

Associate Chief Medical Officer, Strategic Clinical Networks



Please join us in congratulating Dr. Braden Manns on his new role of Associate Chief Medical Officer (ACMO), Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs).

Dr. Manns succeeds Dr. Blair O'Neill who served as the Associate Chief Medical Officer, SCNs for the past three years.

Dr. Manns will work in close partnership with Tracy Wasylak, Chief Program Officer for the SCNs; together they will be responsible and accountable for leading the SCNs and providing the vision, leadership and inspiration required to advance quality, health outcomes and innovation within Alberta Health Services and across the health system.

Dr. Manns is the Svare Professor in Health Economics. He is a Nephrologist at the University of Calgary in the Departments of Medicine and Community Health Sciences and an Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions Health Scholar.

Dr. Manns is the Past-President of the Canadian Society of Nephrology and co-principal investigator of the Canadians Seeking Solutions and Innovations to Overcome Chronic Kidney Disease ([CANSOLVE CKD](#)) (a national Canadian Institute in Health Research funded patient-oriented research network in chronic disease).

He is also the co-lead of an Alberta Innovates funded inter-disciplinary team grant investigating chronic disease (www.ICDC.ca).

He has experience in pharmaceutical priority setting, having served on provincial and national committees for drug evaluation, including a term as Chair of Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee from 2006 to 2008.

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 implications of different ways to pay physicians.

Dr. Manns served as the Interim Scientific Director for the Kidney Health SCN prior to our launch in January 2016 and remained in the role until the spring of 2017.

Dr. Manns begins in his new role as Associate Chief Medical Officer for the SCNs on May 8, 2018.

Our Vision

Optimal kidney health for all Albertans

Our Mission

The Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network partners with Albertans to achieve excellence in sustainable quality kidney care and outcomes. Through innovation and use of best evidence, we will optimize prevention, early identification and appropriate management across all ages and stages of kidney health.

In this edition:

- Advisor's Voice2
- Scientific Office4
- Transformational Roadmap progress and partners4
- Primary care resources8
- Connect Care9
- Events calendar ... 10



Kidney Health
Strategic Clinical
Network™

The Advisor's Voice

The system has become aware of the fact that it needs to better understand how patients are experiencing it. I'd like to see advisors involved in deeper and deeper levels of decision making. The potential impact that Alberta Health Services can make is enormous. Every Albertan is touched by health care and every organization has a vested interest in the health of its staff, members and/or clients. The Strategic Clinical Networks have started something uniquely game changing. The Kidney Health SCN has a unique appreciation for the special intersection of "patients plus urgency"...and we are only beginning to tap the potential. Great start. Don't stop. Ever!

Mike Simoens, Patient Advisor



Let us know...

Tell us what are you doing to engage patients and families at

kidneyhealth.scn@ahs.ca

Patients Advising: Dialysis Care



Patient interest in Kidney Services (PiKS) is a patient, family and supporter interest group primarily centered on helping people to live well with dialysis. It is a **Can-SOLVE** research pilot aimed at initiating, developing, and evaluating a patient engagement program.

PiKS provides a forum and supports a network through which the dialysis community can work together and be a force for action and improvement.

We recognize that there are many patients and families **living well** with kidney disease and that their knowledge and experiences are likely to be useful to others. PiKS provides a forum and community network through which people living with hemodialysis can support each other and work together to inform and improve healthcare services.



For more information

visit the [PiKS website](#) or to e-mail dialysisxchange@outlook.com

The Kidney Health SCN Scientific Office



Health SCN.

Marni completed her PhD at the University of Calgary in 2015 in Cardiovascular Science with a Thesis topic of **“improving access and adherence to exercise in people with Diabetes”**.

Marni has recently returned to Calgary from Pittsburgh, PA where her post-doctoral work focused on diabetes prevention working with care providers from the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) in their community translation trials targeting under-served populations.

Since joining the Kidney Health SCN, Marni has been working with our Scientific co-Directors, Drs. Klarenbach and Pannu, to advance the work of the Scientific Office.

