



**The Kidney Research Scientist Core  
Education and National Training Program**

**2021 COMPETITION  
NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD GUIDELINES**

## 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 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. Another factor is limitations in opportunities for salary support of those dedicated to research in general including in the field of kidney disease.

In response to the urgent need to better support the outstanding individuals who represent the future of kidney research in Canada, The Kidney Foundation of Canada, the Canadian Society of Nephrology, the CIHR Institutes of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes (CIHR – INMD) and Circulatory and Respiratory Health (CIHR – ICRH) created an innovative new program to enrich the training and mentorship of new investigators. The Kidney Research Scientist Core Education and National Training program (KRESCENT) represents a unique partnership destined to enhance research capacity by creating conditions that will foster the growth and development of Canada's brightest research minds.

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.

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) 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. New Investigator Awards must be held at universities in Canada.
- **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, deadline **March 1st, 2021**. 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.

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

### 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.

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.

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

### Non-employee Status

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

### KRESCENT program Curriculum and Stipend

The KRESCENT program offers a competitive salary stipend (see Guidelines of individual awards for specific stipend levels).

Awardees will be required to participate and complete a core kidney research curriculum. For detailed information on the curriculum see KRESCENT Curriculum document.

### 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.

### Indirect Costs

The KRESCENT program funds only personnel and infrastructure support awards. No funding is provided for indirect costs of research (e.g. library, heat and light, office furniture, overhead, administrative charges and fees).

## **PARTNERSHIP**

### Can-SOLVE CKD Training program

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 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.

### **Patient review of the lay summary**

The KRESCENT program is pleased to announce that patient partners will be adding their input to the peer review process for the 2021 KRESCENT competition. Patient partners will be asked to read and provide feedback on the lay summary that is provided by the applicant. They 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 patient partner feedback will be considered by the peer review committee and factored into your overall score. Please refer to the guidelines for writing a plain language summary which can be found on ProposalCENTRAL under Tab 2 “Download Templates & Instructions”.

In addition, if you have marked that your project has a patient-engagement component, patient partners will also provide feedback to Can-SOLVE CKD on this section.

### **Competition Results**

Successful applicants will be notified by an official letter before July 31 and the results will be posted on the Internet.

### **Transfer of Awards**

Awardees may not change supervisors, projects or institutions without the written permission of the Chair of the Program Steering Committee. The institution to which the awardee is moving

will be required to supply the same supporting documentation as was required in the original application.

### Scientific Integrity and Scholarly Conduct

Institutions receiving funds must have appropriate policies in place for investigating allegations of misconduct as outlined in “Integrity in Research and Scholarship: A Tri-Council Policy Statement” as published by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Any questions concerning scientific integrity or scholarly conduct that arise during the course of 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.

### 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.

### Use and disclosure of personal information provided to the KRESCENT program

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. 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 Program Steering Committee and Governing Council.
- For the purposes of public information, the KRESCENT program routinely publishes and disseminates certain details about successful award applications, including the name of the applicant, the amount awarded, the institution, the department, the title of the project and the summary of research prepared by the applicant for public release. For Post-Doctoral Fellowships and Allied Health Doctoral Awards, the proposed location of tenure or the field of research may also be made public.

- 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.
- For purposes of equity, the KRESCENT program application forms ask for the gender of the applicant, but this is provided on voluntary basis only. This information is not used in the peer review process. It is used to promote the increased participation of women in the KRESCENT program and on KRESCENT program committees and to generate statistics pertaining to the program.

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 “*Tri-Council Policy: Integrity in Research and Scholarships*” and may be used and disclosed consistent with that policy.

#### Acknowledgement of KRESCENT Program Support

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.

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. CANNT, CANSW, AND) to present their research at meetings or conferences.

KRESCENT awardees are expected to attend the annual scientific meeting of the Canadian Society of Nephrology and submit abstracts to this meeting.

#### Assessment of Quality

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.

### 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.

For information on the KRESCENT program, please contact:

National Director of Research

**C/o Christine Marquis**

The Kidney Foundation of Canada

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For further information on application submissions, please contact:

**Christine Marquis**

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## **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.

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.

Preference may be given to candidates who have been awarded and successfully completed a KRESCENT program Post-Doctoral Fellowship or Allied Health Doctoral Award.

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 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 support award (i.e. from international, national or provincial funding agencies) at the same time as holding the New Investigator Award from the KRESCENT program.

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.

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 least 80% of the applicant's time and effort will be devoted to the research project(s).

The New Investigator Faculty Award is contingent on the following additional requirements with regard to 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.



- For the third year of the award, the awardee must hold a grant-in-aid as a Principal Investigator for the proposed research plan from an agency that uses peer review process recognized by the KRESCENT program.

### 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.

### End of Award 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. The end-of-award 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, and to explain why this research is important. Awardees will be asked to submit an end-of-award report six months after the end of the term of the award (forms will be sent to awardees).

### Tenure

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

The award will commence on October 1 and will run for the eligible duration.

The awardee must devote no less than 80% of his/her time to the proposed research. 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.

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.

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 this award but a separate 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.

#### Payment of Stipend

Awards will be paid to the institution, where the award is held, in quarterly installments.

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

#### 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.

*Important: The KRESCENT program has implemented a zero-tolerance policy for late and incomplete applications. Failure to adhere to the guidelines and regulations will result in rejection of an application, without possibility of appeal.*



The Kidney Research Scientist Core Education and National Training Program is a testimony to the leadership of many individuals, organizations and companies committed to reducing the burden of kidney disease throughout Canada.

The KRESCENT program was created through a special collaboration of the Canadian Society of Nephrology, The Kidney Foundation of Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research

***The KRESCENT Program is a Strategic Training Program developed and supported by:***



***With additional generous support from:***

