



## **Kidney Research Scientist Core Education and National Training Program (KRESCENT)**

### **Award Application Policies**

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Award administration provided by The Kidney Foundation of Canada

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 KRESCENT

#### Introduction

Despite many scientific successes in kidney research over the last 45 years, Canadians are facing a growing epidemic of kidney disease due, in large part, to our aging population and the increasing number of people with comorbidities such as diabetes, a leading cause of kidney disease. Unfortunately, the dramatic rise in kidney disease has been accompanied by a relative decline in the number of well-trained kidney research scientists at academic centers in Canada. This is attributed to several factors, including the demands on clinician scientists to dedicate more time to the clinical care of patients, and a reduced opportunity for fundamental scientists to advance their careers. Another factor is limitations in opportunities for salary support of those dedicated to research in general including in the field of kidney disease.

The Kidney Research Scientist Core Education and National Training (KRESCENT) Program is a national training program launched in 2005. Originally a partnership between the Kidney Foundation of Canada (KFOC), The Canadian Society of Nephrology (CSN) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute for Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes (CIHR-INMD), the program was developed with the recognition from the Canadian Research Community of the rising prevalence of kidney disease and the need to train and maintain an increased number of highly skilled kidney research scientists.

KRESCENT continues to be administered and supported by the Kidney Foundation of Canada, supported by CSN and has most recently been the recipient of a Health Research Training Platform grant from CIHR-INMD.

The program pursues two main goals:

- 1- To enhance kidney research capacity in Canada
- 2- To foster collaborative research and knowledge translation across the four pillars of research

The program provides competitive salary support to post-doctoral fellows, early career researchers, and allied health scholars as well as career development, mentorship, and collaborative learning opportunities.

Trainees are provided unique and valuable opportunities, including training in patient, family and community engagement, indigenous cultural safety training, and exposure to a vast variety of national experts both within and outside of their direct field of interest.

KRESCENT's goal is to help build well-rounded, dedicated, and connected kidney health researchers who will in turn build the Canadian research landscape and keep Kidney health competitive in national level health funding competitions. Successful trainees become competitive researchers, which results in more research dollars coming back to the community, and more change for patients and families.

KRESCENT is a testimony to the leadership of individuals, organizations and companies committed to reducing the burden of kidney disease in Canada. The KRESCENT program continues to build on success, leading to increased capacity building for kidney research in Canada. The program prides itself on recruiting, fostering, and producing well rounded, exemplary researchers across all fields related to kidney health and disease.

Application to the KRESCENT program is open to applicants from all disciplines relevant to kidney disease (i.e. biomedical, clinical, health services and population health, including both kidney transplant and donation) in the following categories:

- **New Investigator Awards:** Researchers within the first three years of their first faculty appointment (Assistant Professor level or equivalent) at the time the Award commences, who hold an MD and/or PhD, including Allied Health professionals. New Investigator Awards must be held at universities in Canada. Applicants must have the ability to hold independent research funding, train academic trainees as the primary supervisor, and have significant protected research time.
- **Post-Doctoral Fellowship:** Includes MDs and Post-Doctoral PhDs.
- **Allied Health Doctoral Awards:** All applications for Allied Health Doctoral Awards must be submitted to The Kidney Foundation of Canada. Details regarding the application process for these awards can be found on the KFOC website ([www.kidney.ca](http://www.kidney.ca)). These applications will be reviewed by the KFOC Allied Health Scientific Committee. The KRESCENT Allied Health Doctoral Award will be awarded on the recommendation of the Allied Health Scientific Committee.

*At the KRESCENT program, we value diversity in research, and its role in fostering creativity and innovation. We are committed to equity, diversity, inclusion, Indigeneity, accessibility and building a place where all belong, and creating a culturally safe environment. We therefore particularly encourage applications from candidates who are underrepresented in research programs, in particular Black and Indigenous peoples.*

(For detailed eligibility criteria please see the eligibility section for the various programs)

Please note that the KRESCENT grant competition is administered through The Kidney Foundation of Canada.

## 1.2 Objective

The objectives of the KRESCENT program are:

- To enhance kidney research capacity by training increased numbers of highly skilled scientists, across multiple disciplines, focused on the prevention of end-stage renal disease and improving the health of Canadians with kidney disease.
- To engage kidney researchers in the development of transdisciplinary kidney research networks.
- To create sustainable momentum in supporting research careers of kidney scientists.

## 2. RESEARCH INTEGRITY POLICY

Institutions receiving funds must have appropriate policies in place for investigating allegations of misconduct as outlined in the “*Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research*”<sup>1</sup> as published by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Any questions concerning scientific integrity or scholarly conduct that arise during the evaluation of an application will be referred back to the parent institution for that body to proceed with an enquiry. The KRESCENT program is to be informed of the outcome of such investigations.

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.rcr.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/framework-cadre/>

### **3. GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **3.1 Incomplete / Unacceptable Applications**

All applicants are strongly advised to carefully read and follow the instructions and requirements outlined in the KRESCENT Policies.