The Kidney Health SCN welcomed Marni Armstrong, PhD to the Network in the role of the Assistant Scientific Director in the fall of 2017.

Marni’s role entails providing leadership in enhancing the quantity and scientific quality of research activities. She also actively promotes the scientific process and sound application of scientific methods to support research activities aligning with the priorities of the Kidney

Kidney Health SCN Scientific Office work to date:

- Developing a process for reporting on approved provincial kidney health indicators
- Completed an environmental scan of kidney research and researchers in Alberta
- Building connections with the research community
- Supported Kidney Health researchers on recent research funding applications



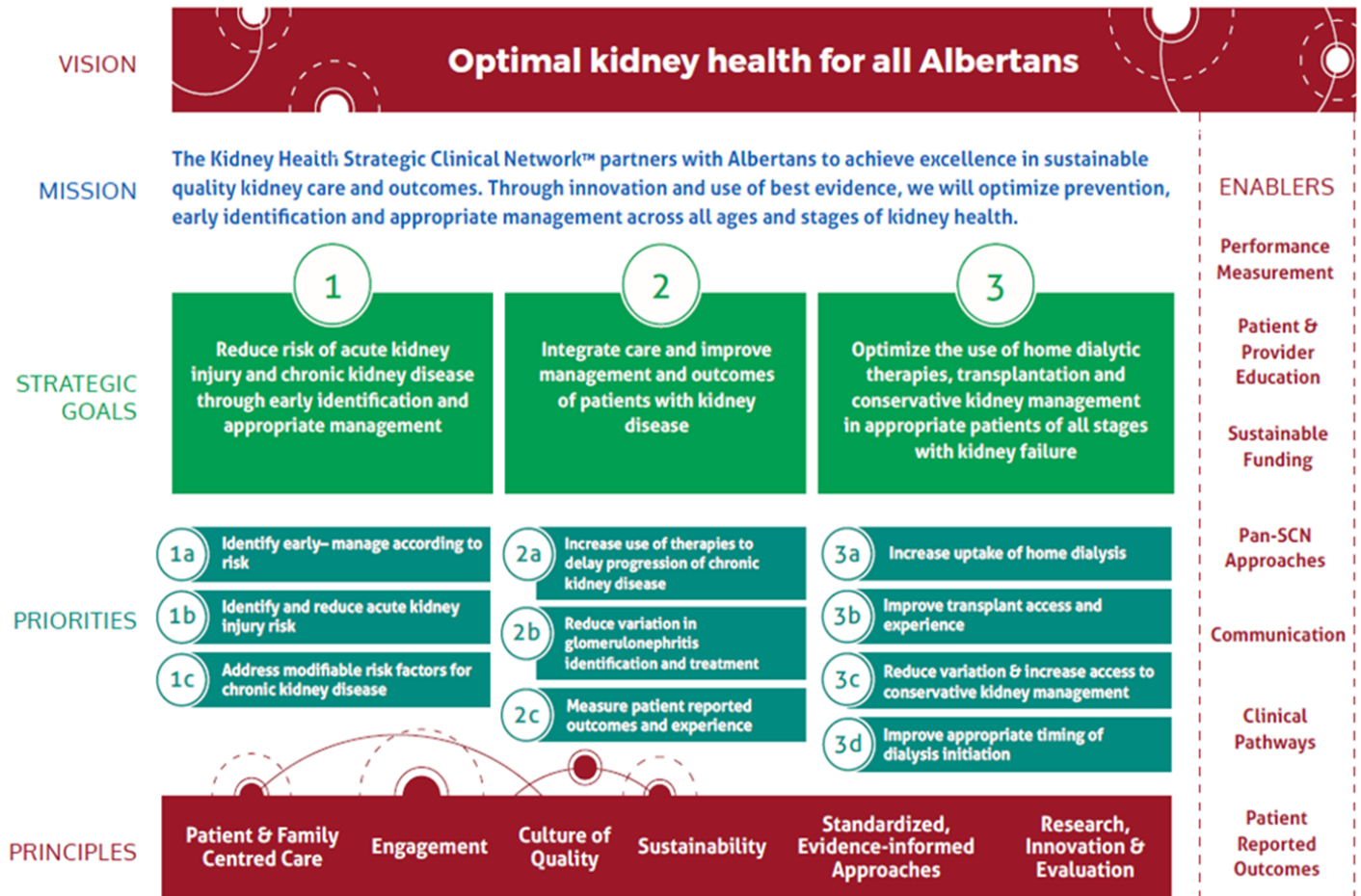
Please direct your questions for the Kidney Health SCN Scientific Office to kidneyhealth.scn@ahs.ca

