

Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network  
Scientific Office

# Strategic Research and Innovation Plan 2017-2019



Kidney Health  
Strategic Clinical  
Network™

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## **Role of the Scientific Office**

The overall mission of the Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) is to achieve excellence in sustainable quality kidney care and outcomes for Albertans through innovation and the application of best evidence. The Scientific Office was established to play a vital research leadership role for enhancing the quantity and scientific quality of research activities that align with the priorities of the Transformational Road Map of the Kidney Health SCN<sup>1</sup>. The Scientific Office is dedicated to ensuring that Kidney Health SCN initiatives and research projects are evidence-based, coordinated, implemented and evaluated using established methods and appropriate measurement. As well as supporting the kidney health community towards the goal of embedding evidence into clinical practice and using practice-based evidence to drive research in areas where knowledge gaps exist.

## **Pillars of Activity**

In order to work towards these broad objectives, the Scientific Office will work within the following six pillars of activity:



## Strategic Activities

In order to continue to support research within the identified priorities of the Kidney Health SCN Transformational road map, it was identified that targeting the work of the Scientific Office on the following activities will be strategic in meeting objectives.

**Table 1**

<b>Strategic Action Area</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Pillar(s) Addressed</b>
Supporting and encouraging grant development and funding applications among kidney health researchers that align with Kidney Health SCN priorities	<p>Sources of funding for grant applications include, but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) funding opportunities through CIHR</li> <li>• CIHR foundation, special calls, team grants, and project scheme grants competitions</li> <li>• AIHS Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS)</li> <li>• AIHS Knowledge-to-Action Grants</li> </ul>	Research Capacity Building; Advancing Research Knowledge
Fostering and building of new partnerships within the research community	For example: working to build more pan-SCN research partnerships as well as connecting with key national initiatives (e.g. CanSolve-CKD) to leverage assets and collaborations. Also working to engage more non-nephrologist researchers who are studying areas related to priorities.	Building Partnerships for Research
Promoting and supporting the advancement of research knowledge within the key strategic areas	<p>Key areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living donor kidney donation</li> <li>• Glomerulonephritis</li> </ul> <p>Prevention/ behavioral lifestyle modification</p>	Advancing Research Knowledge

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Building research capacity and training	The Scientific Office will organize and host engagement and educational sessions for the research community. For example, we will co-host a research retreat targeted at fostering collaborations specifically with and among junior researchers. Another research retreat will be organized with a focus on strengthening capacity with kidney health researchers in knowledge translation and implementation science.	Building Partnerships for Research; Research Capacity Building
Working to build a data infrastructure to support the measurement and reporting of kidney health quality metrics at a Provincial level	Targeting resources to support analytic capacity	Research Facilitation; Knowledge Translation; Advancing Research Knowledge

## Establishing Priorities

As initial steps, the Scientific Office completed a scan of kidney health research in Alberta and created an overview of current research projects in the Province. We also compiled and created a database to capture upcoming and ongoing research funding opportunities. Given there are a substantial number of relevant research initiatives underway, the Scientific Office and the leadership of the Kidney Health SCN, with input from the Kidney Health SCN Core Committee, worked to identify gaps with respect to research within the existing identified priorities in the Transformational Road Map. Potential opportunities were identified and specific areas were prioritized in order to be strategic as to where the Scientific Office directs resources.

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With respect to research-related activity, the following were identified as priority areas:

**Table 2**

Priority Area	Targeted Areas for Scientific Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address modifiable risk factors for chronic kidney disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention and self-management of chronic kidney disease by addressing behavioral lifestyle risk factors</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce variability in identification and management of glomerulonephritis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and encourage research and quality improvement initiatives to address care for patients with glomerulonephritis</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve transplant access and experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and encourage high quality research in areas related to improving living kidney donation and transplantation</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Across all priorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of evidence-based kidney-related care in rural and remote communities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Across all priorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of reporting framework for quality indicators and measurement of kidney health in the Province and at the physician level</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Across all priorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building capacity within knowledge translation and implementation science within the kidney research community</li> </ul>

## **Fostering an Evidence-Based Culture of Health Services Delivery**

Data-driven and evidence-based delivery of health care services is pivotal to AHS operations. We will work to champion the role of research within the Kidney Health SCN and AHS. The value of research will be shared with AHS administrators, decision-makers and frontline clinicians, through the application of innovative learning collaborative methodology, as well as through speaking engagements, conference presentations, newsletters, advisory committees and working group memberships.

The Kidney Health SCN Scientific Office will advocate for methodologically sound and rigorous evaluation of all projects and initiatives supported by the Kidney Health SCN.

1. Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network AHS. <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/about/scn/ahs-scn-kh-transformational-road-map.pdf>. 2017.

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