



#NephJC

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NephJC.com

@NephJC

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The Unicode Consortium
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Dear Unicode Consortium,

As the president of NephJC I'd like to endorse the addition of a kidney to the roster of emoji. NephJC is an online community dedicated to teaching and learning about kidney disease. Now in its eighth year NephJC has established itself as a central hub of the nephrology social media world. The NephJC twitter account has over 26,000 followers, the website services roughly 30,000 page views a month, and we send out a weekly e-mail to over 2,500 engaged readers. NephJC conducts twice a month journal clubs on Twitter, runs a year long social media internship to teach nephrologists how to harness social media for professional development, produces two podcasts, and has seeded dozens of online educational projects around kidney disease.

Around the world, 850 million people have kidney disease, making it among the most common chronic diseases, yet it is often forgotten. Since NephJC does most of its teaching and interacting over social media the lack of an anatomically accurate emoji is acutely felt. Some poor souls have even debased themselves by using the potato emoji 🥔 to try and represent the regal kidney.

Kidney disease is most common among marginalized people in society and has had difficulty getting the attention it needs to make scientific progress. Increasing the visibility of kidney disease is one step on the way to improving the lives of the patients who have kidney disease. A kidney emoji will be a symbolic win for people with kidney disease and for the people who have dedicated their lives to fighting these terrible diseases.

Regards,

Joel M. Topf, MD, FACP
President NephJC

