



January 23, 2025

# Building Authentic Partnerships with Patient and Community Partners: Cultivating Communities to Engage in Research



Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

**SickKids**<sup>®</sup> | Research  
Training Centre

# **Building Authentic Partnerships with Patient and Community Partners**

RTC-Leong Centre Collaboration Panel Presentation

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Co-Lead Ontario Child Health SUPPORT Unit (OCHSU)  
Senior Scientist, CHES Program, SickKids Research Institute



CIHR IRSC




Canadian Institutes of Health Research    Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research

**S** **P** **O** **R**

*Putting Patients First* 



 Canadian Institutes of Health Research    Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada



## ***CIHR DEFINITION OF PATIENT-ORIENTED RESEARCH***

*Engaging patients, caregivers, and families as partners in the research process, leading to meaningful and active collaboration in governance, priority setting, conducting research, and knowledge translation.*

*'Patient'* is an overarching term, inclusive of individuals with personal experience of a health issue as well as caregivers, including family and friends.



# What is the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research?

<p>Patient-oriented research transforms patients and their families from <b>passive recipients</b> of health services</p> 	<p><b>To make patient-oriented research a reality, partnerships were formed between:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canadian Institutes of Health Research</li> <li>• Provinces and territories</li> <li>• Philanthropic organizations</li> <li>• Academic institutions</li> <li>• Health charities</li> <li>• Industry</li> <li>• Patients</li> <li>• Clinicians</li> </ul>	<p><b>The result was</b></p> 
<p>into <b>proactive partners</b> who help shape health research and health care.</p> 		

## What does SPOR do?

<p>It funds research in areas of importance to patients.</p> 	<p>It creates hubs of expertise in the provinces and territories that unite patients, caregivers, families, policy-makers, and health care providers.</p> 	<p>It builds capacity in patient-oriented research and promotes patient engagement.</p> 
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## What will SPOR achieve?

<p>For patients, it means having a say in which health topics are researched.</p> 	<p>For researchers, it means benefiting from the perspectives and experiences of patients.</p> 	<p>For the health care system, it means having access to the research evidence that decision-makers and health care providers need to improve care.</p> 
<p>For more information on SPOR, please visit <a href="http://cihr-irsc.gc.ca">cihr-irsc.gc.ca</a></p>		

## SPOR National Research Networks



## SPOR Enabling Functions



STRENGTHENING CLINICAL TRIALS FOR CANADIANS  
RENFORCEMENT DES ESSAIS CLINIQUES POUR LES CANADIENS



**SPOR National  
Training Entity**

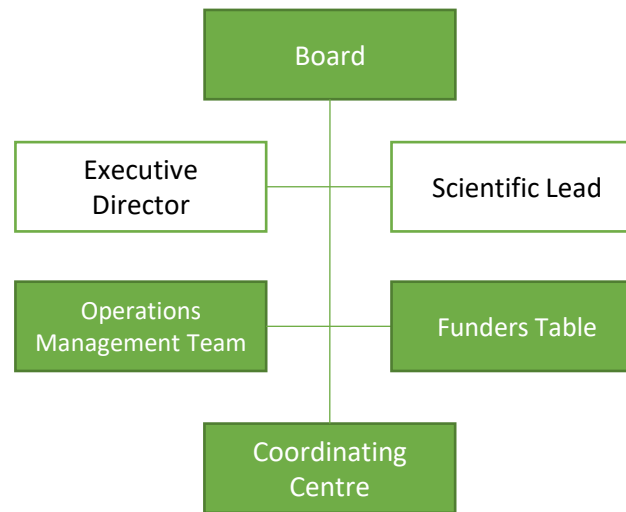
# SPOR SUPPORT Units



Support for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials (SUPPORT) Units



## OSSU Governance



## Core Component Working Groups



## 14 Research Centres



## OSSU Initiatives

<i>Office of Spread and Scale (Digital Health &amp; Implementation Science Initiative)</i>
<i>Fairness is Excellence Initiative (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)</i>
<i>Indigenous (Métis/Inuit) Initiative</i>
<i>Mental Health &amp; Addictions Research Initiative</i>
<i>Ontario Francophone Communities Research Initiative</i>
<i>Public and Patient Engagement Collaborative</i>
<i>Sex and Gender Plus Research Support</i>
<i>Training and Capacity Building Initiative</i>



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# Ontario Child Health Support Unit



**OCHSU**

ONTARIO CHILD HEALTH SUPPORT UNIT  
*better research - better care - better outcomes*



# OCHSU Support to PIs and Trainees

## 1. METHODOLOGICAL SUPPORT

- 793 research methods consultations for patient-oriented research projects
  - \$39 million in new research funding; 220 peer-reviewed publications

## 2. PATIENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN CHILD HEALTH RESEARCH

- Research Family Advisory Committee at SickKids and Patient and Family Advisory Committee at CHEO
  - 40 patient/family research advisors at SickKids, 52 family leaders at CHEO
- 270 consultations with researchers on patient engagement in research

## 3. BUILDING CAPACITY IN PATIENT-ORIENTED RESEARCH IN CHILD HEALTH

- Symposia, Seminars, Online Resources on patient-oriented research in child health

**SickKids® Patient Engagement in Research Program**

The Patient Engagement in Research Program is a series of services and supports offered by Clinical Research Services, that will help SickKids research teams efficiently engage with patients & families in the research process.

To find out more about the **Patient Engagement in Research Program**, please email [ask.csr@sickkids.ca](mailto:ask.csr@sickkids.ca)

- ADVISOR MATCHING**  
Request advisors from the Family Advisory Network (FAN) with lived experience and trained in research advisory
- DOCUMENT REVIEWS**  
Obtain written feedback and comments on grant proposals, consent/assent, recruitment material, and dissemination materials
- RFAC CONSULTS**  
Request support from The Research Family Advisory Committee (RFAC). Obtain input on research studies, grants and proposals from a group of researchers, clinicians, former patients and family members.
- EVALUATION SUPPORT**  
Support is available to help evaluate your current engagement practices
- TRAINING**  
Obtain customized training for research team members and advisors
- CONSULTING SUPPORT**  
Obtain customized consulting support unique to your teams needs

Buchanan et al.  
Research Involvement and Engagement (2022) 8:2  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40900-022-00335-z>

Research Involvement  
and Engagement

COMMENTARY

Open Access

The Research Family Advisory Committee: the patient and family view of implementing a research-focused patient engagement strategy

Francine Buchanan<sup>1\*</sup>, Amy Peasgood<sup>1</sup>, Megan Easton<sup>1</sup>, Karen Haas<sup>1</sup> and Unni Narayanan<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

**ACTION** IN CHILD HEALTH RESEARCH  
SYMPOSIUM  
ADVANCING COLLABORATIVE TRANSFORMATION IN ONTARIO

**PORCCH**

HOME ABOUT MODULES REGISTER LOGIN

**Patient-Oriented Research Curriculum  
In Child Health**

**Over 100  
child health  
datasets  
included**



Child Health Datasets

# Child Health Datasets

Are we missing a dataset? **Tell Us**

The Child Health Dataset is a searchable inventory of datasets related to child health and health care. The inventory will be updated periodically to ensure the information remains live, pertinent, and a growing resource for researchers interested in child health research. If you know of datasets that are missing, please use the button in the top right to advise us.

Please note that this inventory does not provide access to the data.

Can add multiple search terms (AND/OR/NOT)

Either or (Pan Canadian or Ontario only – single choice)

Clear selections for new search

Search: Anywhere, Title, Description, Keywords (hidden)

Dataset categories (multiple choice)

Search:  in Anywhere

Add Row >>

Refine by:

Categories:

- Acquired Cohorts / Registries
- Health Services Administrative Data
- Population & Demographics
- Care Providers
- ICES-derived cohort
- Registry
- Health Services
- People & Geography
- Survey

Geography:

- Pan Canadian
- Ontario Only

Date Range: Earliest To Present

Ages:

- 0 to 4
- 5 to 9
- 10 to 14
- 15 to 19

[Need help getting started?](#)

**New In OCHSU:** 05/25/2016  
Child Health Datasets inventory uploaded

<http://www.ochsu.ca/en/OCHSUDatasets>



**PORCCH**

<https://porcch.ca/>

## Patient-Oriented Research Curriculum in Child Health

The PORCCH modules are free and can be completed by anyone interested in learning more about patient-oriented research. Click on the “Register” tab to create your account. Once you have registered, you can access each module by clicking on the “View Module” button.