To maintain the principle of fairness to all applicants, policies must be adhered to in the preparation of KRESCENT applications. Non-adherence to the Policies will lead to rejection (without appeal) of the application. Requiring adherence to the policies has the advantage of being unambiguous for applicants, easily enforceable by staff and/or review panels, and fair and equitable for all applicants.

#### **3.2 Closing of Award**

When research supported by an award is complete, or if for any reason the research cannot be continued, the award will be closed. Any remaining funds are frozen and cannot be reallocated to other uses. The institution will prepare the final accounting and return outstanding KRESCENT funds to The Kidney Foundation of Canada.

#### **3.3 Temporary Absence**

Recipients wishing to take a temporary leave, e.g., parental leave, sabbatical, must inform The KRESCENT program. KRESCENT reserves the right to discontinue funding in such instances.

#### **3.4 Non-Employee Status and intellectual property**

The granting of an award is deemed to establish neither an employer-employee nor a partnership between the grantor and grantee.

##### Intellectual property and patents

The KRESCENT program must be informed of any commercial application arising from KRESCENT program-supported activity.

The KRESCENT program does not retain or claim any ownership of, or exploitation rights to, intellectual property developed under KRESCENT program funding. These are owned by the institution and/or the inventor.

Should the inventor decide to pursue commercialization of any results of the research funded by the KRESCENT program, he or she must disclose to their institution any potential intellectual property arising from the research; he or she and the institution must make every effort to provide the greatest possible benefit to Canada from the resulting commercial activity.

The above requirement for disclosure is not intended to supersede any policy on disclosure that the institution might already have in place.

### 3.5 Privacy Information

Providing your date of birth, language, gender, and self-identified information on the application form or CV form or Equity Diversity and Inclusion survey is optional. However, this information will ensure accurate identification of applicants and will assist KRESCENT with statistical analysis and equity of access evaluation. Individual information will NOT be transmitted to any entity external to KRESCENT.

All personal information collected by the KRESCENT program about applicants is used to review applications, to administer and monitor awards, to compile statistics and to promote and support kidney research in Canada. Consistent with these purposes, applicants should also expect that information collected by the KRESCENT program may be used in the following ways:

- For peer-review purposes, applications are provided to the Peer Review Committee (including lived experience reviewers) Applications may also be transmitted to external reviewers. The KRESCENT program informs all reviewers of the obligation to maintain confidentiality and to protect the information entrusted to them.
- Funding decisions – After peer review, merit scores, rank, project title and committee recommendations on budget and terms, will be made available to: program staff managing funding envelopes, the KRESCENT leadership and The Kidney Foundation of Canada Research Council.
- For the purposes of public information, the KRESCENT program routinely publishes and disseminates certain details about successful award applications, including the name and biography of the applicant, the amount awarded, the institution, the department, the field of research, the title of the project and the summary of research prepared by the applicant for public release.
- For administrative and planning purposes, the KRESCENT program uses files and databases containing personal information for program planning, evaluation, review and audits, and for general statistics for these activities. This information is also used to generate mailing lists for dissemination of the KRESCENT program publications and other information to the research community.

The KRESCENT program also collects data on the language capability of individuals for administrative and statistical purposes. The data are not used in the peer adjudication process.

Information submitted to the KRESCENT program is subject to the *Responsible Conduct of Research* and may be used and disclosed consistently with that policy.

By submitting an application to the KRESCENT program, applicants also consent to future contact for the purposes of program research and evaluation by the KRESCENT program or researchers who may be interacting with the program for evaluation purposes. Please note that at the time of contact, all applicants will have the option to abstain from participating in such research activities.

### 3.6 Public Information

Successful applicants need to be aware that the title of their research project and lay summary may be used without notification and put into the public domain, e.g., web and news releases. Applicants are cautioned not to disclose information that could endanger a proprietary position in these sections.

### 3.7 Ethical Requirements

By signing and submitting applications to KRESCENT and The Kidney Foundation of Canada, applicants undertake the responsibility to ensure any experimentation will be acceptable to the institution on ethical grounds and comply with the latest edition of *Tri-Council Policy Statements: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*<sup>2</sup>.

In the case of laboratory animal experimentation, the guiding principles enunciated by the *Canadian Council on Animal Care* will be adhered to and that the proposed research will not be undertaken until it has been accepted as meeting the requirements regarding biological and chemical hazards as outlined in the *Public Health Agency of Canada Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines*<sup>3</sup>.

In addition, any research involving human pluripotent stem cells must adhere to the *Guidelines for Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research*<sup>4</sup>. The institution must notify the KFOC as to the results of the review by the CIHR's Stem Cell Oversight committee.

Please note that proof of required certification will be required to receive award funding. Delays in applying for or attaining required certifications without reasonable explanation may result in funding being revoked.

