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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### Annual conference highlights research findings and other issues concerning kidney disease

*Vancouver, BC* – A recent BC-based study found that the ethnicity of a patient with kidney disease could determine how quickly their disease will progress to the point where they will need dialysis.

These findings and a variety of other presentations concerning kidney disease will be featured at the BC Nephrology Days conference, **October 7 and 8** at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver. Sponsored by the BC Provincial Renal Agency (BCPRA), this annual conference brings together experts and health care practitioners from across the province and the country to discuss the latest issues related to kidney disease and chronic disease management.

Another conference presentation will explore the importance of **online support groups** for patients with a chronic disease. Recent research with adolescent patients and parents of children and youth with kidney disease has shown that online support groups can create virtual communities that reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation. They also enable supportive information sharing, and provide a venue for adolescents and parents to discuss living with kidney disease.

This year's conference also includes presentations on dementia and promoting brain health for patients with chronic disease, the kidney transplant living donor paired exchange program, ethical issues in caring for young adults with kidney disease, and the use of high potency vitamins for managing chronic kidney disease.

In British Columbia, an estimated 200,000 people live with some level of kidney disease. Strongly associated with such other chronic health conditions as diabetes and heart disease, kidney disease is one of the fastest growing health concerns in BC, due in part to our aging population.

For more information about BC Nephrology Days, visit [www.bcrenalagency.ca](http://www.bcrenalagency.ca).

To arrange an interview with any of the presenters or other health experts attending the conference, contact Kevin Noel at 604-873-1353 or 604-908-0810 (cell).