



CSN-Otsuka Vicky Karoutas Memorial Award 2026 Award Guidelines



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Award summary and purpose

The Canadian Society of Nephrology (CSN), in collaboration with The Kidney Foundation of Canada and Otsuka Canada Pharmaceutical, is establishing the Vicky Karoutas Memorial Award to support research studies addressing important issues for patients with kidney disease.

The proposal must be patient-oriented and primed to improve kidney health, kidney care, kidney disease management, and patient outcomes. Elements of patient-oriented research activities may include the development of new technologies, educational or therapeutic interventions, epidemiological studies, health policy studies, and clinical trials. Applicants must show engagement with lived experience partners or communities within their application.

This award is in commemoration of Vicky Karoutas; a leader within the Nephrology community in Canada. Vicky has been instrumental in creating awareness on kidney health, the importance of kidneys, and how to protect them. In her role at Otsuka Canada, she was always making decisions with a patient lens, and doing everything possible (and impossible) to provide hope and improve the lives of patients with kidney disease.

This award is to perpetuate her legacy of fight against chronic kidney disease and reducing the burden of kidney disease throughout Canada.

Who is applicable?

All applicants to the KFOC Kidney Health Research Competition who show a patient-oriented focus will be automatically considered for the award.

Funding Amount & Terms of Support

- Applicants must apply to the KFOC Kidney Health Grant Competition in its entirety and select that they have a patient-oriented focus/component to be selected for this award and be found eligible for funding through the general pool by peer review.
- Support, is provided for one year in a total amount of \$25,000 CDN (jointly granted with the existing KFOC research award competition).
- The top ranked project in the general pool which includes a patient-oriented lens will be offered this award after approval from KFOC and CSN.
- Awardee will be required to submit a proposed budget for the additional funds (time will be given to create this budget and submit it).
- The award will be announced annually during the CSN AGM and given the grant payment through KFOC at the start of their second year of funding.
- This award is not connected to any other partnership.



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Deadline and Peer review process:

- Opening and closing of the competition is aligned with existing KFOC Kidney Health Research Grant timeline.
- Ranking will be determined by the general pool ranking at the Kidney Health Research Grant competition utilizing KHRG guidelines.
- Applicability for this award will not be evaluated at the peer review meeting.

Eligibility criteria

- As per the existing Kidney Health Research Grant competition eligibility criteria.
- Applicants must apply to the KFOC Kidney Health Research Grant Competition in its entirety and be found eligible for funding through the general pool by peer review.
- Applicants must show engagement with lived experience partners or communities within their application. All applications are subject to review by KFOC and CSN for applicability.
- Applicant must be an active member of the CSN in order to receive the award.

Instructions

- As per the existing KFOC Kidney Health Research Grant competition.

Funding agreement

- As per the existing KFOC Kidney Health Research Grant competition.

Reporting requirements

- Reporting both financial and scientific aspects of the proposed patient-oriented work budgeted with this award will be required with the final grant reports as per KFOC reporting guidelines.
- Awardees will be asked to present their findings at the CSN annual meeting.