### 3.8 Research Involving Clinical Trials

Applicants whose proposed research consists of a clinical trial must follow the latest edition of [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans \(TCPS 2\)](#). See in particular the guidance provided in Chapter 11: Clinical Trials.

### 3.9 Indirect Costs

The Kidney Foundation of Canada and KRESCENT program supports only the direct costs of research. The definition of indirect costs of research for the purposes of this policy is costs that cannot be directly associated with a particular research program or operating grant, including but not limited to costs associated with the operation and maintenance of facilities (from laboratories to libraries); the management of the research process (from grant management to commercialization); and regulation and safety compliance (including human ethics, animal care and environmental assessment).<sup>5</sup>

### 3.10 Assessment of Applications

Applications are reviewed by the KRESCENT Scientific Committee, which is composed of a Chair, Assistant Chair (Scientific Officer) and 10 to 15 members.

KRESCENT program applications are all peer reviewed in the same applicant pool regardless of application stage, except for the Allied Health Doctoral Award, which is reviewed as a part of The Kidney Foundation of Canada Allied Health Kidney Research Competition (please see section 1.1 for details).

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/Default/> for details.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/lbg-lbmbl-04/index-eng.php> for details.

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/15255.html> for details.

<sup>5</sup> See [Policy on Indirect Costs of Research](#)

Each committee member has demonstrated either scientific expertise in kidney disease or related area or meaningful experience in community engagement as may be appropriate to assess excellence. Appointment of the committee members takes into consideration the required expertise, regional distribution, gender and language to ensure a fair and balanced peer review process. Additional members may be added to the committee depending on the number of applications received and the expertise required, including cultural or scientific expertise.

We welcome a diverse group of reviewers who are comfortable assessing excellence from persons of diverse backgrounds.

Applications are reviewed by two committee members. Each reviewer (internal or external) conducts a thorough written review and evaluates the application.

Applications are reviewed based on several factors. Candidate excellence is evaluated in many ways including taking into consideration cultural factors, community engagement and Indigenous ways of knowing and learning. Reviewers will assess the potential of the candidates to become leaders (including within their community) and their potential to lead discovery. Project or program content is considered for potential to add knowledge to the kidney community.

Reviewers' comments will be made available to all applicants. The Kidney Foundation reserves the right to withhold any part of the reviewers' comments. Appeals of decisions taken on the basis of any such reviews will not be entertained.

#### Lived Experience review of the lay summary

The KRESCENT program is pleased to announce that Lived Experience partners will be adding their input to the peer review process for the KRESCENT competition. Partners will be asked to read and provide feedback on the lay summary that is provided by the applicant. Please see the guidelines for preparing a lay summary. Lived experience reviewers will be providing their feedback on the following criteria:

1. Clarity: is the lay summary easy to understand and written in appropriate language?
2. Relevance: are the study's aims and issues addressed important to you as a patient?
3. Suggestions for improvement for the future
4. Any additional comments to the applicant or questions for the peer review committee

Please pay particular attention to your lay summary as the Lived Experience partner feedback will be considered by the peer review committee. Please note that Lived Experience reviewers will be able to access to the full application package and may provide feedback on the inclusion (or exclusion) of lived experience within the application. *Please refer to the guidelines for writing a plain language summary which can be found on ProposalCENTRAL under "Download Templates & Instructions".*

#### Publications

The KRESCENT program advises its peer review committee that the quality of a publication's content is the determining factor in their assessment of productivity and performance. The committee is asked NOT to rely on the number of publications nor, in the case of journals, to use lists of "prestigious" or "unacceptable" journals.

### Forms of Publications and Variation by Discipline

The KRESCENT program funds researchers in many health-related areas and is aware that forms of research publications vary among disciplines. Some disciplines publish almost exclusively in peer-reviewed books, while others favour refereed journals. There is much variation between and within disciplines. The Program advises its peer review committee to evaluate according to the standards of the discipline, and to open to different definitions of “excellence”

### Contributions to Multi-Authored Papers

Publications are often prepared jointly with students, (Post-) Doctoral fellows, other researchers, etc. Applicants should describe their intellectual contribution to collaborative work or joint publications in their application, where indicated.

### Delays in Research and in Dissemination of Research Results

The KRESCENT program recognizes that research productivity may vary as a result of personal circumstances, or during periods of pregnancy or early childcare, whether or not formal leave of absence is taken. Administrative leave, disability, elder care, and other situations may also result in publication delays.

Applicants should clearly and fully describe in their application any circumstances that have or will affect the research productivity or dissemination of research results. The KRESCENT program advises its peer review committee to be sensitive to the impact of these circumstances on the level of productivity, while ensuring that the quality of the research remains competitive. Each case is reviewed on its own merits.

## **3.11 Program Acknowledgement**

Awardees are expected to acknowledge the KRESCENT program’s financial support in a standardized fashion: in publications arising from the supported research, in conference or congress material, and on equipment and facilities purchased and/or developed with the Program’s funds. To facilitate the implementation of the KRESCENT program for knowledge transfer and exchange, we request that the KRESCENT be notified in advance of the publication date of any major publications arising from research funded by the KRESCENT.

