

Experts unite to drive kidney care innovation

PETALING JAYA: The National Kidney Foundation of Malaysia (NKF) convened leading experts at the 18th Annual Dialysis Conference (ADC 2025) recently to drive innovation, collaboration and policy alignment in the fight against chronic kidney disease (CKD).

The two-day conference held at a hotel here last Saturday gathered more than 500 nephrologists, doctors, nurses, dialysis centre managers and allied health professionals, making it one of the country's largest renal care platforms.

Themed "Innovate, Elevate, Transform", the event focused on future dialysis models, kidney transplantation, green nephrology, vascular access, vaccination and quality of life for patients.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, who officiated at the event, reaffirmed the government's commitment to boosting early detection while expanding collaboration with partners such as NKF to deliver sustainable and patient-centred care.

"Chronic kidney disease is one of the most pressing health challenges of our time.

"In Malaysia, more than 50,000 patients are dependent on dialysis, and this number continues to rise each year. This reality calls on all of

us to act with urgency and compassion," he said.

Present were NKF chairman Datuk Dr Zaki Morad Mohd Zaher, NKF board of directors vice-chairman Dr Thiruventhiran Thilaganathan and Health Ministry senior deputy director Dr Izzuna Mudla Ghazali.

Dr Dzulkefly said conferences such as ADC 2025 were invaluable for the prevention and early detection of CKD.

"This event provides a critical platform for sharing knowledge, advancing innovation in dialysis and transplantation, and exploring holistic approaches to patient care, from clinical excellence to the emotional, spiritual and social well-being of patients," he added.

A major highlight of the conference was the HIV and CKD Symposium, which explored treatment, stigma and dialysis access for HIV-positive patients, alongside sessions on the physical, spiritual and emotional adjustment of dialysis patients, reflecting a holistic approach to healthcare.

Dr Dzulkefly commended NKF for its leadership in advancing dialysis care, supporting patients, and driving advocacy and education.

"NKF's dedication, alongside the tireless work of nephrologists, doc-



Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (fourth from left) officiating at the 18th Annual Dialysis Conference in Petaling Jaya on Saturday. With him are National Kidney Foundation of Malaysia (NKF) chairman Datuk Dr Zaki Morad Mohd Zaher (third from right), NKF board of directors vice-chairman Dr Thiruventhiran Thilaganathan (third from left) and Health Ministry senior deputy director Dr Izzuna Mudla Ghazali (fourth from right). NSTP PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN

tors, nurses, dialysis centre managers and allied health professionals, is central to our progress."

Looking ahead to 2026, he said the Health Ministry planned to prioritise early action through public education on diabetes and hyper-

tension, boost early detection and screening — primarily in primary care settings — strengthen equitable access to quality dialysis and transplantation services, and support research and innovation in renal care.

ADC 2025 came at a pivotal moment, following the historic adoption of the World Health Assembly Resolution 78, which placed kidney disease on the World Health Organisation's Non-Communicable Disease agenda for the first time.