehensive overview of recently approved IgAN medications, as well as medications in research trials, explaining how they work, and the risks and benefits of each. He also

talked about supportive treatments and immunosuppression, along with the importance of early screening and prevention.

If you would like to learn more about IgAN and missed the webinar, it is available at the following link:

<https://podcast.rogosininstitute.org/iga-nephropathy/>

13th Annual Symposium: The Genetics of Kidney Disease and Kidney Regeneration

Each year, Rogosin’s Annual Symposium focuses on an important and timely topic related to kidney disease and treatment. Our 2025 Virtual Symposium centered on how an increasing understanding of the genetics of kidney disease and repair is illuminating underlying causes of kidney damage and driving development of new therapeutic approaches to regenerate kidney tissue to slow or potentially stop disease progression.

The presentations by leaders in kidney disease research and treatment are available at the following link:

<https://podcast.rogosininstitute.org/2025-symposium/>

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For more information about Rogosin, go to rogosin.org or call us at 888-Rogosin (888-764-6746).

A Conversation with Susan Assenza, PKD Patient Navigator, Susan R. Knafel Polycystic Kidney Disease Center



Autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD) is the most common inherited kidney disease disorder. Affecting multiple organs in the body, ADPKD requires comprehensive clinical care. Rogosin's Susan R. Knafel Polycystic Kidney Disease Center is one of the few programs in the country with a broad array of resources dedicated to the diagnosis and management

of ADPKD and its complications, and was named a Center of Excellence by the Polycystic Kidney Foundation. Susan Assenza is the PKD Patient Navigator at Rogosin, helping patients traverse the complex care they may require. We asked Susan to speak a little about her work.

What does a PKD Patient Navigator do at Rogosin?

I am usually the first point of contact for our patients and continue to be their contact for everything PKD-related. I make sure our patients get the tests they need, schedule appointments, obtain authorizations and give referrals for specialists, and sometimes just listen. Whenever I get a call from a new patient, I always ask what testing they've already had, and many haven't had any. Not all nephrologists are the same, and it makes me feel good to know that I work at a place where patients will get the care they need. Our goal is to help patients

maintain kidney functioning as long as possible. I've been here for almost 31 years and know patients who have been here that long with me.

What has kept you at Rogosin for 31 years?

I am part of one of the top PKD programs in the country, where we help patients with all stages of kidney disease. Our amazing physicians are certified to administer Jynarque (tolvaptan), which is currently the only FDA-approved medication to slow down the progression of ADPKD. We also participate in clinical trials to bring cutting-edge treatments to patients.

Every day, I am inspired by our patients, who do all they can to preserve their kidney function. Rogosin encourages patients to educate themselves and support each other, through programs and support groups. Our annual PKD Open House is coming up in October. At the event, patients explore topics that are of interest to them, exchanging information and personal experiences. For example, we have many patients of child-bearing age, and one of the things being discussed is advances in in vitro fertilization and testing that can allow patients to have children who are PKD-free. (See below for more information about the Open House.)

I love that my job enables me to spend so much time with our patients and that I am part of a great team who are making a difference for our patients. After 31 years, my patients and co-workers have become like family, and Rogosin feels like a second home.

Susan R. Knafel Polycystic Kidney Disease Center Annual Open House, Sunday, October 19, 2-4 PM

The 2025 Open House will be held at the Susan R. Knafel Polycystic Kidney Disease Center at 505 East 70th Street. After a short presentation, patients will break into small groups, where they can share their experiences on an array of topics that include: tips for taking tolvaptan; living with a transplant; pregnancy, in vitro, and having a child without PKD; stress relief; and more. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by October 12 by scanning the QR code or go to <https://cvent.me/K1VMDE>. If you have any questions, contact Susan Assenza, PKD Patient Navigator, at 646-317-0715 or Sua9031@nyp.org.



Join the Annual Steve Olsen Run for Rogosin this Autumn



Over the past 15 years, thanks to so many participants, sponsors, and volunteers, the Steve Olsen Run for Rogosin continues to raise funds to support our programs. This year's 5K run/walk will be held in person, with location and date to be announced soon, as well as virtually. For more information, contact Michelle Stefandl, Rogosin's Development Manager, at 646-317-0736 or img9013@nyp.org.