### Research 101 Part 1: What is Health Research and Who is Involved?

Research 101 provides an overview of key concepts in health research. It is primarily intended for patients and families, or those without a formal background in research. In this module, which is Part 1, we will introduce you to patient-oriented health research and the key players involved. This module will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

[VIEW MODULE](#)



### Research 101 Part 2: Timeline of a Research Study

Research 101 provides an overview of key concepts in health research. It is primarily intended for patients and families, or individuals without a formal background in research. In this module, which is Part 2, we will describe the key stages of a research study, how patients and families can get involved, and the challenges and benefits of patient-oriented child health research. This module will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

[VIEW MODULE](#)



### Patient Engagement 101 Part 1: Foundations of Patient Engagement

Patient Engagement 101 is a summary of the key concepts of effective patient engagement in child health research. It is primarily intended for clinicians and researchers but can be taken by anyone interested in learning more about effective patient engagement. If you are new to research, we recommend completing Research 101 first. In this module, which is Part 1, we describe foundational concepts of patient engagement in child health research. This module will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

[VIEW MODULE](#)



### Patient Engagement 101 Part 2: Patient Engagement in Practice

Patient Engagement 101 is an overview of the key concepts of effective patient engagement in child health research. It is primarily intended for clinicians and researchers but can be taken by anyone interested in learning more about effective patient engagement. If you are new to research, we recommend completing Research 101 first. In this module, which is Part 2, we focus on the practical aspects of patient engagement in child health research. This module will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

[VIEW MODULE](#)

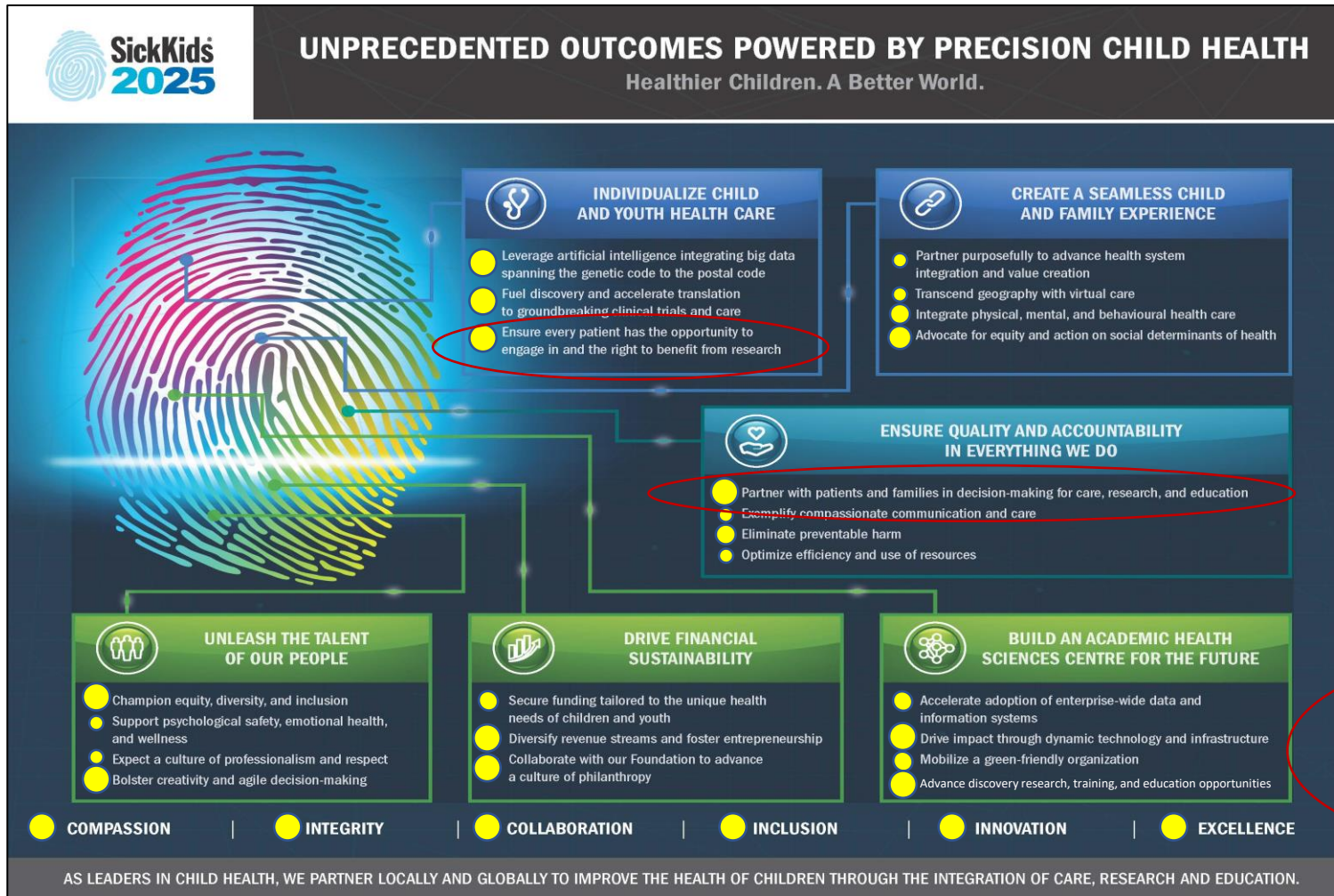


### Research Ethics 101

Research Ethics 101 is a general introduction to research ethics and highlights ethical issues in patient-oriented research in child health. It is primarily intended for patients and families but can be taken by anyone interested in learning more about ethics and patient-oriented research. This module will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

[VIEW MODULE](#)

# SickKids Strategic Plan – “SickKids 2025”



**Corporate Scorecard KPI:**  
# of studies with engagement of patient partners as advisors

Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research

**SPOR**

Putting Patients First 

## ONLINE RESOURCES

CIHR SPOR: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/41204.html>

PASSARELLE: <https://passerelle-nte.ca/en/>

OSSU: <https://ossu.ca/>

OCHSU: <https://www.ochsu.ca/en/OCHSU>

PORCCH: <https://porcch.ca/>

PCORI: <https://www.pcori.org/>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RECOMMENDED READING

Macarthur C, Walsh C, Karoly A, Buchanan F, Jones N. Development of the Patient-Oriented Research Curriculum in Child Health (PORCCH). *Research Involvement and Engagement* 2021;7:27 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40900-021-00276-z>.

Walsh C, Jones L, McCreath G, Connan V, Pires L, Chen A, Karoly A, Macarthur C. Co-Development and Usability Testing of Research 101: A Patient-Oriented Research Curriculum in Child Health (PORCCH) E-Learning Module for Patients and Families. *Frontiers in Pediatrics* 2022, 10:849959. doi: 10.3389/fped.2022.849959.

Walsh C, Jones L, McCreath G, Connan V, Pires L, Abuloghod L, Buchanan F, Macarthur C. Co-Development and Usability Testing of Patient Engagement 101: A Patient-Oriented Research Curriculum in Child Health (PORCCH) E-Learning Module for Healthcare Professionals, Researchers, and Trainees. *CMAJ Open* 2022;10(4):e872-e881. DOI:10.9778/cmajo.20210336.

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Aubin D, Hebert M, Eurich D. The importance of measuring the impact of patient-oriented research. *CMAJ*. 2019;191:e860-864.

Staniszewska S, Brett J, Simera I, et al. GRIPP2 reporting checklists: tools to improve reporting of patient and public involvement in research. *BMJ* 2017;358:j3453 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.j3453>

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Gill PJ, Bayliss A, Sozer A, Buchanan F, Breen-Reid K, De Castris-Garcia K, Green M, Quinlan M, Wong N, Frappier S, Cowan K, Chan C, Arafah D, Anwar MR, Macarthur C, Parkin P, Cohen E, Mahant S. Patient, caregiver, and clinician participation in prioritization of research questions in pediatric hospital medicine. *JAMA Network Open*. 2022;5(4):e229085. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.9085.

Vanderhout SM, Bhalla M, Van A, Fergusson DA, Potter BK, Karoly A, Ly V, Macarthur C. The impact of patient and family engagement in child health research: A scoping review. *J Pediatrics* 2023;253:115-28. [doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2022.09.030](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2022.09.030).

Vanderhout S, Richards DP, Butcher N, Courtney K, Nicholls SG, Fergusson D, Potter B, Bhalla M, Nevins P, Fox G, Ly V, Taljaard M, Macarthur C. Prevalence of patient partner authorship and acknowledgment in child health research publications: an umbrella review. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2023;164:35-44. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2023.10.012.