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is happy to assist in the dissemination of research results to our community through our numerous communication channels. We encourage all awardees to develop lay person communications for scientific accomplishments and are happy to assist in developing accessible language to reflect project advancement and successes.

The KRESCENT program expects that all those who receive support will accept invitations from The Kidney Foundation of Canada and other professional and scholarly associations (e.g. CST, CSN, CANNT, CANSW) to present their research at meetings or conferences, or to participate in knowledge dissemination/mobilization efforts, including potential fund-raising initiatives.

KRESCENT awardees are expected to attend the annual scientific meeting of the Canadian Society of Nephrology (CSN) or the Canadian Kidney Discoveries Network (CKD-N) and submit abstracts to one of these meetings. Please note that certain costs associated with this meeting may not be included in KRESCENT program support.

### 3.12 Notification of Award

Successful applicants will be notified by an official letter, setting forth the amount and duration of the grant. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the Dean, or the institutional administrative officer named on the application. Please note that any changes to grant funding, including deferrals, extensions, or other required alterations, will be officially noted on an updated Notification of Award. Any policy changes reflected on the Notification of Award will be taken as the most up to date version. It is the responsibility of the awardee to ensure that all conditions are met.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified and will have access to their reviews. It should be recognized that KRESCENT has a limited amount of funds and, although applications may have merit, there may not be sufficient funds to award all such applications.

### 3.13 Administration of Funds

#### Payment of Stipend

Funds for all awards are to be administered through the business officer of the university or institution concerned, whose name and address must be submitted by the primary applicant.

The Kidney Foundation of Canada will make equal quarterly instalments during the months of July, October, January, and April of the granting year, payable in trust to the designated financial officer of the sponsoring institution.

#### Payment of Infrastructure support (New Investigator Award only)

The Infrastructure Support will be paid in two half-yearly installments during the first year of this award.

The total disbursements must not exceed the award. Any expenditure in excess of the award will not be assured by The Kidney Foundation nor reimbursed by it to the university or institution concerned.

**Expenditures are only to be made for the purposes set forth in the terms of the grant, and any alternative use of funds requires written approval by The Kidney Foundation of Canada. Please note that itemized financial reports may be requested at any time.**

#### Carryover of Grant Funds

Infrastructure support must be utilized by the end of the KRESCENT New Investigator Award. Any unspent balance of funds must be returned to The Kidney Foundation following conclusion of the grant. Stipend funds are not eligible for carryover or no cost extension and must be administered in accordance with the notification of award.

#### Financial Report

Provision of Kidney Foundation funds to institutions is dependent upon timely and complete financial reporting from the financial administrators of the institutions at the termination of each funding year.

Grantees will submit an itemized account of expenditures after each year of funding, and no later than **three months** following conclusion of the grant period. The statement must be signed by the grantee and the business officer of the institution concerned.

Should The Kidney Foundation so require, the grantee shall render whenever called upon, an itemized account of expenditures supported by an approved statement of accounts from the university or research institution that administers the grant.

Any changes to the proposed award budget (infrastructure) require prior approval from the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

### **3.14 Transfer of Award**

Awardees may not change supervisors, projects, or institutions without the written permission of the KRESCENT leadership. The institution to which the awardee is moving will be required to supply the same supporting documentation as was required in the original application.

### **3.15 Themes of Research**

Application to the KRESCENT program is open to applicants from all disciplines relevant to kidney disease, kidney transplant and donation, such as:

#### Basic/Biomedical Research

Biomedical research is research with the goal of understanding normal and abnormal human functioning, at the molecular, cellular, organ system and whole-body levels, including development of tools and techniques to be applied for this purpose; developing new therapies or devices that improve health or the quality of life of individuals, up to the point where they are tested on human subjects. Biomedical research may also include studies on human subjects that presently, do not have a diagnostic or therapeutic orientation.

#### Clinical Research

Clinical research is research with the goal of directly improving the diagnosis of disease, the prediction of important outcomes in patients with disease or at risk of disease, and treatment (including rehabilitation and palliation), of disease and injury. It may also focus on improving the health and quality of life of individuals as they pass through normal life or disease stages. Clinical research typically encompasses research on, or for the treatment of, patients.

#### Health Systems and Services Research

Health services research includes research with the goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health professionals and the health care system, through changes to practice and policy. Health services research is a multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviours affect access to health care, the quality and cost of health care, and, ultimately, Canadians' health and well-being.

#### Population and Public Health Research

Population and public health research includes research with the goal of improving the health of the Canadian population, or of defined sub-populations, through a better understanding of the ways in which social, cultural, environmental, occupational and economic factors determine health status.

#### Translational Research

Research that contains significant integrated contributions from both clinical and basic/biomedical, as defined above. Please note that research involving lesser degrees of overlap or inter-pillar collaboration does not automatically qualify as translational for the

purposes of review: for example, basic research that includes work on samples from humans should be categorised as basic/biomedical; clinical studies that require collaborations from basic scientists for measurements of biomarkers should be categorised as clinical.

