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 and treat all forms of kidney disease. The team consists of laboratory scientists, clinician investigators, students and research trainees, technologists, research nurse coordinators, a dedicated clinical research manager, 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.

What we do

At the KRC, the focus is on the prevention of kidney disease and finding improved treatments. 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 dialysis.
- Discovering the causes of high blood pressure in people with kidney disease.

Another important goal of the KRC is to train the next generation of kidney research leaders. The KRC has attracted students and trainees from around the world.

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 October 2004, construction of the new KRC facility began at the University of Ottawa. The completion of this project is expected in the spring of 2006 and will allow the KRC to recruit additional world-class scientists to Ottawa to perform their research. 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.

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