# AUTHENTIC PATIENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

a paradigm shift in health research

**Dalya Kablawi (she/her)**  
Program Coordinator, Research Engagements  
Office of Patient, Family and Community Engagement

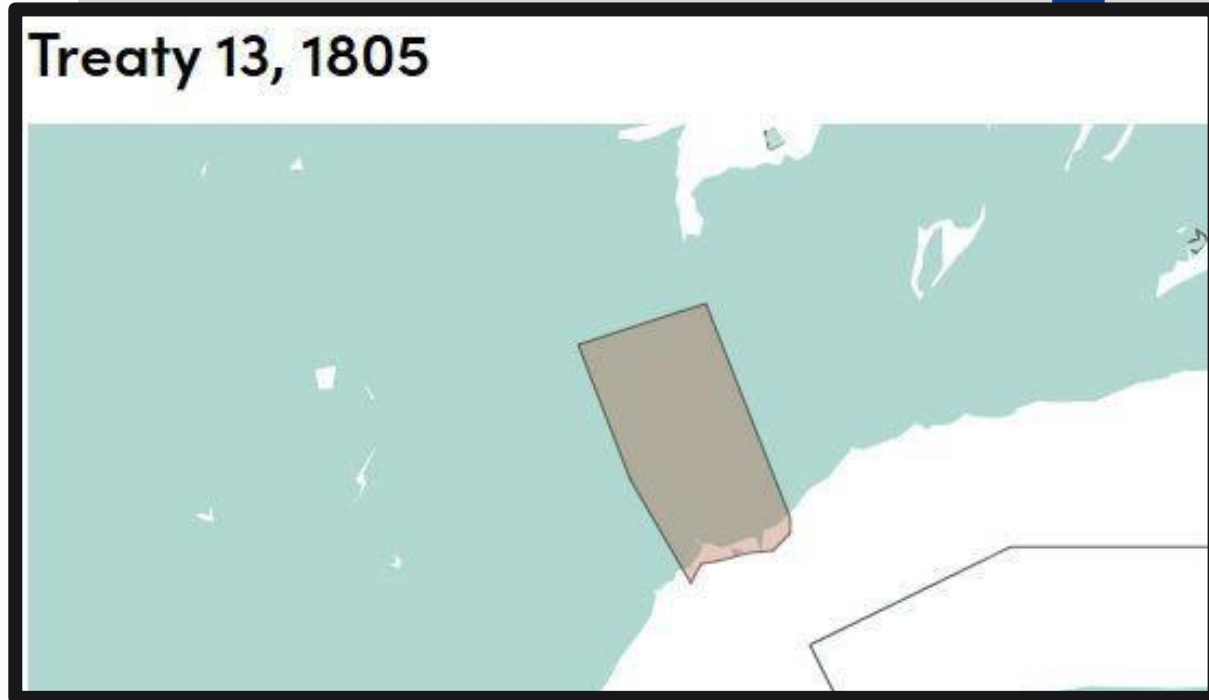
**23 January, 2025**



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded and unsurrendered ancestral territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples.

We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.





# DALYA KABLAWI

she/her

Program Coordinator,  
Research Engagements

Office of Patient, Family and Community Engagement

[dalya.kablawi@sickkids.ca](mailto:dalya.kablawi@sickkids.ca)



# SESSION OBJECTIVES



**Background & Evidence**



**Strategies for Effective Engagement**



**Avoiding Tokenism**



**Evaluation**



**Resources & Support**

# BACKGROUND & EVIDENCE

what is engagement and why is it important?



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Star Columnists Editorials **Contributors** Letters To The Editor Editorial Cartoons

**CONTRIBUTORS** **OPINION**

## To better help kids with disabilities, Canada should prioritize meaningful 'patient partner' health research

I have been asked to participate in dozens of research projects for children with autism. I became increasingly disappointed by the imbalance.

By **Sharon McCarry** Contributor  
Sun., March 13, 2022 | 2 min. read

Teela *et al.*  
*Journal of Patient-Reported Outcomes* (2023) 7:32  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s41687-023-00566-y>

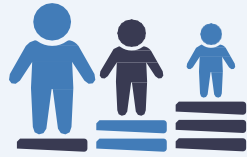
Journal of Patient-Reported Outcomes

**REVIEW** Open Access

**Pediatric patient engagement in clinical care, research and intervention development: a scoping review** Check for updates

Lorynn Teela<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Lieke E. Verhagen<sup>1</sup>, Hedy A. van Oers<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Esmée E. W. Kramer<sup>1</sup>, Joost G. Daams<sup>4</sup>, Mariken P. Gruppen<sup>5</sup>, Maria J. Santana<sup>6,7</sup>, Martha A. Grootenhuis<sup>8</sup> and Lotte Haverman<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>

# VALUE OF ENGAGEMENT



## advancing health equity

including and uplifting perspectives of marginalized communities will build trust in research findings and improve historically inequitable health outcomes



## increasing relevance & impact

engaging community members ensures research reflects unique experiences, challenges and needs in relevant patient and caregiver population



## generating innovative insights

inspiring creative viewpoints to research design, implementation, and interpretation and can lead to innovative solutions that may not emerge from traditional research approaches

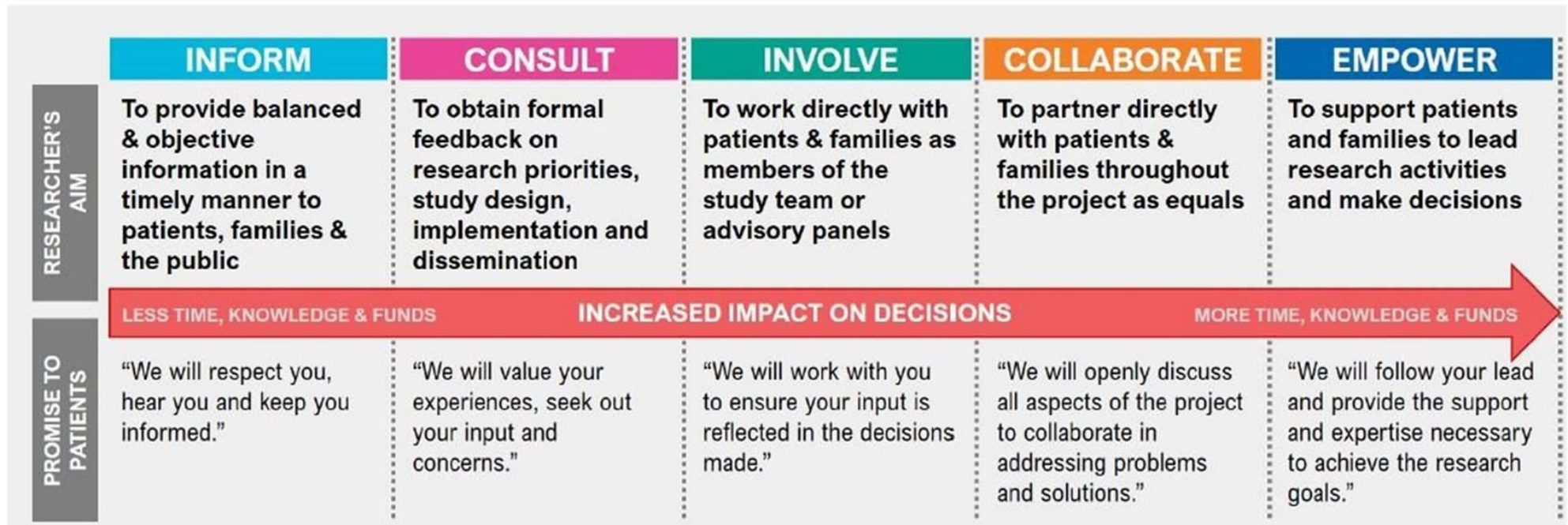
# IAP2 SPECTRUM OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

# ADAPTATION: HEALTH RESEARCH ENGAGEMENTS

## SPECTRUM OF PATIENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN HEALTH RESEARCH



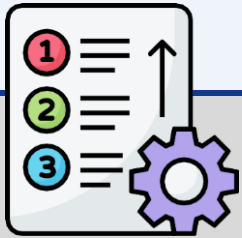
Adapted from IAP2 (2007) and Amirav I, Vandall-walker V, Rasiah J, Saunders L. (2017)



# STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT

when and how to engage patient and community partners

# IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT



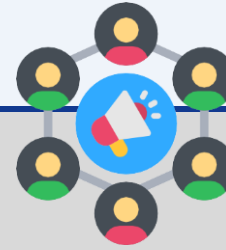
## priority setting

- James Lind Alliance priority setting exercise



## document review

- Consent/assent forms
- Study protocols



## knowledge dissemination

- Conference presentation
- Co-authorship in publications



## data analysis

- Coding and thematic analysis
- Co-interpretation of data



## participant interviews

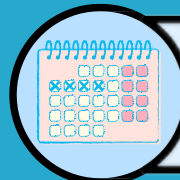
- Co-development of interview questions



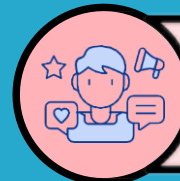
## participant recruitment strategies

- Co-designing and validating digital material for recruitment
- Sharing research participation opportunities in local networks

# CONNECTION & COMMUNICATION



**Investment of time and capacity**



**Diverse outreach efforts**



**Accessible language and mutual respect**



**Transparency around research process**



**Regular updates and touchpoints**



**Feedback loops and grievance processes**



# ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNANCE

# DATA ACCESS & GOVERNANCE



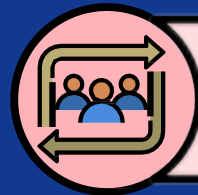
Clear agreements about data privacy and usage



OCAP principles of data sovereignty



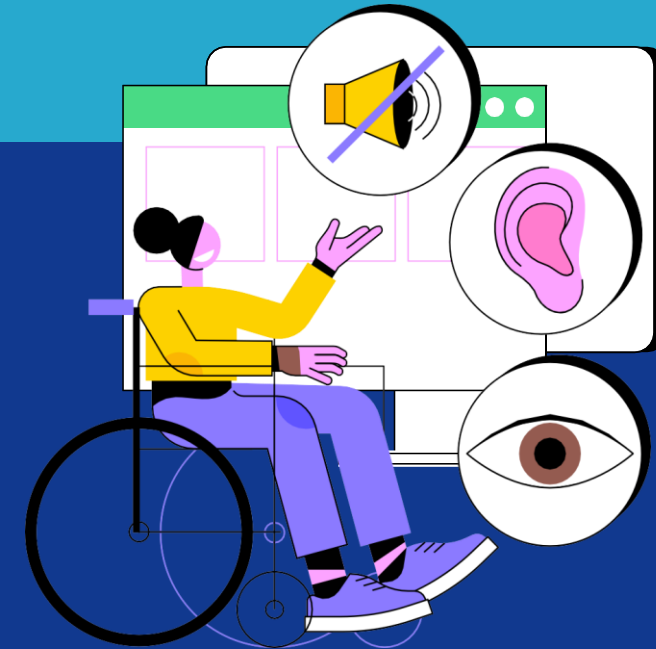
Accommodations to reduce participation barriers



Patient & community partner retention



Compensation & recognition

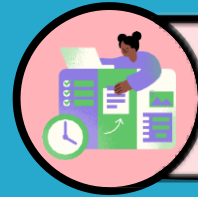


## ACCESSIBILITY

# RECRUITMENT



Gap analysis - who isn't around the table?



Planning ahead



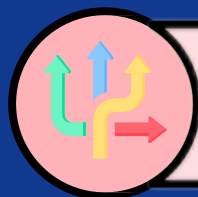
Diverse outreach strategies



Some communities may harbor mistrust or resentment towards research/medical institutions due to discriminatory historical practices. This may create a barrier to equitable representation in research and may lead to poorer health outcomes.



Consider intersectionality



Flexible engagement opportunities

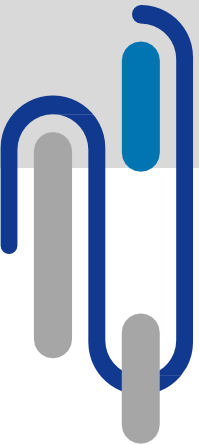
## EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

# AVOIDING TOKENISM

distinguishing between superficial and meaningful engagement

# WHAT DOES TOKENISM LOOK LIKE IN ENGAGEMENT?

- Often well-intentioned efforts to represent diversity of identity, background or opinion around the table.
- Symbolic representation with minimal investment of time to build relationships.



# TOKENISM

OR

taking it  
seriously

You are recruiting participants from the **South Asian community** for a study. You approach a **patient partner** to request their support translating some of the recruitment materials into **Urdu**.

# TOKENISM

*Translation of materials does not solicit or incorporate patient partner feedback or input into content, design or dissemination of materials.*





# TOKENISM


OR

taking it  
seriously

**You recruit two patient and community members to a Steering Committee. One of them is assigned a co-chair role alongside the PI of the study. The co-chair is invited to co-develop the meeting agenda and Steering Committee activities.**

taking it  
seriously

*Partners are offered decision-making authority with co-chair assignment. Partner has a chance to inform direction of discussion and review agenda items ahead of meetings, giving way to meaningful partnership with significant opportunity for influence.*



# EVALUATION

measuring impact and learning lessons

# EVALUATION



## process evaluation

assessing methods,  
activities and structures

example metrics may  
include number of partners,  
diversity of partner group,  
nature of engagements



## outcome evaluation

assessing partner and  
staff experience to  
enhance safety and impact  
of future engagements  
qualitative methods may  
be used to evaluate  
outcomes (surveys,  
interviews, focus groups)



## evaluation tools

existing tools and resources to  
support evaluation of  
engagements include Public and  
Patient Engagement Evaluation  
Tool (PPEET) and Patient  
Engagement In Research Scale  
(PEIRS-22)

# RESOURCES & SUPPORT

for staff and partners

# TRAINING & EDUCATION

## PATIENT ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH

- ◆▶ **Family Engagement in Research (Course/Leadership Academy)**  
McMaster's University Continuing Education
- ◆▶ **Patient-Oriented Research Curriculum in Child Health (PORRCH)**  
Online, self-paced
- ◆▶ **Engagement and Partnering for People-Centred Care Microcredential**  
McMaster's University Faculty of Health Sciences Continuing Professional Development Office
- ◆▶ **Patient-Oriented Research Training and Learning – Primary Health Care**  
Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit (OSSU)  
Online, self-paced
- ◆▶ **Patient Engagement in Research Training Program**  
Canadian Institutes of Health Research's (CIHR) Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (IMHA)



# THANK YOU!

Please feel free to reach out for any engagement support at [dalya.kablawi@sickkids.ca](mailto:dalya.kablawi@sickkids.ca) or scan the following QR code to fill out the engagement support request form.



**SickKids** | Patient Engagement  
in Research Program





Canadian  
Cancer  
Society

# Building Authentic Partnerships with Patient and Community Partners

Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children Trainee Hub in collaboration with the SickKids Research Training Centre – January 23, 2025

Stephanie Bazinet, Manager, Research Partnerships and Engagement, CCS – [stephanie.bazinet@cancer.ca](mailto:stephanie.bazinet@cancer.ca) / [research@cancer.ca](mailto:research@cancer.ca)

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CANCER.CA

1. Our research strategy and patient engagement plan
2. How we include people with lived experience (PWLE) in our work
3. What we're looking for when we engage PWLE and how we train and support them
4. Focus areas of engagement
5. Challenges in Patient Engagement and how to avoid them
6. Connecting with a charitable funding agency as a trainee





# Canadian Cancer Society Research Strategy Principles

To provide a foundation for our strategy and set an ambitious path forward, we have identified **5 grounding principles**.

1

## PERSON-CENTRED

Involve people from diverse communities, including those with lived cancer experience, in every step of the research process

2

## DIVERSIFIED

Maintain a broad portfolio of research programs that spans across cancer types and across the cancer continuum

3

## COLLABORATIVE

Engage external partners from many sectors to expand reach and maximize capacity

5

## INNOVATIVE

Push boundaries to support innovative research and explore partnerships with industry and the private sector to accelerate progress

4

## IMPACTFUL

Remain outcome-driven to address areas of greatest unmet need and potential for near-term impact






63 activities in the research process identified for PWLE to participate in



We follow a set of 8 guiding principles

## Co-creation of a patient engagement strategy in cancer research funding

Michael S. Taccone, Nathalie Baudais, Don Wood, Suzanne Bays, Sasha Frost, Robin Urquhart, Ian D. Graham & Judit Takacs 

*Research Involvement and Engagement* 9, Article number: 86 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

2358 Accesses | 15 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

### Abstract

#### Background

As research teams, networks, and institutes, and health, medical, and scientific communities begin to build consensus on the benefits of patient engagement in cancer research, research funders are increasingly looking to meaningfully incorporate patient partnership within funding processes and research requirements. The Canadian Cancer Society (CCS), the largest non-profit cancer research funder in Canada, set out to co-create a patient engagement in cancer research strategy with patients, survivors, caregivers and researchers. The goal of this strategy was to meaningfully and systematically engage with patients in research funding and research activities.

