

D

DETAILS

N

NEWS

A

AWARDS

FOCUS on Research

The Kidney Health Research Collaborative

What is the Kidney Health Research Collaborative (KHRC)?

The KHRC is an innovation hub based at the SFVAHCS and UCSF whose mission is to improve kidney health worldwide. The KHRC's team of researchers believe that a multidisciplinary, collaborative research program can foster innovation to improve the lives of those affected by kidney disease, and they are committed to making kidney disease preventable and reversible.

What are the goals of the KHRC?

Their ambitious goals are matched by their energy and passion. They are working to build the leading clinical research center dedicated to accelerating scientific discovery to prevent and treat kidney disease. A key component of this is providing world-class mentorship and training for the next generation of kidney scientists. They emphasize the rapid dissemination and implementation of novel methods that will decrease the burden of kidney disease.

How does their collaborative model work?

KHRC co-founders Dr. Michael Shlipak, and Dr. Carmen A. Peralta believe that "innovation is a social process." They describe the collaborative model as "Team Science" where resources can be shared to improve efficiency and scale. The multidisciplinary team of core investigators, fellows, residents, students, and a statistical and operations core work closely with leading investigators in basic science, laboratory and chemical sciences, genetics, nephrology, vascular physiology, epidemiology, biostatistics, implementation sciences and population health.



The Kidney Health Research Collaborative Team

In other research settings, principal investigators' relationships with young investigators tend to be fairly restrictive and at times siloed. The KHRC provides a more flexible model in which members of the team interact throughout the research process with a common goal and mission. Each trainee draws upon the knowledge, skills, and resources of all of the investigators.

Their training philosophy is integral to how the collaborative works. It is founded on a commitment to support passionate young investigators and to embed mentorship and talent development in all steps of the discovery process. This model maximizes creative potential and provides trainees with the supportive environment required to be productive and contributing members of the research team.

The collaborative is also a laboratory for ideas and has the feel of a startup. Open exchange is essential to their scientific process, which is evident in how they discuss their work as well as their office lay out and environment.

"Ideas have to ping pong," stressed Dr. Michael Shlipak. This is a unique model in academic research, and they are clearly proud of what they have created.

