



Outstanding Young Alumnus

Kenar D. Jhaveri, MD '04

Kenar D. Jhaveri, MD '04, is professor of medicine and associate chief in the Division of Kidney Diseases and Hypertension at Northwell Health and a leader in the field of onconephrology and glomerular kidney disease. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Jhaveri and his research team were the first to recognize and publish data on the alarming number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients that developed acute kidney injury (AKI) during the height of the pandemic.

Jhaveri is a founding member and past co-president of the American Society of Onconephrology and a founding member of the International Society of Glomerular Diseases. He serves as the editor-in-chief for the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) journal, *ASN Kidney News*. In 2021, he was honored with the National Kidney Foundation's New York-Excellence in Care Award, and in 2023 received the American Society of Nephrology Distinguished Leader Award for his dedication to clinical research, leadership, and advancing the field of nephrology.

A native of Long Island, Jhaveri earned a bachelor's degree in computer science at New York University before coming to Upstate for medical school. During his medical studies, Jhaveri says he was drawn to internal medicine because he liked the "detective work" involved in medical diagnosis. He was particularly influenced by renal pathologist Paul Shanley, MD.



Dr. Jhaveri in his office at Northwell Health

"He was a great teacher and one of the first who instigated that interest for me in being a medical detective," he says.

As a resident at Yale New Haven Hospital, Jhaveri had many interests but found that the mentors he was drawn to were all nephrologists. "I noticed while I was rounding that the tough cases were solved by nephrologists," he says. "They were really sharp and knew their medicine very well. They knew the patient very well."

During his nephrology fellowship at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Jhaveri rotated at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he observed toxicities to the kidney that patients experienced as a result of cancer

treatment. He began writing his observations in several publications, and ultimately co-edited the textbook, *Onconephrology: Cancer, Chemotherapy and the Kidney*, which established the field of onconephrology.

After fellowship, Jhaveri returned to Long Island to accept a faculty appointment at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Northwell/Hofstra and as a nephrologist at Northwell Health. In addition to onconephrology, he focuses on glomerular diseases, which occur when the network of blood vessels in the kidney that filter waste become damaged, allowing proteins and red blood cells to leak into urine. Most glomerular diseases are rare diseases of the kidney. "I like

the rare diseases in nephrology because there's no template treatment. You really have to assess each patient individually," he says.

In March 2020, during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jhaveri and his colleagues noticed a dramatic increase in patients with AKI. Nearly every COVID-19 patient who was intubated developed a kidney injury. "This was not normal," he says. "We knew we had to let the world know."

In the largest study of its kind to date, Jhaveri and a team of investigators at the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research analyzed the electronic health records of 5,449 hospitalized COVID-19 patients between March 1, 2020, and April 5, 2020, and determined that 36.6 percent (1,993 patients) developed AKI, rates higher than reported in China. Their results were published in *Kidney International*.

"A lot of people were dying of kidney disease, but those that

received dialysis earlier did better," he says.

In addition to his role as a physician-scientist, Jhaveri has a strong interest in medical education. He was attracted to joining Northwell Health after fellowship in large part because of the institution's role in launching a new medical school with Hofstra University. Jhaveri served as the inaugural internal medicine clerkship director for the first few classes. He continues to teach medical students, residents who rotate in nephrology, and nephrology fellows. In 2023, Northwell Health received a \$1.25 million endowed gift to fund the newly created Galdi Fellowship in Onco-Nephrology and Glomerular Kidney Diseases. The program launched in July 2023 with Jhaveri as fellowship program director and graduated their first advanced fellow in this field in June 2024.

A visual learner himself, Jhaveri has created numerous creative



In his spare time, Dr. Jhaveri enjoys bicycling, running, soccer, and pickleball.

teaching tools that incorporate crossword puzzles, gaming, case-based debates, and social media to make nephrology a fun and exciting field. In 2013, he co-created Neph-Madness, a take-off on March Madness, that has grown to become a friendly competition between nephrologists nationwide. He writes the "Detective Nephron," column (a comic strip teaching nephrology) for the *ASN Kidney News* and has his own teaching-oriented blog, Nephron Power (nephronpower.com). He is an active X (Twitter) educator at @kdjhaveri.

Not surprisingly, Jhaveri begins each day with the puzzles, which he completes with the youngest of his two sons. In addition to attending their sporting events, he enjoys spending time with his wife, his nearby parents and in-laws, as well as bicycling, running, playing soccer, and pickleball.

"I really cherish the time I was in Syracuse. I made really good life-long friends and had really great mentors," he says. "Upstate is a phenomenal place for learning and gave me a very strong foundation in medicine."

Dr. Jhaveri with his wife, Mital, and sons, Darshil and Sahil