<https://rdcu.be/d6X1A>

## PATIENT ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH PLAN

Patients, survivors, thrivers, caregivers and families (collectively, called "patients") make sure people affected by cancer shape the way that research funding and funding decisions are made.



### HOW WE WORK Guiding Principles

#### VISION

The Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) aspires to integrate meaningful patient engagement into research projects and research funding processes to improve impact and relevance to CCS's patient community and foster health equity through implementation of social practices. This will ultimately improve patient outcomes.



### WHY ENGAGE?

"Involving patients in the review process of research grants brings a perspective that many researchers are not familiar with. The sense of participating in an important program was rewarding. I found the experience invaluable."

Angus, Patient/Survivor/Caregiver (PSC) Reviewer & Advisory Council on Research (ACOR) member

### WAYS TO ENGAGE

#### Lead

We will support patient leadership. Last year CCS welcomed patient members to our Advisory Council on Research (ACOR).

#### Co-Create

We will identify issues and co-develop solutions with patient partners. Patient partners engage as Program Advisors and Patient / Survivor / Caregiver Reviewers in all of our current research competitions.

#### Consult

We will seek input and advice from patient partners. For instance, patient partners co-developed our website, reviewed and were featured in our 2022 Research Impact Report.

#### Inform

We will share information in multiple ways. This includes research competition news and results and patient partner experiences in emails, on our website, by video and other ways.



### COMPENSATION

We created a Patient Partner Compensation Policy designed to facilitate patient participation and to support equity, diversity and inclusion. We offer compensation to all of our patient partners in accordance with our policy.



### CONTACT US

To learn more about being a patient partner and engaging with patient partners, visit our website: [cancer.ca/ENpatientengagement](https://cancer.ca/ENpatientengagement). Have questions or comments? Contact: [research@cancer.ca](mailto:research@cancer.ca).

## PATIENT ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH PLAN

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### HOW WE WORK Guiding Principles



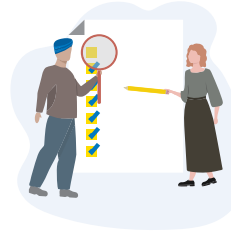
Safety



Co-Build



Clear  
Communication



Accountability



Diversity of  
Experiences



Mutual  
Respect



Knowledge  
Exchange



Personalized &  
Progressive

### VISION

The Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) aspires to integrate meaningful patient engagement into research projects and research funding processes to improve impact and relevance to CCS's patient community and foster health equity through implementation of social practices. This will ultimately improve patient outcomes.

## WAYS TO ENGAGE

### Lead

We will support patient leadership. CCS has patient members on our Advisory Council on Research (ACOR) and engages patients to co-lead patient engagement training for researchers and trainees.

### Co-Create

We will identify issues and co-develop solutions with patient partners. Patient partners engage as Program Advisors and Patient / Survivor / Caregiver Reviewers in all of our current research competitions.

### Consult

We will seek input and advice from patient partners. Patient partners help shape our website and review our Impact Reports.

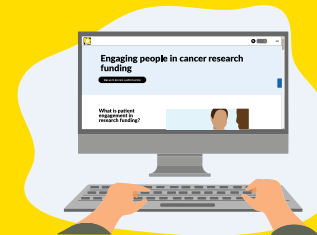
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## What it's like being a patient partner

Some of our patient partners share their experience with cancer research funding.



Involving patients in the review process brings a perspective that many researchers are not familiar with. The sense of participating in an important program was rewarding. I found the experience invaluable. In many ways it reignited my interest in the science of cancer. I was able to better understand the challenges facing research funding agencies. Thanks.

— Angus



I am glad the patient voice is part of the review process. I thought each of us added depth and breadth to the discussion based on our lived experience and our personal focus. I think in many cases, applications seen from a non-technical, 'public' perspective added a fresh vision to the debates. Thank you to the patient engagement staff for being so supportive, patient and kind.

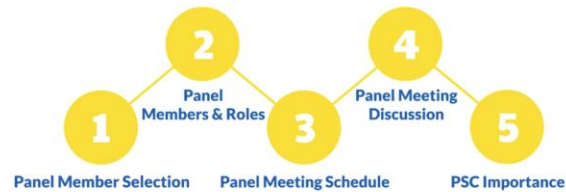
— Kathy



[When co-developing the CCS Health Equity Research Grants] I provided three pages of comments, with the first page focusing on the language I didn't like in the proposal as it seemed exclusionary and overly clinical. The heading I used in my comments was "Certain words in grants tend to get my back up". Judit (CCS Senior manager, research partnerships and engagement) called me to go through every comment I made - and I made so many comments! - and as she asked questions I thought, "Wow, they really want to make this program inclusive."

— Lori

## VIDEO TOPICS



## Glossary

Home / Cancer information / Resources / Glossary

# A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O

Search a glossary term

#

5-HIAA

5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid (5-HIAA)

A

abdomen



## Bias in Peer Review

CIHR IRSC Canadian Institutes of Health Research | NSERC CRSNG | SSHRC CRSH | Canada



CANADIAN CANCER SURVIVOR NETWORK

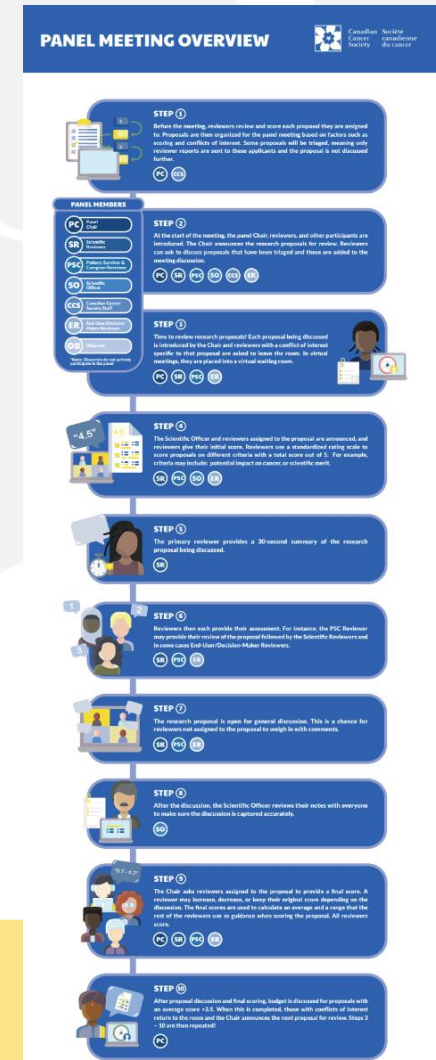
ABOUT US NEWS EVENTS BLOG E-LETTERS PARTNERS MEDIA

CONNECT LEARN ACT Search

## THE SCIENCE OF CANCER

FREE ONLINE COURSE

### PANEL MEETING OVERVIEW



- STEP 1** Before the meeting, reviewers review and score each proposal they are assigned to. Proposals are then organized for the panel meeting based on factors such as scoring and conflicts of interest. Some proposals will be invited, reviewed, and reviewer reports are sent to these applicants and the proposal is not discussed further.
- STEP 2** At the start of the meeting, the panel Chair, reviewers, and other participants are introduced. The Chair announces the research proposals for review. Reviewers can ask to discuss proposals that have been invited and these are added to the meeting discussion.
- STEP 3** This is a panel research proposal. Each proposal being discussed is introduced by the Chair and reviewers with a conflict of interest specific to that proposal are asked to leave the room. In virtual meetings, they are placed into a virtual waiting room.
- STEP 4** The Scientific Officer and reviewers assigned to the proposal are announced, and reviewers give their initial scores. Reviewers use a standardized scale to score proposals on different criteria with a total score out of 5. For example, criteria may include: potential impact on cancer or scientific work.
- STEP 5** The primary reviewer provides a 30-second summary of the research proposal being discussed.
- STEP 6** Reviewers then each provide their assessment. For instance, the PSC Reviewer may provide their review of the proposal followed by the Scientific Reviewer and then the User Decision-Maker Reviewer.
- STEP 7** The research proposal is open for general discussion. This is a chance for reviewers not assigned to the proposal to weigh in with comments.
- STEP 8** After the discussion, the Scientific Officer reviews their notes with everyone to make sure the discussion is captured accurately.
- STEP 9** The Chair asks reviewers assigned to the proposal to provide a final score. A reviewer may discuss, withdraw, or keep their original score depending on the discussion. The final scores are used to calculate an average and a range that the rest of the reviewers use as guidance when scoring the proposal. All reviewers score.
- STEP 10** After proposal discussion and final scoring, budget is discussed for proposals with an average score >3.5. When this is completed, those with conflicts of interest return to the room and the Chair announces the next proposal for review. Steps 1-10 are then repeated.