Source: CIHR, The Four Themes of CIHR Funded Health Research, accessed at: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/48801.html>

### **3.16 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Health Research**

The KRESCENT is committed to advancing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the research system. As such, we have included new sections into Application to encompass this strategic priority.

All applicants will be asked to fill in a self-identification Equity and Diversity questionnaire as part of the application process and/or during the program. Please note that all data will be protected and will be used to help the Foundation evaluate the accessibility and reach of its funding programs.

In addition to this questionnaire, KRESCENT expects that all applicants will integrate, or justify, equitable inclusion in research studies. This includes considering fairness and equity in research participation such as the inclusion of racial minorities, justification of age of recruited participants, inclusion of language considerations, etc (where applicable), and steps taken to ensure appropriate, equitable and realistic dissemination of research results to all communities.

The purpose of this section is to promote rigorous science that is sensitive to equity and diversity factors beyond SGBA., and therefore will help to expand our understanding of health determinants across all people.

The [Tri-Council Policy Statement on the Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2 \(2018\) – Chapter 4: Fairness and Equity in Research Participation](#), provides helpful Information surrounding research participant Inclusion considerations.

Please note that the EDI principles will be available to the peer reviewers and will be incorporated in the peer review process. If the proposed project does NOT include EDI principles or considerations, it must be well justified within the application.

#### **Sex- and Gender-Based Analysis (SGBA) and Health Research**

KFOC expects that all applicants will integrate sex and gender into their research designs when appropriate. Sex- and gender-based analysis (SGBA) is an approach that systematically examines sex-based (biological) and gender-based (socio-cultural) differences between men, women, boys, girls and gender-diverse people. The purpose of SGBA is to promote rigorous science that is sensitive to sex and gender and therefore has the potential to expand our understanding of health determinants for all people. The SGBA section of the CIHR website (<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50836.html>) provides helpful resources for applicants, including CIHR's definitions for sex, gender and SGBA, as well as information on applying SGBA to the development and assessment of research proposals.

It is encouraged that all applicants complete the tri-council training modules in SGBA.

Please note that SGBA assessment will be included in the peer review process. If the proposed project does NOT include a SGBA, it must be well justified within the application.

### 3.17 Community Engagement

The KRESCENT program advises its peer review committee that community engagement is a factor on which applications may be assessed where applicable. Applicants are provided the opportunity to demonstrate engagement with community including but not limited to community affiliation and partnerships, current relationships, and opportunity for expanding these relationships. It is understood that any applicant providing a project or program plan that engages with members of specific communities, shall provide information pertaining to their engagement or engagement plan with that community. This section may also include details on how applicants may plan to use innovative approaches while respecting and valuing the communities with whom they work (including OCAP, integrating indigenous ways of knowing, EGAP principles, etc).

### 3.18 Partnerships

#### **Can-SOLVE CKD Partnership**

Can-SOLVE CKD is a pan-Canadian patient-oriented kidney research network. In partnership with patients, researchers, health care providers and policy-makers, Can-SOLVE is working to transform treatment and care for Canadians living with or at risk for chronic kidney disease. Can-SOLVE CKD is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and over 30 partners, including The Kidney Foundation of Canada, the Canadian Society of Nephrology, provincial kidney care agencies, universities, industry, and private donors.

Research projects that involve a significant component related to patient engagement and participation are eligible for inclusion in the Can-SOLVE training program. This program entails full participation in the KRESCENT curriculum, plus may include an additional Can-SOLVE CKD training component which includes completion of CIHR training modules and patient engagement exercises (approximately an additional 3.5 days per year. Expenses associated with participation/completion in these exercises will be covered by Can-SOLVE CKD.)

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) defines patient-oriented research (POR) as: “Patient-oriented research is about putting patients first. Research is informed by patients and focuses on what is important to patients. It produces information for decision makers and health care providers that will improve health care practices, therapies, and policies. It ensures that new and innovative diagnostic and therapeutic approaches are applied where they are needed.”

In order to be eligible for the Can-SOLVE KRESCENT award, the patient engagement aspect must be well developed in your application (at the time of application). However, your research project does **not** have to be part of the Can-SOLVE CKD Network – any project with a significant focus in POR is eligible. Please note that applying to be a Can-SOLVE trainee will not in any way affect the peer review of your application.

#### **FRQS partnership:**

The KRESCENT program has an established partnership with Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS), for those applying in the province of Quebec. Applicants must reside in the province of Quebec, apply and be deemed eligible through the FRQS application portal. Candidates must select the FCR-SNC-KRESCENT program as a partner in the list of scholarships offered by FRQS. Please note that, to be eligible for this partnership, applicants do not need to apply in the same calendar year, and successful KRESCENT trainees can apply to FRQS in subsequent years of their program.