Research funding awards for kidney health partners

The Kidney Health SCN would like to recognize our research partners who recently received funding support from the Canadian Institute of Health Research and the Kidney Foundation of Canada. More information on many of the projects is available by clicking on the project title in the table below.

Project Title	Principal Investigator
Implementation and Evaluation of an Innovative Integrated Conservative (Non-Dialysis) Kidney Management (CKM) Pathway by Primary Care Across Alberta	Sara Davison
Living Kidney Donor Follow-up and Outcomes: Caring for Those Who Care for Others	Ngan Lam
The Effect of Exercise on Hypertension in Chronic Kidney Disease: a randomized control trial	Stephanie Thompson
Evaluating innovations in transition to adult care: Transition Navigator Trial	Susan Samuel
Development grant: The Development, Implementation and Evaluation of an Innovative Integrated Supportive Care Pathway by Primary Care across Alberta	Sara Davison
Preventable Acute Care Spending Among High System Users	Paul Ronksley
Predicting emergency department use among patients receiving hemodialysis care	Paul Ronksley

Kidney Health SCN transformational road map (TRM): progress notes



In this issue of the **Kidney Times**, we feature the progress of the Conservative Kidney Management (CKM) Project, the Starting dialysis on Time At home on the Right Therapy (START) project and update you on work of the Enhancing Clinical Decision Support for Prevention of Contrast Induced Acute Kidney Injury in Cardiac Catheterization aligning with Kidney Health SCN's Strategic Goals to:

- Reduce the risk of acute kidney injury and chronic kidney disease through early identification and appropriate management and
- Optimize the use of home dialytic therapies, transplantation and conservative kidney management.

TRM Progress, Projects and Partners



Provincial Conservative Kidney Management (CKM) Pathway: Living well without dialysis

Patients over 75 years are the most rapidly growing group of persons starting dialysis. Certain frail elderly patients managed without dialysis may live as long as patients who elect to start dialysis, with better preservation of physical and cognitive function and quality of life, no burden associated with the dialysis procedure, fewer admissions to acute care settings, and can remain in their home communities.

The Kidney Supportive Care Research Group, in partnership with the Kidney Health SCN, launched a provincial Conservative Kidney Management (CKM) clinical pathway in September 2016 to improve, standardize and evaluate care for patients with advanced chronic kidney disease who are unlikely to benefit from dialysis and have chosen CKM.

The interactive online CKM Pathway is designed to empower families, patients, clinicians and communities to develop **individualized integrated care plans** aligned with patient values, preferences and prognosis. It includes a **decision aid** that helps patients explore their treatment options, clinical guidelines, patient education materials and supportive tools such as a crisis action plans.

Development and evaluation

- **Broad stakeholder engagement** was used to support the development, implementation and ongoing evaluation of the CKM pathway.
- Stakeholders from across Alberta including, patients and families continue to provide feedback ensuring the pathway is responsive to end-users needs

- Data are being collected and analyzed throughout the project to evaluate the successes of the [CKM Clinical Pathway](#) across the six quality dimensions
- Balanced scorecards with real-time data are being used to track performance and target areas for improvement

The CKM pathway continues to undergo evaluation and will continue to evolve **based on these evaluations**. Clinical results associated with the [CKM Clinical Pathway](#) will be available very soon.

