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Clinical research in chronic kidney disease: Insights from ISN perspective

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The ISN has a strong history for advocacy and supporting research for chronic kidney disease. A key part of the research occurs at a population or country level identifying the prevalence of chronic kidney disease, the availability of care for CKD as well as kidney replacement therapy. As its flagship, the ISN has established the Global Kidney Health Atlas which highlights and addresses the inequalities at regional and national levels and the challenges that countries face in developing appropriate kidney health care.

The ISN has also established a clinical research programme that supports research and educational initiatives by nephrologists, health workers and local authorities in low and middle income countries. These research grants are to support and develop clinical research studies in developing countries with the focus on developing relevant research projects that serve the needs for the country and to encourage the involvement of the local health agencies as part of that collaboration.

As part of developing research initiatives, ISN also hosts scientific writing courses to support fellows in writing up their projects to publication standards. The clinical research programme has also identified a need for support for fellows with respect to 'how to develop and write a grant proposal, with the specific aim of developing pilot projects in conjunction with the local country's health service providers which if successful can then lead to strong grant applications to external funding agencies. The first such programme is being developed in conjunction with the South African Nephrology society for early next year.

