



MEDIA RELEASE
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Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn and Dr. Braden Manns Awarded The Kidney Foundation of Canada 2017 Medal for Research Excellence

Montreal, Quebec – June 26, 2017 – The Kidney Foundation of Canada is pleased to announce Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn and Dr. Braden Manns as the recipients of the 2017 Medal for Research Excellence. For the first time in the history of the Foundation, the award is being presented to two individuals.

“We are extremely pleased to acknowledge the remarkable collaborative work of Drs. Hemmelgarn and Manns,” said Paul Kidston, National President. “These two individuals, who are highly respected and accomplished researchers in their own right, also exemplify the success that can be gained through collaboration.”

Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn is a Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Community Health Sciences, and is Head of the Department of Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary. Her research interests involve chronic medical conditions such as chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease, and using computerized data sources, including the Alberta Kidney Disease Network (AKDN) repository of laboratory data and Alberta Health administrative data. She has an impressive publication record, publishing more than 50 times a year over the past five years, and is renowned as a considerate teacher and mentor.

Dr. Braden Manns is a professor in Health Economics and a nephrologist at the University of Calgary in the Departments of Medicine and Community Health Sciences and an Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions Health Scholar. His current research interests include examining the implications of patient-borne costs on care and outcomes in chronic disease, examining the cost effectiveness of strategies and health care policies for managing patients with chronic disease, and assessing the adequacy of care for Albertans with diabetes, among other projects. He has been instrumental in founding numerous kidney networks and Interdisciplinary collaborations, and has been a national presence in the Canadian nephrology community for many years.

Drs. Hemmelgarn and Manns have been working together for many years and have demonstrated foresight and leadership that has had a major impact on patient priority setting and patient-oriented research in Canada. Drs. Hemmelgarn and Manns have had outstanding careers, highlighted by their mutual collaboration. Over the years, they have collaborated on more than 165 peer-reviewed publications and 30 research projects, including major research grants such as Can-SOLVE CKD, a recent CIHR grant looking at patient-centered care in chronic kidney disease. Their collaboration has had a major impact on the translation of health care for patients with chronic kidney disease. As well, they both have been involved in different administrative roles related to the optimal delivery of renal services in the province of Alberta. They have been and are the principal organizers and innovators of a major renal epidemiologic centre, not only noted in Canada but throughout the world.

“At The Kidney Foundation, we believe that collaboration is one of the keystones of success,” said Elisabeth Fowler, National Director of Research. “Drs. Hemmelgarn and Manns are amazing researchers who have had a positive impact on kidney care in Canada. They have also worked together to achieve

great collaborations and for this reason we are proud and delighted to give two Medals for Research Excellence this year.”

“The Medal for Research Excellence from the Kidney Foundation attests to the international scope of the research done by an impressive team of kidney researchers at the University of Calgary,” said Dr. Todd Anderson, director of the Libin Cardiovascular Institute of Alberta. “Their work has enabled important changes in the delivery of care and reduction in cardiovascular events in patients with chronic kidney disease. Congratulations to a most deserving team.”

Dr. Marcello Tonelli, Associate Vice-President (Health Research) at the University of Calgary also underlines the remarkable work accomplished by the two awardees: “Dr. Hemmelgarn and Manns have improved the lives of patients across the country with their groundbreaking work. Receiving Canada’s top award for kidney researchers is a fitting recognition for these two outstanding University of Calgary scientists.”

Since its creation in 1996, the Medal for Research Excellence has been awarded annually to a Canadian resident who is recognized nationally and internationally for excellence in kidney research. Excellence can be determined by the impact that an individual’s research has had on the discovery of new knowledge to advance the field of kidney related research, and research has had or has the potential to have a significant impact on improving patient care.

A ceremony to present the Medal for Research Excellence to Drs. Hemmelgarn and Manns in the company of their professional colleagues, family and friends will take place in the Fall. Location and further details will be announced closer to the event date.

About the Medal for Research Excellence: The Kidney Foundation established the Medal for Research Excellence in 1996 to honor Canadian researchers whose work is recognized by their peers for having improved the treatment and care of people living with kidney disease and related conditions. It is awarded to a Canadian resident who is recognized nationally and internationally for excellence in kidney research. Excellence in research is determined by the impact of an individual’s research on the discovery of new knowledge that has advanced the field of kidney related research. Another important award factor is the potential of the research to significantly improve patient care.

About The Kidney Foundation: The Kidney Foundation of Canada is the national volunteer organization committed to improving outcomes of people with kidney disease. Since 1964 The Kidney Foundation of Canada has contributed over \$115 million to medical research projects to ensure that treatment options and patient results continuously improve.

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