Future Directions

The project team is collaborating with e-Consultation team to support primary care physicians caring for CKM patients.

We are working to scale and spread the implementation of the CKM Pathway to the Primary Care Networks.

We are collaborating with Strategic Clinical Networks to model the CKM Pathway for a common advanced supportive care pathway that will address the needs of all frail patients with advanced chronic diseases.

Celebrating Achievements

Recently, the four pilot clinics were recognized for their innovative work on the CKM project when they won an AHS **Great Teams. Great Care Award**.



Access the [CKM clinical pathway](#) and resources at www.CKMcare.com

TRM Progress, Projects and Partners



Starting dialysis on Time At home on the Right Therapy

The START project aims to optimize peritoneal dialysis and reduce inappropriate early dialysis initiation.

START Project Highlights:

Over the course of the past 12 months, staff from Chronic Kidney Disease Clinics across the province participated in a series of three Innovation Collaborative learning workshops, where they used data to identify areas for improvement and developed and monitored action plans to make practice changes in their local environments.

Through the course of the START project, there have been a number of successes including:

- a three percent decrease in outpatients starting dialysis early compared to the baseline observed prior to beginning the START Project

- Nearly all patients who were deemed eligible for Peritoneal Dialysis were offered this therapy
- Eighty-four percent of persons choosing Peritoneal Dialysis received this therapy within the first six months of starting dialysis
- Since the introduction of the START Project, there has been a 10% increase in the number of new patients receiving Peritoneal Dialysis within six months of initiating dialysis compared to baseline observed prior to beginning the START Project.

As the project comes to a close, the project team is working with our clinical operations partners on transition and sustainability plans to maintain the momentum created within the project.



For more information on the **START Project**, visit the Kidney Health SCN website and share your comments and feedback at kidneyhealth.scn@ahs.ca

START Team nominated for President's Excellence Award



Congratulations to all members on the START team on your nomination for the [President's Excellence awards](#) in the Quality Improvement category.

Teams from Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton (Grey Nuns, Royal Alex and University Hospital) participated in this project with the support of Southern and Northern Alberta Programs leadership. The teams were supported by the KHSCN project staff and leadership. Front line teams were empowered to make local process and practice changes to achieve the project objectives.

TRM Progress, Projects and Partners

New Clinical Knowledge Topic released:

“Acute Kidney Injury, Adult— Inpatient”

Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) is a common and increasingly frequent complication of hospitalization in Canada, occurring in 10-30% of all medical and surgical hospital admissions. The risk for Acute Kidney Injury rises with patient age, pre-existing conditions and exposure to major procedures while in the hospital. When recognized early, Acute Kidney Injury can be typically be reversed. However, when it goes unrecognized in its early stages, it can progress into advanced stages of kidney disease, requiring more specialized care, longer hospital stays and high costs.

The new Clinical Knowledge Topic (CKT) released by Clinical Knowledge & Content Management (CKCM) focuses on the early recognition and responses to Acute Kidney Injury, informed by Canadian and Global guidelines in the subject. The topic includes aids in decision making, risk assessment tools and clinical decision support and more.

This Clinical Knowledge Topic was developed under the leadership of Clinical Knowledge & Content Management Clinical Knowledge Leads, Dr. Evan Minty, Dr. Eliana Castillo, and Dr. Benjamin Sugars as well as Topic Lead, Dr. Matthew James.

Development was also supported by a Working Group of clinical experts from all health zones in Alberta and many others. The clinical decision support tools for Acute Kidney Injury are now being implemented into care processes at several hospital locations in Edmonton and Calgary, to deliver this knowledge into care.

This work, facilitated by the Clinical Knowledge & Content Management Service and supported by the Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network, is part of the Connect Care Initiative, supporting better health, powered by information.

