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The Unicode Consortium  
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International Society of  
Nephrology

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Dear Unicode Consortium:

On behalf of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN), I would like to recommend the creation of a kidney emoji to help represent the more than 850,000,000 people with kidney diseases worldwide.

Emojis are an important part of global dialogue today. There are more than 3,000 emojis in the Unicode Consortium, representing many aspects of everyday life. However, only three medically and anatomically accurate emojis exist, representing the brain, heart, and lungs. No emoji exists for kidneys, despite their vital role in global health.

The more than 9,000 ISN members in 165 countries believe that a kidney emoji would greatly improve the quality of health care. A kidney emoji would also help to represent the 850,000,000 people worldwide who have kidney diseases. A medically and anatomically accurate kidney emoji could also help to achieve equity in health care around the world.

Creating an emoji representing the kidney would create opportunities for nephrologists and other health professionals to discuss concerns about kidney health—such as kidney pain, kidney stones, acute kidney injury, and kidney diseases—with their patients in an efficient and timely manner. An emoji allows for simplified communication that would assist doctors and nurses to discuss kidney concerns with all patients. With the current increase in the use of telehealth, emojis are more important than ever.

For these reasons, the ISN supports the development of a kidney emoji.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Agnes Fogo".

Agnes Fogo, MD  
ISN President