



2021 CSCC Award for Innovation in Laboratory Medicine Sponsored by Roche



The CSCC is pleased to award the 2021 Award for Innovation in Laboratory Medicine, sponsored by Roche Diagnostics, to the Kidney Check program.

This initiative is a comprehensive program of screening, triage and treatment to bring preventative kidney care to rural and remote Indigenous communities across a number of Canadian provinces. Kidney Check employs point-of-care testing (POCT) to identify, risk stratify and provide a treatment strategy for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), diabetes, and hypertension in individuals ages 10 and up regardless of pre-existing risk factors. POCT presents an excellent opportunity to expand preventive healthcare to regions marginalized from the mainstream system.

Indigenous groups in Canada endure disproportionately high rates of CKD, diabetes, and hypertension. In some communities the rates of kidney disease are as high as one in three. Often marginalized from mainstream healthcare services (geographically, economically, or culturally), many of these individuals lack the preventive health benefits associated with continuity of care. Consequently, the detection and treatment of these conditions is often delayed, resulting in an increased risk of adverse outcomes that impact quality of life and strain increasingly burdened healthcare systems.

Kidney Check addresses this pervasive issue by bringing high quality point-of-care testing to various rural and remote Indigenous communities throughout Canada. All participating individuals ages 10 and up are screened for hypertension, kidney disease, and diabetes regardless of pre-existing risk factors. Immediately following screening, clients are triaged according to their individualized kidney failure risk prediction scores calculated by an iPad application and offered additional resources accordingly. To ensure the efficacy and sustainability of the program, Kidney Check utilizes a quality management system that encompasses all aspects of the screening process. This ongoing project has reached 5891 adults on eleven reserve communities, of which 1700 opted in for screening and became more aware of their kidney disease risk. Patient awareness and engagement are the key first steps to improving overall health, reducing disease burden and improving quality of life.

The successful delivery of this project is critically dependent upon the training, maintenance, and comprehensive quality assurance program for the point of care equipment. The role of the clinical laboratory was critical for the success of the program through its quality program.

The Kidney Check model is highly scalable and transferable to new jurisdictions across Canada and the world and is currently largely supported by the CIHR funded CANSOLVE-CKD program.

The CSCC Award for Innovation is awarded to an institution or team, rather than an individual. This year the CSCC is pleased to recognise the University of Manitoba and Chronic Disease Innovation Centre at Seven Oaks General Hospital (Dr. Paul Komenda), in collaboration with the Shared Health Diagnostics Services (Dr. AbdulRazaq Sokoro), and the First Nations Social Service Secretariat Manitoba (Dr. Barry Lavallee). The collaboration of these institutions has resulted in a truly innovative and effective program to improve healthcare in Canada. The CSCC congratulates these organizations and their dedicated staff.