Training resources are self-paced and a compensated activity

## CCS Identified Underserved Communities

 2SLGBTQI+

 Communities that don't  
speak English or French

 Racialized communities

 Advanced cancer

 Rural and remote  
communities

 Indigenous communities

 Newcomers to Canada

 Older adults

 Rare cancer

 Adolescents and young  
adults with cancer

# Building Relationships with Underserved Communities



FNHMA Conference 2023 with friends from the Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation, Manitoulin Island, the First Nations and Inuit Secretariat in Québec and the First Nations of Québec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission







Our sponsorship of the conference this year



FNHMA Conference with friends from the Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation, Manitoulin Island, the First Nations of Québec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission and some new friends from Big Stone Cree Nation, in Alberta



# Challenges in Patient Engagement

Statements Describing Patient Engagement Gone Wrong	Explanation	Questions for the Research Team to Ask Themselves
 <p><b>Patient Partners as a Check Mark</b></p>	<p>Also known as tokenism; inviting someone's participation but not wanting them there or listening to their perspectives, and therefore not acknowledging their insights, contributions, or ideas.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How do we accept feedback from patient partners and integrate it into our work?</li> <li>2. How can we ask more thoughtful questions of patient partners about their lived experiences?</li> <li>3. How can we create safer and more inclusive spaces for real and meaningful discussions?</li> <li>4. How can we share our power and privilege with patient partners?</li> </ol>
 <p><b>Unconscious Bias Towards Patient Partners</b></p>	<p>Lived experiences are often not viewed as true expertise and given less credence and respect. This may be unintentional and often relates to ableism. Unconscious bias contributes to power imbalances on the team.</p>	
 <p><b>Lack of Support to Fully Include Patient Partners</b></p>	<p>Failure to provide physical and other supports to patient partners so they may fully participate as team members.</p>	
 <p><b>Lack of Recognizing the Vulnerability of Patient Partners</b></p>	<p>Failure to appreciate that patient partners often re-live emotional or even traumatic parts of their lives for the sake of a project. This means being vulnerable, sometimes in spaces with people with whom they are not very familiar.</p>	

**Fig. 1** Statements and their explanations of patient engagement gone wrong, along with questions for the research team members to ask about how they could improve or prevent these situations

## What Patient Engagement Is and Is Not:

<b>What this looks like</b>	<b>What it's not</b>
Patient / caregiver partners	Study participants, PDX models
An exchange – discussion and questions	'Educating' or talking at patients / caregivers
Equal team members	Tokenism
Involvement early	Connecting the day before the grant deadline
Recognition / acknowledgement	Leaving them out

1

**Patient and Community Engagement for Researchers**

Home / Research / For researchers / Patient and Community Engagement for Researchers

Background Resources Ways to engage Engagement expectations




**Background**

There is building consensus across funders, researchers, clinicians and people with lived experience on the benefits of patient engagement in research. Visit our patient and community engagement resource site to explore a list of literature and resources available for researchers.

CCS currently defines patient engagement as the active partnership with and collaboration between people with lived experience of cancer (patients, survivors, and caregivers) throughout the research or research funding life cycle. CCS's research strategy includes an explicit approach to improve the relevance and impact of research funding outcomes. In response and in partnership with people with lived experience and researchers, CCS has co-created a patient engagement in research funding strategy. You can read more on the back of this strategy [here](#).

One key outcome of the strategy for all researchers, CCS recommends or requires the systematic, meaningful and diverse engagement of people with lived experience in all of our research competitions. This may look different in different competitions and for different however all researchers are required to meet minimum expectations of engagement, below.

**Resources**

3



**COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE**  
patient engagement  
in cancer research

Our Website: [www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca)

2

**Research newsletter**

Home / Research / Research newsletter



CCS RESEARCH E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

4

cancer.ca/en/research-for-researchers/funding-opportunities

Canadian Cancer Society

Cancer information Treatments Living with cancer Research Get involved Ways to give

FOR RESEARCHERS

**Funding opportunities**

Home / Research / For researchers / Current funding opportunities

Our funding programs All previous funding opportunities

**Our funding programs**

Status	Program name	Type	Previous Competitions	Next Competition
Open	CCS/ARN Research Grants on Neurofibromatosis and Cancer	Research grant	2025	Open - next competition N/A
Closed	Research Training Awards - PhD, PDF	Trainee stipend + Training budget	2025 2023	Fall/Winter 2025
Open	Research Training Awards - Masters	Trainee stipend + Training budget	2025 2025 2023	Open - next competition fall 2025
Closed	CCS Emerging Scholar Research Grants	Research grant	2023 2021	Spring 2025

- Taccone, M.S., Baudais, N., Wood, D. *et al.* Co-creation of a patient engagement strategy in cancer research funding. *Res Involv Engagem* 9, 86 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40900-023-00501-x>
- CCS Patient Engagement Compensation Policy and Procedures: <https://cancer.ca/en/research/for-researchers/managing-your-grant/patient-partner-compensation-policy-and-procedures>
- CIHR Bias in Peer Review: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/lms/e/bias/>
- Health Equity at CCS: <https://cancer.ca/en/about-us/our-health-equity-work>
- Richards et al. Research Involvement and Engagement (2023) 9:41 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40900-023-00454-1>
- Spears, 2021. Patient engagement in cancer research from the patient's perspective. *Futur Oncol.* 17(28): 3717-28. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34213358/>
- Patient and Community Engagement Resources for Researchers: <https://cancer.ca/en/research/for-researchers/patient-and-community-engagement-for-researchers>
- Community of Practice in Patient Engagement in Research: <https://cancer.ca/en/research/for-researchers/memberships/patient-engagement-in-cancer-research-cop>
- CCS Research Newsletter: <https://cancer.ca/en/research/research-newsletter>
- CCS Funding Opportunities: <https://cancer.ca/en/research/for-researchers/funding-opportunities>
- CCS IGNITE Trainee Program: <https://cancer.ca/en/research/for-researchers/ignite>

**IT TAKES A  
SOCIETY**



**Canadian  
Cancer  
Society**



# Partnering— In Each and Every Moment

Dr Julia Orkin

Associate Professor, University of Toronto

Associate CMO, Clinical Operations, System Integration & Patient/Family Experience

Medical Director, Complex Care

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# Objectives

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Explore the role of family/patient engagement in clinical research



A tale of two projects: describe the experience of patient/family partnership across two research projects



Share opportunities for integration with family/patient partners in all we do





White Coat Black Art

# 'They taught me how to be a doctor': How one family changed the way this physician practises medicine

Dr. Julia Orkin took on a greater-than-normal role in helping care for girl born with a rare genetic disorder

CBC Radio · Posted: Dec 22, 2018 4:00 AM EST | Last Updated: December 22, 2018

# Lesson 1: The magic of listening AND changing





**STORY 1**  
“ See you on Tuesday”

# A Family's Journey Through a Complex Care Hospital Visit

## Scheduling Clinic Appointment

coordinating multiple appointments on one day

find child care for other siblings

reschedule nursing hours

schedule time off work

book transportation

## Travel and Parking

needing to make sure all bags and equipment are packed in the car

long commutes, having to stop for suctioning

high cost for parking

lack of accessible parking spots

## Registration and Check-In

repeating information

appointment times too early for out of town patients

lack of accessible doors, washrooms

difficulty finding clinic location

## Waiting Room

agitation from many stimuli

long wait

exposure to illness and infection

lack of accessible space

## Multiple Care Provider Appointments

repeating the story again and again to multiple providers

unprepared students

waiting long for doctors or specialists to arrive

## Tests/Re-Tests

long wait

issues with rescheduling appointments

anxious about results

confusion with requisitions

## Travel Home

rush-hour traffic

feeling tired

> [Healthc Policy](#). 2021 Aug;17(1):104-122. doi: 10.12927/hcpol.2021.26574.