More information on FRQS programs can be found here:

- Research scholars : <https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/en/program/research-scholars-junior-1-junior-2-senior-2022-2023/>
- Clinical research scholars : <https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/en/program/clinical-research-scholars-junior-1-junior-2-senior-2022-2023/>
- Postdoctoral training (Fellowship) : <https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/en/program/formation-en-recherche-post-diplome-professionnel-fellowship-2022-2023/>

### 3.19 KRESCENT Program Stipend

The KRESCENT program offers a competitive salary stipend (see Guidelines of individual awards for specific stipend levels). Stipends are valued in Canadian dollars and are taxable. It is expected that 50% of the award will be contributed by the KRESCENT Program and 50% by the host institution.

#### Infrastructure Award (New Investigator Award only)

The KRESCENT program also offers to match up to a maximum of \$25,000 of Infrastructure Support (laboratory start-up costs and support staff) awarded during the period of the New Investigator Award from the sponsoring university or institution. The Candidate must apply for the Infrastructure Support at the same time as the salary award and a budget should be provided. The Candidate also must submit proof of matching institutional support. It is the intention of the KRESCENT program that the Infrastructure Support be used to the direct benefit/assistance of the awardee's research plan. Infrastructure support must be used by the end of the KRESCENT award.

Some examples of appropriate uses of this infrastructure support would be the purchase of software, equipment, other technology or stipends for graduate students and summer students; examples of inappropriate uses of these funds would be for supplementation of the awardee's salary or for general institutional overhead.

### 3.20 Duration and Tenure

Please see individual award information for duration and tenure.

### 3.21 Grant Reports

#### Scientific/Progress Reports

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is a patient and volunteer-driven organization and is responsible to the community to highlight the outcomes of our research funding. Awardees will be asked to submit a report after each year of funding, and a final end-of-grant report six months after the end of the term of the grant (forms will be sent to awardees).

Please note the following:

- that the Foundation may follow up on your report for further information, or request interviews or for participation in knowledge dissemination events/opportunities.
- Year-end grant reports will be mandatory for the release of further funding

The mid stage grant reports are brief and will be used: (a) to highlight successes and track productivity for impact measurement (b) to address possible challenges or required changes/mitigation strategies.

The end-of-grant report will be used: (a) to highlight successes, achievements, and the excellence of kidney researchers in Canada, (b) as a tool to help “de-mystify” research to the community and (c) to help increase donations. In lay language you will be asked to describe the work that was possible due to KFOC funding, to provide an overview of the outcomes and impacts of the project, including efforts made to disseminate the work and the KT plan, and to explain why this research is important and its potential impact in **lay terms**.

**Please note that applicants that have not completed required end of grant reporting (scientific or financial), will not be eligible to receive additional Kidney Foundation of Canada funds (directly or through partnerships) until such a time as the reporting is submitted.**

### 3.22 Future Peer Review Meetings

KFOC is committed to funding excellence in kidney research. We rely on the generous volunteerism of the kidney research community to act as peer reviewers for our research grant competitions. KRESCENT new investigators will be encouraged to participate as peer reviewers in KFOC competitions.

## 4. ELIGIBILITY & APPLICANT CATEGORIES

### 4.1 Eligibility

Applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents at the time of submission of their application.

For New Investigator Awards, applicants must apply through a university department or affiliated institution offering the faculty appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor or its equivalent at a Canadian University.

For Post-Doctoral Fellowships, applicants must apply through a university department or affiliated institution that has been accepted as suitable for research training by the KRESCENT program and provide a supervisor support letter which details both support of the applicant, and the proposed work plan.

Institutions eligible to host a KRESCENT Fellow include Canadian and foreign universities, affiliated research hospitals, and colleges with a strong research mandate and capacity.

For Allied Health Doctoral Award eligibility criteria, please consult the KFOC web site ([www.kidney.ca](http://www.kidney.ca))

KRESCENT is working towards broadening its scope on how research is described, valued and measured through the incorporation of supports and evaluation metrics which align with community values and Indigenous ways of being where applicable. The KRESCENT program strives to create a welcoming and culturally safe environment for all trainees.

### Maximum Number of KRESCENT program Fellowships per Supervisor

The KRESCENT program will not fund more than two Fellowships per Supervisor at one time, i.e. if a Supervisor has an active trainee, only one further trainee can be funded or if a Supervisor has two active trainees in the program, no further trainees will be funded.

Programs of research may include contribution from other parties:

A **Collaborator** is defined as an individual whose role in the proposed research is to provide a special service (such as access to equipment, provision of special reagents, training in specialized technique, statistical analyses, access to patient population, etc.) but who is not involved in the overall direction of the research. Collaborators need not be included as signatories on the application form and may be added to the research team during the research, as requirements for additional services may emerge. Collaborators do not need to include a CV. However, all those appointed as Collaborator in the application must provide a letter, addressed to the Applicant, indicating the agreement to provide the service or expertise as described in the application.

