

## A new section for new voices

### Una nueva sección para nuevas voces

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The journal, *Nefrología Latinoamericana*, is launching a new section in this issue dedicated to the voices of people living with kidney disease and the organizations that represent them. This editorial decision reflects the commitment of the Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension (SLANH) to a more participatory, inclusive, and person-centered approach to medicine.

Patient organizations have gained increasing prominence in the region, not only as sources of support and guidance but also as agents of change in transforming healthcare systems. Incorporating their perspectives, experiences, and proposals enriches the discussion, improves public policies, and strengthens the bonds between the medical community and the people we care for.

Those who are living with an illness are much more than a diagnosis. They are people with goals, relationships, desires, and rights. They work, study, care for others, exercise, advocate, and fall in love. Understanding this holistic view is an essential challenge for healthcare teams. Listening to their voices, learning about their experiences, and recognizing their diverse needs allows us to provide more human, respectful, and effective care.

With this section, we aim to build a bridge between knowledge, experiences, and perspectives. We are

opening this new space with an interview with representatives from the Latin American and Caribbean Council of Patient Organizations (CLAYCOP), a network that connects and amplifies the voices of people with chronic kidney disease, those on transplant waiting lists, or those who have received transplants, who are committed to more equitable and humane health care in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We are opening this new space with an interview titled: “A regional experience of integration, education, and active participation of transplant patients in Latin America and the Caribbean. Building a Collective Voice for Kidney Health in the region.” Our goal is to learn more about why this patient organization was created, what its purposes are, what it has accomplished so far, and what challenges and hurdles this network of patient organizations, committed to more equitable and humane health care in the region, is currently facing.

We hope that this section will remind us, in each issue, that the ultimate purpose of our medical, scientific, and academic actions must always be patient-centered—for the patients of yesterday, today, and tomorrow—understanding that their voices are a living reflection of ever-evolving needs.

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