

## **CGA/16/47 – Investigating factors that promote human podocyte survival**

Our kidneys constantly filter our blood so that waste products are removed. Specialized cells in the kidneys, called podocytes, constitute a key component of the filter. Podocytes become damaged due to disease or aging and may lack the strength to hold onto their surroundings. If too many of our podocytes are damaged, kidney failure is the end result. In this project, we aim to gain a better understanding of the factors that promote podocyte survival by using a laboratory model of human podocytes, and by validating our findings in primary tissue. This will inform new ways to think about future treatment options for damaged kidneys.