



Kidney Research Centre Centre de recherche sur les maladies du rein



Who we are

Established in 2000, the Kidney Research Centre (KRC) is Canada's first centre dedicated to kidney research. The KRC is one of the established research centres of the Ottawa Health Research Institute (OHRI), University of Ottawa and is affiliated with the Ottawa Hospital.

The KRC is comprised of a team of individuals that is devoted to finding better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat all forms of kidney disease. The team consists of laboratory scientists, clinician investigators, students and research trainees, technologists, research coordinators, research managers, and clerical and administrative staff. Since 2000, the KRC has experienced significant growth in the size of its team of researchers, a true measure of success. In May 2005, the KRC recruited an Internationally renowned scientist, as the first Canada Research Chair in Hypertension, Dr. Rhian Touyz.



Basic Research Group

Left to right: Drs Chris Kennedy, Rhian Touyz, Kevin Burns, Richard Hebert, Jacques Bradwein (Dean of Faculty of Medicine) and David Levine.



Clinical Trials Group

From left to right: Margot McCoshen, Dr. Kevin Burns, Judy Cheesman, Valerie Cronin, Edita Delic, Laurie Coveduck

What we do

At the KRC, the focus is on the prevention of kidney disease and finding improved diagnostic methods and treatments. The Research Program on the Prevention of Kidney Disease, launched in Oct. 2007 and spear-headed by a generous contribution from Dr. Shiv. Jindal, is an integral part of the KRC's mission.

Laboratory scientists (Drs. K. Burns, C. Kennedy, R. L. Hébert, D. Z. Levine and R. Touyz) conduct research on the molecular pathways that lead to kidney damage in humans. Current studies are focused on:

- How does diabetes cause kidney damage?
- How does high blood pressure injure blood vessels, leading to kidney failure?
- How do the tiny filters within kidneys, (glomeruli) get injured in many forms of kidney disease (glomerulonephritis)?
- What is the effect of certain pain medications (antiinflammatory drugs) on kidney structure and function?

KRC clinician investigators (Drs. A Akbari, G. Knoll, M. Ruzicka, D. Zimmerman and others) conduct research studies in patients with kidney disease, directed at:

- Improving the early detection of kidney disease.
- Finding better treatments to prevent kidney transplant failure.
- Improving the lives of people on hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis.
- Discovering the causes of high blood pressure in people with kidney disease.

Why we need your help

Kidney disease affects thousands of Canadians, and this serious problem is growing, in large part due to the aging population and diabetes. Once kidneys fail, the only treatments available to sustain life are dialysis or kidney transplant. Research is needed to develop preventive strategies and to improve treatments. In May 2007, the official Inauguration of the new KRC laboratory facility took place (see photos below).



The expensive 1, 40 square meter facility consists of a large open concept laboratory that currently houses the five KRC scientists and staff, as well as state of the art equipment and dedicated rooms for specialized laboratory procedures. The KRC scientists are supported by funds from the Kidney Foundation of Canada (KFoC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), amongst other sources. However, we rely on your support, so that we can retain the best and brightest research staff, and acquire the state-of-the-art equipment necessary to perform these studies that will help our patients.

How to Reach us:

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