# Process Evaluation of a Hub-and-Spoke Model to Deliver Coordinated Care for Children with Medical Complexity across Ontario: Facilitators, Barriers and Lessons Learned

Jia Lu Lilian Lin <sup>1</sup>, Samantha Quartarone <sup>2</sup>, Nasra Aidarus <sup>3</sup>, Carol Y Chan <sup>4</sup>, Jackie Hubbert <sup>5</sup>, Julia Orkin <sup>6</sup>, Nora Fayed <sup>7</sup>, Nathalie Major <sup>8</sup>, Joanna Soscia <sup>9</sup>, Audrey Lim <sup>10</sup>, Simon D French <sup>11</sup>, Myla E Moretti <sup>12</sup>, Eyal Cohen <sup>13</sup>

## Original Investigation

March 20, 2023

# Effectiveness of Structured Care Coordination for Children With Medical Complexity

## The Complex Care for Kids Ontario (CCKO) Randomized Clinical Trial

Eyal Cohen, MD, MSc<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6</sup>; Samantha Quartarone, MSc<sup>1</sup>; Julia Orkin, MD, MSc<sup>1,3,4</sup>; [et al](#)

» [Author Affiliations](#) | [Article Information](#)

*JAMA Pediatr.* 2023;177(5):461-471. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2023.0115



# Lesson 2: Start early and often





# Story 2- "Peer Support is the answer"





Futures

Projects to reduce  
services to be more  
to family needs



# Coached Coordinated Enhanced Neonatal Follow Up

## Principle Investigators



Dr. Julia Orkin  
(SickKids)



Dr. Eyal Cohen  
(SickKids)



Dr. Nathalie Major  
(CHEO)



Dr. Paige Church  
(Sunnybrook)

## Nurse Navigators



Pictured: Eleanor Warren (CHEO/The Ottawa Hospital)  
Annette Van Bergen (Mount Sinai Hospital)  
Amie Nowak (BCCW)  
Rosanna Manarin (Sunnybrook)  
Andre-Anne Matte (McGill)  
Kim Colapinto (SickKids)  
Not pictured: Melissa Zweiers, Lea Carle Herbert

## Patient-Partner Lead



Kate Robson  
(Sunnybrook)





Futures

Projects to redesign health services to be more responsive to family needs



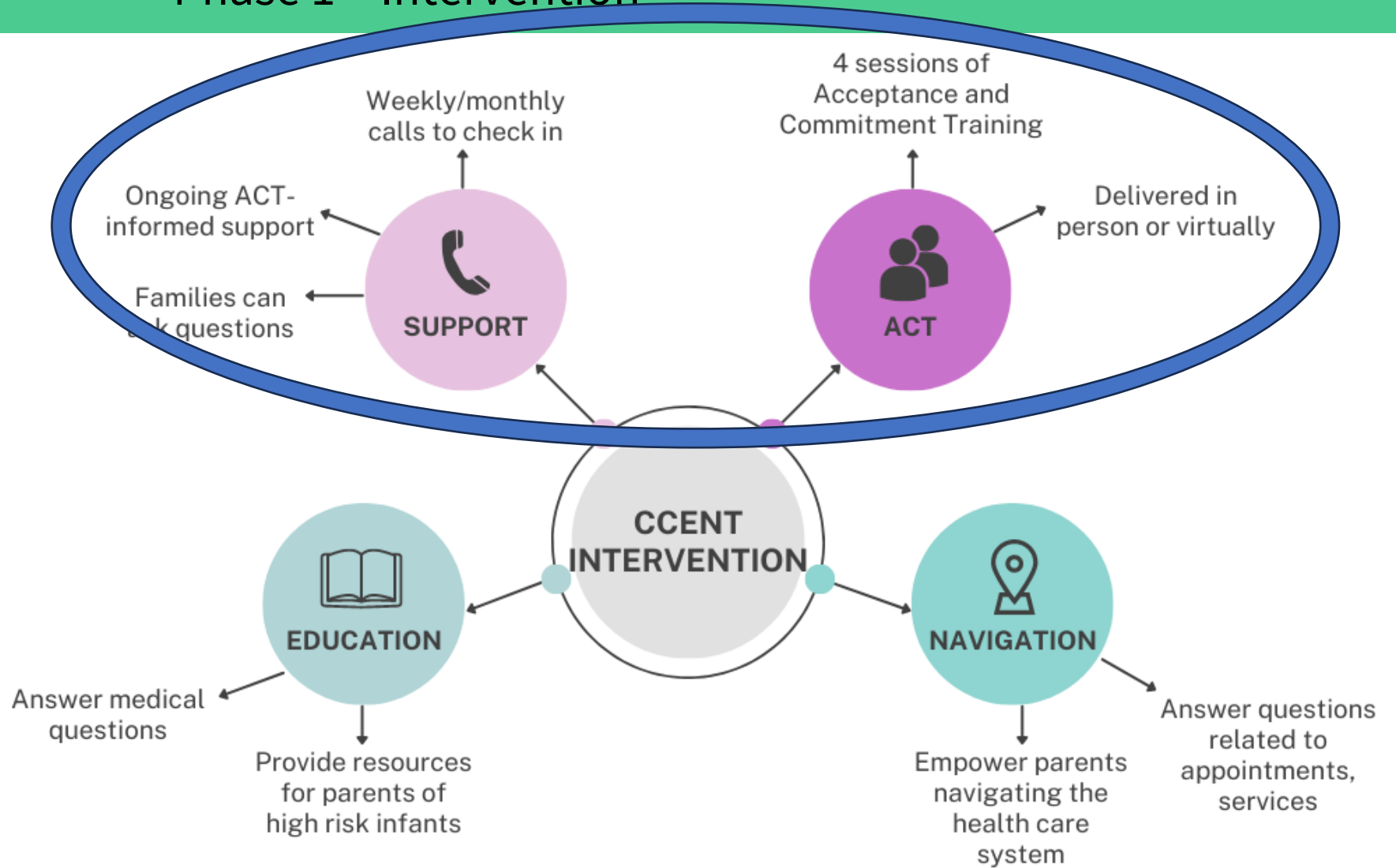
# Phase 1 – Intervention



Delivered by Nurse Navigators (NN)