A **Knowledge User is defined** as someone who may be able to utilize research results to make policy changes, decisions or changes to programs or practice. Knowledge users may also include Patient or lived experience participants. A knowledge user does not have to have direct affiliation with an eligible academic institution, although they may provide their affiliation pertinent to the project or role.

**Lived Experience Partners:** The KFOC encourages the inclusion of lived experience or patient partners in research projects. Lived Experience Partners should include a letter which details their reason for involvement in the work. Please note that lived experience partners must be compensated for their inclusion in the project. Please ensure compensation is detailed in application.

For more information on compensation for lived experience partners please see the following link or reach out to the KFOC for guidance.

[Considerations when paying patient partners in research - CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](https://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/en/considerations-when-paying-patient-partners-research)

## **5. NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD**

### Description

The KRESCENT program New Investigator Award is awarded to individuals who have clearly demonstrated excellence during their pre-doctoral and post-doctoral training in kidney disease. The Award provides **salary support** for up to three years of the faculty appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor or its equivalent at a Canadian University. Applicants must have the ability to hold independent research funding, train academic trainees as the primary supervisor, and have protected research time.

The purpose of this award is to assist such an individual to become established as a fully independent investigator in the field of kidney disease.

Please note that candidates who have been awarded and successfully completed a KRESCENT program Post-Doctoral Fellowship or Allied Health Doctoral Award are eligible to re-apply as a New Investigator.

Application for this award must be initiated by the university or the institution at which the candidate will conduct the proposed research. The university or institution is expected to guarantee the applicant appropriate academic rank, verify required protected research time, and to provide adequate space and facilities for the investigator's research, commensurate with the status of the individual in terms of experience and level of support by the Program.

An awardee may not be in receipt of another major personnel award at the same time as holding the New Investigator Award from the KRESCENT program. If this is the case, please apply for "curriculum only" support to get access to the KRESCENT program curriculum without salary support. In the case that additional support is garnered while in the program, applicants may still be eligible for KRESCENT curriculum components, but will not be provided with salary support and will transition to curriculum only support.

The quality of the proposed research plan is an important component in the evaluation of the application. Therefore, a clear, concise and comprehensive description of the proposed research plan must be given. In addition, the role of the New Investigator in the proposed research must be clearly defined including how the execution of the research plan will contribute to the candidate's development as an independent researcher.

#### Eligibility

At the time of commencement of the New Investigator Award, no more than three years may have passed since the date of the first faculty appointment.

Candidates must hold an appointment at a Canadian university at Assistant Professor level or equivalent. Please note, an institutional acceptance letter must be provided in the application package.

Candidates must have a MD, PhD or equivalent degree.

Applications in clinical research will be considered only if it is clear from the application that at an adequate portion of the applicant's time and effort will be devoted to the research project(s) (eg around 80%), and that the time is sufficient to complete the research work.

The New Investigator Award is contingent on the following additional requirements regarding grant-in-aid support for the proposed research.

- During year one and two of this award, the awardee must show proof of submission of grant-in-aid applications to granting agencies that conduct peer reviews of the proposed research plan.

#### Conditions of Support

The awardee must participate and successfully complete the KRESCENT Core Curriculum (for details see KRESCENT Curriculum document). Failure to participate in and successfully complete the required elements of Core Curriculum will lead to withdrawal of ongoing funding support from the KRESCENT program.

#### Tenure

The New Investigator Award is tenable at a university or affiliated institution in Canada.

The award provides **salary support** for up to three years of the faculty appointment.

The award details and tenure period will be dictated in an official notification of award.

The awardee must have sufficient time to devote to their proposed research program. The recommended time is 80%. Host institutions must sign off that adequate protected time to complete the work will be provided. The remainder of the New Investigator's time may be devoted to teaching, administration, clinical activity or activity related to the research project. The KRESCENT program imposes no restriction on the additional income the New Investigator may earn provided it is within the guidelines of the sponsoring university or institution and that such activity does not impinge upon the time dedicated to the proposed research.

An award may be terminated at any time for good cause by the awardee, the sponsoring institution or the KRESCENT program.

#### Stipend

The annual stipend is \$70,000 (MD or equivalent degree) or \$65,000 (Ph.D. without a MD or equivalent degree) without benefits. Please note that the host institution contribution can come from an already established salary support (i.e. Normal salary), but that the host institution must confirm eligibility for the program (including protected research time, etc)

#### Infrastructure Support (New Investigator Award only)

The KRESCENT program also offers to match up to a maximum of \$25,000 of Infrastructure Support (laboratory start-up costs and support staff) awarded during the period of the New Investigator Award from the sponsoring university or institution. The Candidate must apply for the Infrastructure Support at the same time as the salary award and a budget should be provided. *The Candidate also must submit proof of matching institutional support.* It is the intention of the KRESCENT program that the Infrastructure Support be used to the direct benefit/assistance of the awardee's research plan.

