



### **Wilms Cancer Foundation Joins KidneyCAN Fall Advocacy Days to Champion Federal Kidney Cancer Research Funding**

WCF will bring the childhood kidney cancer perspective to congressional discussions supporting the Kidney Cancer Research Program and NIH/NCI research funding

**WASHINGTON, D.C., USA - September 9th, 2026**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The **Wilms Cancer Foundation (WCF)** is pleased to announce its participation in **KidneyCAN's Fall Advocacy Days 2026**, joining the kidney cancer community in calling for sustained and strengthened federal investment in research.

WCF will participate in the **virtual advocacy meetings on Tuesday, September 22nd**, contributing the perspectives of children affected by Wilms tumor, survivors and families to discussions with congressional offices.

The advocacy effort supports research funding through the **Kidney Cancer Research Program (KCRP)** and the **National Institutes of Health (NIH), including the National Cancer Institute (NCI)**.

KidneyCAN's wider Fall Advocacy Days programme takes place on **September 21st–22nd, 2026**, with a limited in-person programme in Washington, D.C., followed by virtual meetings. The event brings together patients, caregivers, families, healthcare professionals and researchers to advocate for federal kidney cancer research funding.

#### **Bringing Childhood Kidney Cancer into Congressional Discussions**

WCF's participation will highlight the importance of including childhood kidney cancer within the broader research-funding conversation.

The Foundation will bring attention to the experiences of children with Wilms tumor and the questions that matter to their families: how research can improve treatment, address relapse, reduce treatment burden and support long-term health.

"Research funding decisions have consequences that extend far beyond a laboratory or a budget document," said **TJ Hodgkinson, Founder and CEO of the Wilms Cancer Foundation**.

"For children with Wilms tumor and their families, research represents the possibility of better treatment, more options when cancer returns and a healthier life beyond cancer."

"By participating in KidneyCAN's Fall Advocacy Days, WCF will help bring those experiences directly into conversations with congressional offices. We want decision-makers to understand why sustained research investment matters and why children affected by kidney cancer must remain visible within that commitment."

#### **Advocating for Sustained Research Investment**

The funding priorities identified in KidneyCAN's participant briefing include the KCRP and NIH/NCI.

WCF's advocacy will focus on the importance of maintaining the research capacity needed to investigate kidney cancer and translate scientific findings into future improvements in care.

For the Foundation, priorities include:

- Supporting research relevant to Wilms tumor and other childhood kidney cancers.
- Encouraging continued investigation of relapsed and high-risk disease.
- Advancing approaches intended to reduce treatment toxicity.
- Strengthening research into survivorship and long-term outcomes.
- Supporting researchers and the infrastructure needed for sustained scientific progress.

These are WCF's advocacy priorities within the broader kidney cancer funding effort. Funding eligibility and research scope remain governed by each programme's requirements.

## Sharing Experience with Congressional Offices

KidneyCAN's participant information explains that the September 22nd advocacy calls will generally last **15–20 minutes**, providing an opportunity for advocates to share how kidney cancer has affected their lives and their communities.

The organisation emphasises that participants do not need expertise in legislative affairs. Personal experience, clear communication and an understanding of why research matters are central to the meetings.

WCF will draw on its work with the childhood kidney cancer community to connect the research-funding discussion with the experiences of children, survivors, parents and caregivers.

The Foundation's objective is to help congressional offices understand the importance of continued investment and the needs that motivate its advocacy.

## Preparing for Effective Advocacy

KidneyCAN has arranged preparatory sessions to help participants understand the advocacy process, coordinate their messages and prepare for their meetings.

The schedule supplied to participants includes:

- **September 14th, 4:00 PM ET:** Advocacy 101, followed by an open-house question-and-answer session.
- **September 16th, 4:00 PM ET:** All Advocacy Briefing, followed by team breakout sessions.
- **September 22nd:** Scheduled virtual advocacy meetings.

These sessions will support participants in communicating their experiences and presenting the campaign's research-funding priorities clearly.

## Representing Families and Survivors

WCF's advocacy reflects its commitment to ensuring that the childhood kidney cancer community has a voice in discussions affecting the future of research.



Parents and caregivers can explain the practical consequences of treatment and the uncertainty families face. Survivors contribute perspectives on life after cancer and the importance of long-term wellbeing.

Together, these experiences help communicate why research outcomes must be meaningful to the people they are intended to benefit.

WCF will emphasise the value of scientific progress that considers both survival and quality of life, while recognising the distinct needs of children within the wider kidney cancer population.

## **Connecting Advocacy, Education and Research Communication**

Participation in KidneyCAN's Fall Advocacy Days complements WCF's wider work through the **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™**, **Global Wilms Tumor Knowledge Index™**, **Global Educational Library** and **WCF WebApp**.

These initiatives support the Foundation's efforts to make childhood kidney cancer information more accessible, communicate research developments and connect families with educational resources.

Congressional advocacy adds another dimension to that work by bringing the community's concerns into discussions about public investment in research.

WCF's participation in Advocacy Days is a legislative advocacy activity: it involves asking congressional offices to support research funding. Decisions about appropriations remain with Congress, while individual research awards follow the relevant agencies' review and approval processes.

## **Joining a Collective Call for Progress**

KidneyCAN's Advocacy Days provide a coordinated opportunity for people affected by kidney cancer to explain why research investment deserves continued attention.

WCF welcomes the opportunity to contribute alongside other advocates and help ensure that childhood kidney cancer is represented within this collective effort.

The Foundation encourages interested members of its community to visit KidneyCAN's official event page for participation information.

**Website:** [kidneycan.org](https://kidneycan.org)

## **About KidneyCAN**

**KidneyCAN** works to accelerate cures for kidney cancer through research advocacy, collaboration and patient education. Its activities include advocating for federal research funding, bringing researchers together and helping patients understand clinical trial opportunities.

Its Fall Advocacy Days connect members of the kidney cancer community with congressional offices to communicate the importance of research investment.

**Website:** [kidneycan.org](https://kidneycan.org)

## **About the Kidney Cancer Research Program**



The **Kidney Cancer Research Program** forms part of the **Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP)**. It supports research aimed at advancing understanding and treatment of kidney cancer.

**Website:** [cdmrp.health.mil/kcrp](http://cdmrp.health.mil/kcrp)

## About the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute

The **National Institutes of Health** is the United States' federal medical research agency. The **National Cancer Institute**, part of NIH, leads the National Cancer Program and supports cancer research, training and information.

**NIH website:** [nih.gov](http://nih.gov)

**NCI website:** [cancer.gov](http://cancer.gov)

## About the Wilms Cancer Foundation

The **Wilms Cancer Foundation** is an international childhood kidney cancer organisation dedicated to improving awareness, education, support, research communication and global collaboration for children and families affected by Wilms tumor.

Through the **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™** and its international programmes, WCF works to expand access to trusted information, strengthen patient and caregiver education, support healthcare professional engagement and address inequalities in childhood kidney cancer outcomes worldwide.

**Website:** [www.WilmsFoundation.org](http://www.WilmsFoundation.org)

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