For more information, e-mail us: ckcm@ahs.ca



For more information on the research supporting this new Clinical Knowledge Topic, refer to the Enhancing Clinical Decision Support for Prevention of Contrast Induced [Acute Kidney Injury in Cardiac Catheterization newsletter](#)

Connect Care Area Councils established

The Renal Area Council under, the direction of Dr. Branko Braam and Janice Stewart, and the Transplant Area Council, under the direction of Sherry Buckle and Dr. Darren Freed, have been established. These area councils will be tasked with

- identifying clinical priorities for standards and consistent practice across the province
- Acting as ambassadors and change agents to support implementation
- Providing an escalation and decision point for design issues
- Offering long term support for the ongoing optimization and use of the clinical information system
- Addressing professional and practice issues specific to provincial clinical service delivery and support areas

The Area Councils are in their formative stages. We look forward to reporting on their progress in future issues of our newsletter.

Ongoing updates on Connect Care are available on the [Connect Care website](#)

Primary Care Resources



This Group Learning program has been certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for up to **2 Mainpro+ credits.**

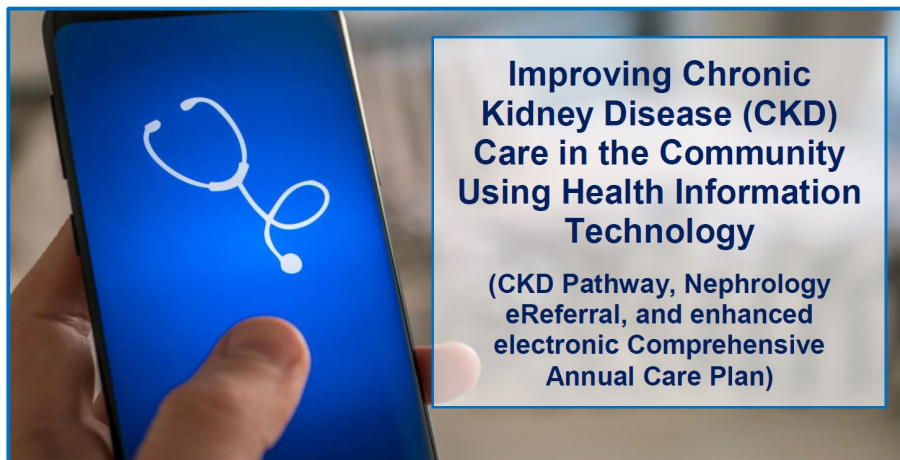


Participation Requirements:

- ✓ Completion of online pre-workshop survey
- ✓ Completion of online post-workshop survey



- ✓ **Laptop or Tablet** with ability to connect to the [CKD Pathway](#) and [eReferral portal](#)



Improving Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Care in the Community Using Health Information Technology

(CKD Pathway, Nephrology eReferral, and enhanced electronic Comprehensive Annual Care Plan)

The Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network is pleased to partner with the Nephrology Research Groups at the Universities of Calgary and Alberta to offer this learning workshop to staff working within Primary Care Networks (PCN) throughout the province.

Primary Target Audiences:

Primary care physicians, residents, nurses, pharmacists, clinic managers, referral coordinators, clinic assistants and other interested individuals.

Workshop Description:

This interactive workshop focuses on tools to support appropriate identification, medical management and referral of patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) including the [CKD Pathway](#) and Nephrology Advice Request. We will also discuss strategies to leverage existing disease management dashboards or queries to proactively identify and recall Comprehensive Annual Care Plan (CACP) eligible patients (depending on EMR functionality).

During this workshop, primary care professionals will interact with these integrated health technology tools to improve care delivery and outcomes for patients with chronic kidney disease.

Participants will learn how to access these evidence-informed point-of-care tools and will engage in active learning exercises such as case studies, guided tool usage, and group work.

Interactive workshops range in length between 1 hour to 1½ hours and are available either in-person, or via videoconference.

Participants must complete all pre- and post-course activities in order to be awarded full credits.