Some examples of appropriate uses of this infrastructure support would be the purchase of software, equipment, other technology or stipends for graduate students and summer students; examples of inappropriate uses of these funds would be for supplementation of the awardee's salary or for general institutional overhead.

Please note that infrastructure support must be spent by the end of the KRESCENT salary award or returned to The Kidney Foundation of Canada. End of grant reporting must include a detailed report on how infrastructure support was utilized.

#### Equipment Purchases

Title to equipment purchased with the Infrastructure Support funds rests with the Granting Program. During tenure or upon termination of the award, such equipment will, unless otherwise stipulated by the KRESCENT program, be vested in the institution where the awardee carried out the research.

For grant application details, please see: KRESCENT New investigator Award Grant instructions or visit the online application portal: proposal central.

## 6. POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

### Description

A KRESCENT program Post-Doctoral Fellowship is an “in-training” **salary support** award intended for applicants with a PhD, MD or equivalent degree. The objective is to attract and foster young investigators to initiate and/or continue training in kidney research.

An awardee may not be in receipt of another major personnel award at the same time as holding the Post-Doctoral Fellowship from the KRESCENT program. Major personnel awards are defined as: National, provincial or local level awards that represent 50% or more of the proposed KRESCENT salary. If this is the case, please apply for “curriculum only” support to get access to the KRESCENT program curriculum without salary support. The KRESCENT program will consider approving supplemental funding if a minor stipend has been provided by another funding agency. In this case, KRESCENT support will be adjusted to reflect the additional award value (ie a top up will be provided to get the applicant to the full KRESCENT value). In the case that additional support is garnered while in the program, applicants may still be eligible for KRESCENT curriculum components but will not be provided with salary support and will transition to curriculum only support or a top up model.

### Eligibility

Awards for a Post-Doctoral Fellowship are tenable under the supervision of investigators holding an academic appointment and in areas of investigation where the research has direct relevance to kidney disease. *The training program must include involvement in actual research, and not only courses in research methods.* Applicants enrolled in programs oriented primarily toward professional specialty training are normally ineligible for the Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

Candidates with more than four years of post-PhD research training by the competition deadline are not eligible to apply for this award, unless the candidate is an MD, who completed their PhD before or during their clinical training. Any interruption in a candidate’s post-PhD research training will be taken into account in determining eligibility.

Applicants with a MD degree must hold license in Canada or be enrolled in a program leading to certification in Canada at the time of applying for this award. Applicants may propose a program of research leading to a Master’s or PhD degree; however, registration in a graduate program is not a requirement.

Applications for training in clinical research will be considered only if it is clear from the application that they have adequate protected time to complete the research project. It is suggested that at least 80% of the applicant’s time and effort will be devoted to the research project(s) and clinical activities upon which the research project(s) is immediately dependent.

Each application is considered to be a joint submission by the applicant and the proposed supervisor. The research plan should be written in full consultation and agreement between the supervisor and the applicant. **The applicant must provide a supervisor letter confirming acceptance of the candidate and the proposed research plan.**

The KRESCENT program will not fund more than two Fellowships per Supervisor at one time, i.e. if a Supervisor has an active trainee, only one further trainee can be funded or if a Supervisor has two active trainees in the program, no further trainees will be funded.

### Conditions of Support

Each applicant must show evidence of having been accepted by a university department or affiliated institution acceptable to the KRESCENT program.

The tenure of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship is generally held at a Canadian university or affiliated research institutions. Institutions eligible to host a KRESCENT Fellow include Canadian and foreign universities, affiliated research hospitals, and colleges with a strong research mandate and capacity.

The awardee must participate and successfully complete the KRESCENT Core Curriculum (for details see KRESCENT Curriculum document). Failure to participate in and successfully complete the required elements of the Core Curriculum will lead to withdrawal of ongoing funding support from the KRESCENT program.

### Tenure

The duration of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship will be either two or three years.

During tenure of the award, the awardee shall devote adequate time (80% is recommended to the purpose of the award in research. The awardee may, with the approval of the supervisor, engage in and receive remuneration for departmental activities, including undergraduate teaching, that contribute to his/her development as a researcher. However, these activities must not interfere with the primary purpose of the award. Notification of any consideration for extra remuneration should be forwarded to the KRESCENT program for review.

An award may be terminated at any time for good cause by the awardee, the sponsoring institution or the KRESCENT program.

### Stipend

The annual stipend is \$ 65,000 (MD or equivalent degree) or \$ 55,000 (Ph.D. without an MD or equivalent degree) without benefits. Successful applicants are expected to organize their own benefits with the host institution.

Stipends are valued in Canadian dollars and are taxable. It is expected that 50% of the award will be contributed by the KRESCENT Program and 50% will be contributed by the host institution. Host institution contributions may come from supervisor grants, or departmental/institutional contributions.

For grant application details, please see: KRESCENT Post doctoral Fellowship Grant Instructions or visit the online application portal: proposal central.

## **7. CONTACT INFORMATION**

For further information on application submissions, please contact:

### **Christine Marquis**

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