



# The APOLLO Network Newsletter



You are receiving this newsletter because you are participating in the NIH-funded APOLLO research study.

**Spring 2025**

## Return of APOL1 Research Results

The APOLLO laboratory has completed APOL1 genotyping for all APOLLO participants. To keep participants safe, all the genetic tests are done in a special Lab at Wake Forest University School of Medicine (WFUSM). This lab follows strict rules set by the government for all places in the US that test human samples to check health or find and treat diseases. It is our goal to have all APOL1 genetic results certified and ready to be shared in the coming months.



## Steps to Obtaining Your APOL1 Result:

- 1) Participant Notification\*: the transplant program where you gave your consent will let you know when your results are ready to be shared.
- 2) Choosing Your Results: you can decide if you want to receive your APOL1 results or not. Check out the APOLLO infographic for more information.
- 3) Learning Materials: your transplant program will give you educational materials, developed by APOLLO Study Investigators and the APOLLO Community Advisory Council. These materials were reviewed by a Genetics Counselor. The materials include a frequently asked questions document,

- and an educational infographic.
- 4) Getting Your Results: if you want your APOL1 results and live in a state that allows return of genetic results, your transplant program will give them to you over the phone (including video calls) or by mail.
- 5) Questions? If you have any questions about the educational materials or your APOL1 genetic result, please contact your

\*if contact information (postal mail, email, phone (including cell) has changed, please inform your transplant program so there is no delay in future contact from the APOLLO study.



## APOLLO Study Highlights

- 93 transplant programs across the US are participating.
- 2,704 recipients (exceeded goal!) of a deceased kidney donor were recruited. Recruitment ended 6/15/23.
- 279 living donors have been recruited. Living donor recruitment continues at select transplant programs. Living donor recruitment ends 5/31/25.
- APOLLO has 9 additional research studies (referred to as Ancillary Studies). These research studies will use APOLLO biosamples and data and are funded by the NIH or local institutional funding.
- [6 research manuscripts](#) have been published.
- Select transplant programs are collecting glass kidney biopsy slides, as of today 817 glass slides have been shipped to the APOLLO Central Lab and hundreds more will follow.
- APOLLO transplant programs will continue to collect follow-up data from participant electronic medical records (EMR) until 5/31/27.

## Why It Is Important to Return to Your Transplant Program for Labs



The APOLLO study can help make kidney donations better by finding a safer way to evaluate donated kidneys, this includes evaluating living donors. To finish this important study, we need YOU, APOLLO participants, to keep visiting your transplant program and go to all your follow-up visits and labs. The information we get from these visits and labs is very important for our study. Together, we can make kidney transplants better for everyone in the future!

## Follow Us on Social Media



Facebook



BlueSky



YouTube



Community  
Website

The APOLLO study continues to support kidney and kidney transplant-related, community-based education through its social media platforms including Facebook, X, BlueSky, and YouTube. In addition, APOLLO hosts a community-focused website. Please visit and follow APOLLO on social media!

Our professionally created educational video series includes:

- ♦ [Next of Kin Authorization After Consent for Organ Donation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFT09V9VPdM&t=34s)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFT09V9VPdM&t=34s>
- ♦ What is the [APOL1 gene](#) and how the medical community believes it impacts kidney function and transplantation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNSaBG4l8kQ>
- ♦ [Kidney Donation Process & Importance of the APOLLO Study for Living Donors](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2bABm0AWgU)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2bABm0AWgU>
- ♦ [Overcoming Barriers to Research Participation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmq-XjWjRgY)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmq-XjWjRgY>
- ♦ [Challenges to Recruitment in the APOLLO Study](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtuzD38V4M8)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtuzD38V4M8>
- ♦ [The Role of the APOL1 Gene in Kidney Disease](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_QuzRsmTY0)  
([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C\\_QuzRsmTY0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_QuzRsmTY0)) All these videos and more can be found on the [APOLLO Community website](https://www.apollocommunity.net/) (<https://www.apollocommunity.net/>)