If you are interested in scheduling a workshop or if you would like more information, contact us at kidneyhealth.scn@ahs.ca



CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE (CKD) RESOURCES FOR YOUR FAMILY DOCTOR



Online CKD Clinical Pathway provides guidance and support in the identification, management, and appropriate referral of patients with kidney disease.

www.ckdpathway.ca

The Comprehensive Annual Care Plan (CACP) can be completed by physicians along with patients to help manage complex diseases



Patients with kidney disease can be identified using **TELUS Health EMRs** that have been enhanced to support ongoing monitoring using current guidelines.

This point-of-care resource allows doctors to integrate CKD-specific goals, medically manage and appropriately refer patients to a kidney specialist, and access patient handouts.

Netcare eReferral can be used to obtain Nephrology Advice.



This secure portal allows doctors to submit requests for consults and obtain advice from kidney specialists, thus reducing wait times and unnecessary referrals.

 ckdpathway@ucalgary.ca



Alberta Kidney Days

We'd like to thank all of our planning committee members, Alberta Kidney Care, our sponsors, our participants, our presenters, and our patient partners for making Alberta Kidney Days 2018, Connections Across the Care Continuum, a huge success! For a full listing of the program, or if you would like to access the presentations from the symposium, please visit the [conference website](#).

You are encouraged to join the planning team for the next Alberta Kidney Days.

If you want to be a part of this dynamic group, or if you have suggestions for future topics, please drop us a line at kidneyhealth.scn@ahs.ca

[Infection Prevention and Control Canada,](#)

National Education Conference
May 27-30 2018 Banff AB.

This conference comes to Alberta only once every 10 years.

You are invited to explore the [program](#)

For more information on the program or IPAC, e-mail

info@ipac-canada.org



Alberta Kidney Days

Symposium Highlights:



Two-day total of 336 attendees

A wide range of topic areas were covered including



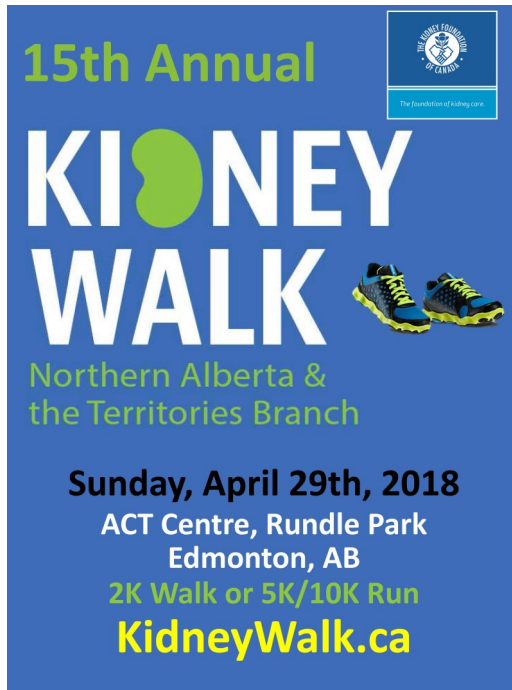
- Conservative kidney management
- Kidney transplant
- Optimizing home therapies
- Quality hemodialysis care
- Integrated primary and specialty care

For a full list of topics and speakers, consult the [conference program](#)



Evaluations were very positive; we will use your feedback to shape our future Alberta Kidney Days

Events calendar



15th Annual
KIDNEY WALK
Northern Alberta & the Territories Branch
Sunday, April 29th, 2018
ACT Centre, Rundle Park
Edmonton, AB
2K Walk or 5K/10K Run
KidneyWalk.ca

Kidney Foundation Northern Alberta and Territories Branch [Kidney Walk](#)

Sunday April 29, 2018

ACT Centre, Rundle Park, Edmonton

You still have time to [register](#) or [donate](#) to a team or an individual.



Kidney March

September 7-9, 2018

3 Days, 100 km,

K-Country to Calgary

[Register](#) as a marcher



KIDNEY WALK

[Lethbridge Kidney Walk](#)

Saturday, May 12, 2018 starting at 10:00 am

[Medicine Hat Kidney Walk](#)

Saturday, May 26, 2018 starting at 10:00 am