4

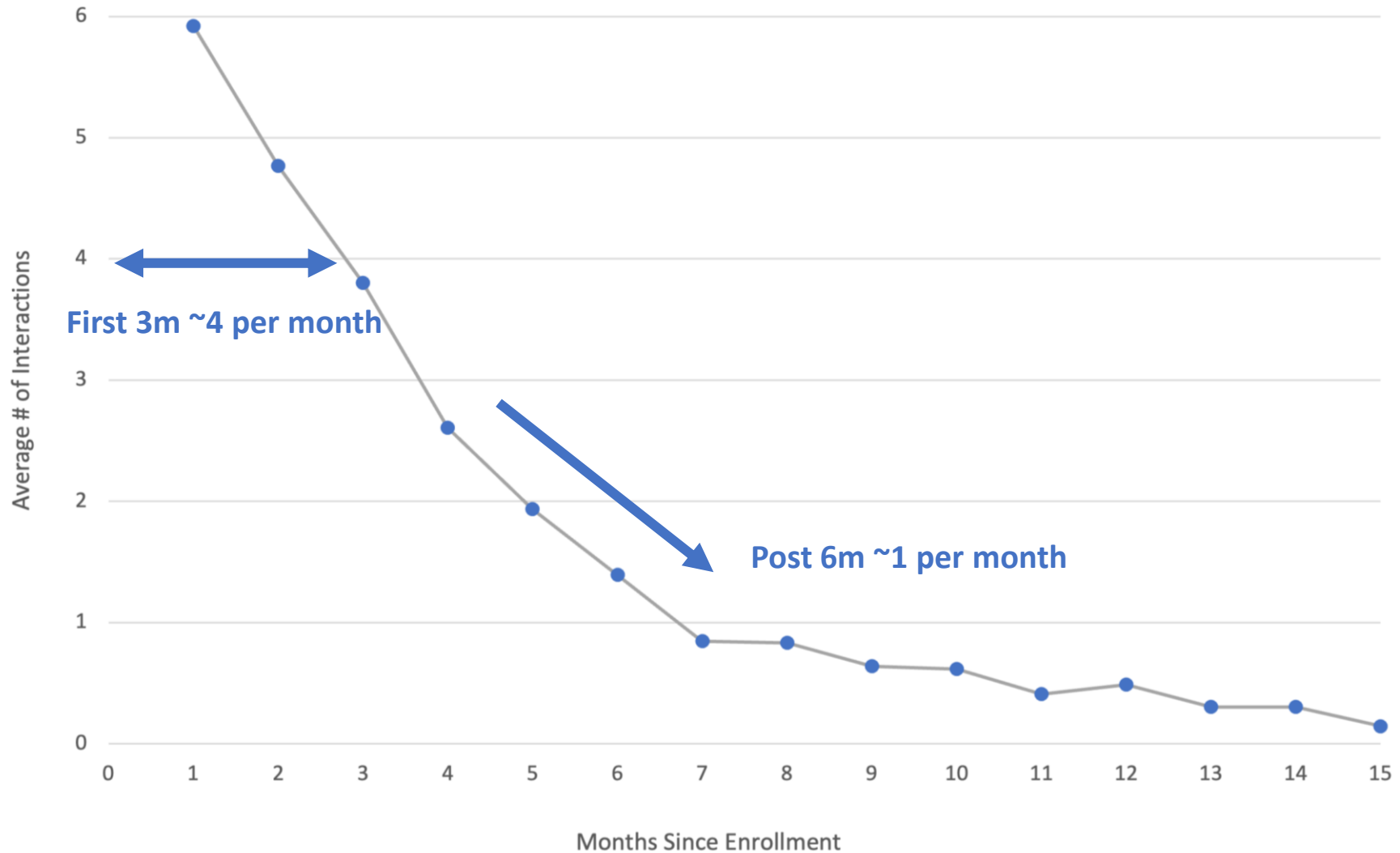
Pillars of the CCENT model





# Phase 1 – Results

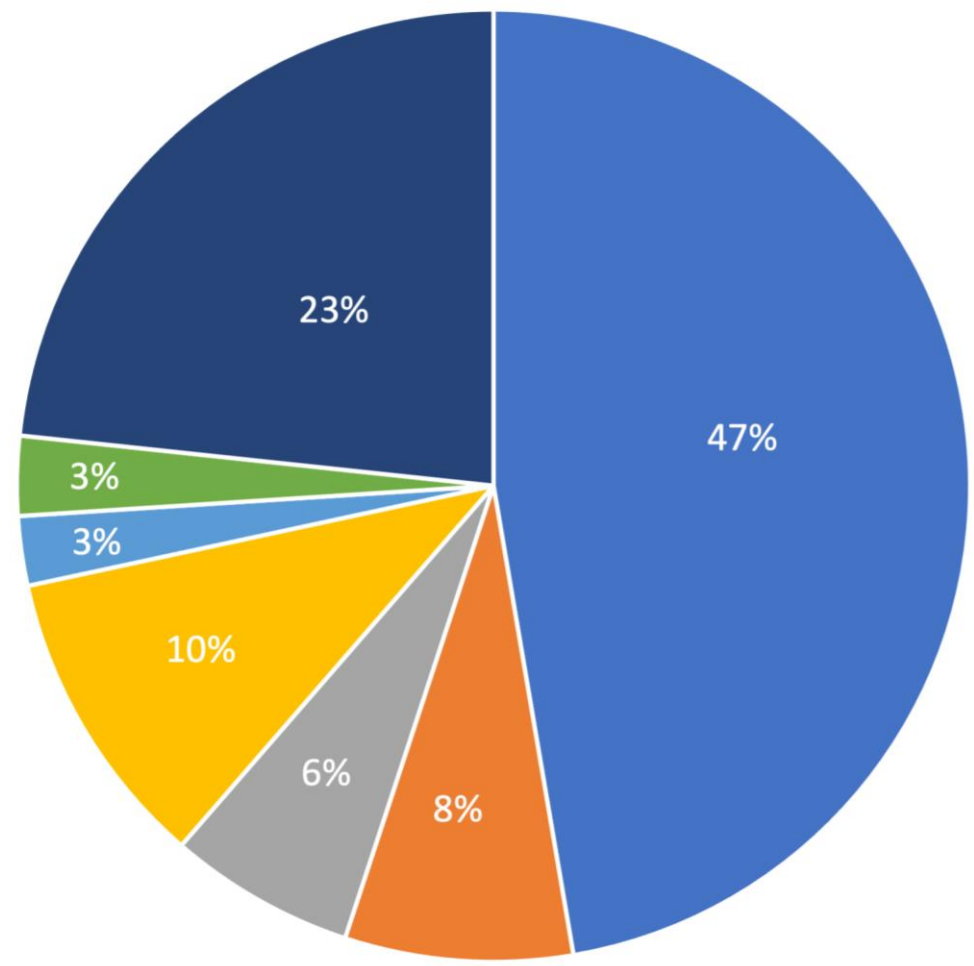
NN Interactions Over Time





# Phase 1 – Results – Fidelity Outcomes

## NN Interactions



**70% of interactions were supporting parental wellbeing + personal updates from parent's**

- P1 - Mental Health & Well Being
- P2 - Development/Behavioral
- P3 - Growth/Nutrition
- P4 - Clinical/Medical management
- P5 - Referral Management
- P6 - Social Services/Basic Needs
- P7 - Personal Update



Futures

Projects to redesign health care services to be more responsive to family needs



## Phase 1 – Results – Quantitative

**Primary Outcome:** Compare parental stress between intervention and control groups at 12 months

- **Measure:** Parental Stress Index Fourth Edition Short Form

***Null Result – no significant differences in PSI 12 months or any other time points***





Futures

Projects to redesign health services to be more responsive to family needs

SickKids  
2025

## Implementation Science Phase 2 - Process



Identify core components of the CCENT intervention



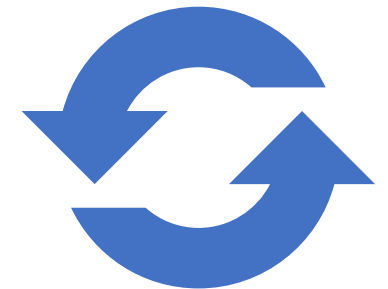
Identify barriers and facilitators to implementation



Map identified barriers and facilitators to implementation strategies



Co-design optimized intervention with key stakeholders (i.e., parent partners, implementation science experts)

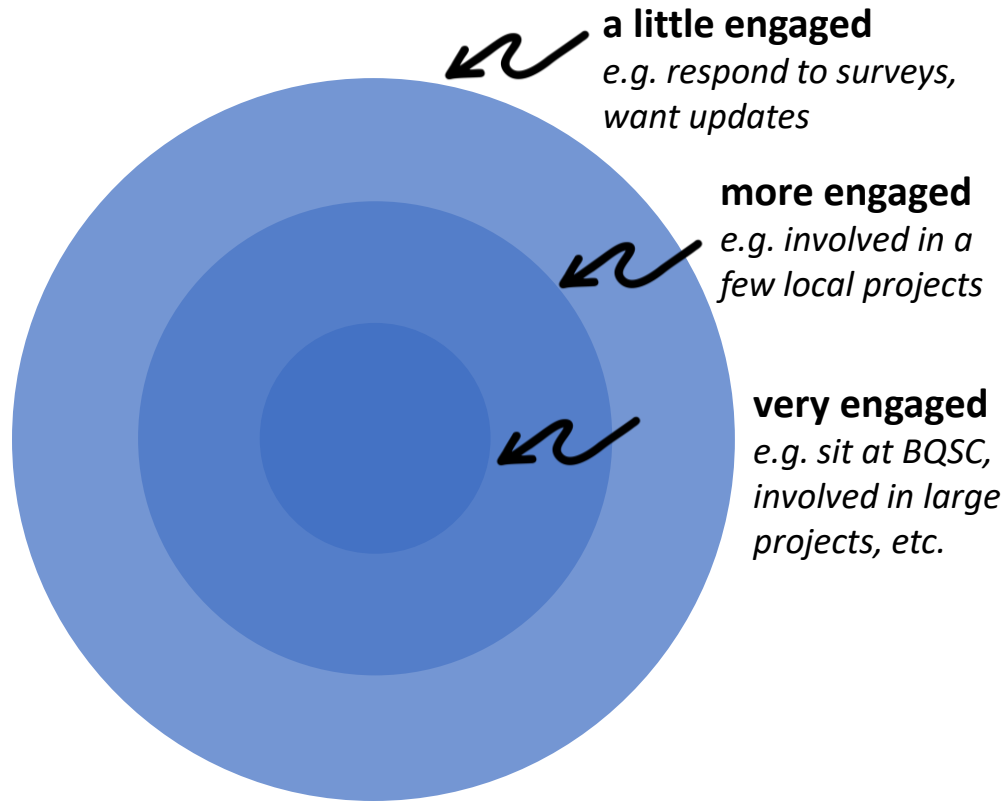


Implement optimized navigator role



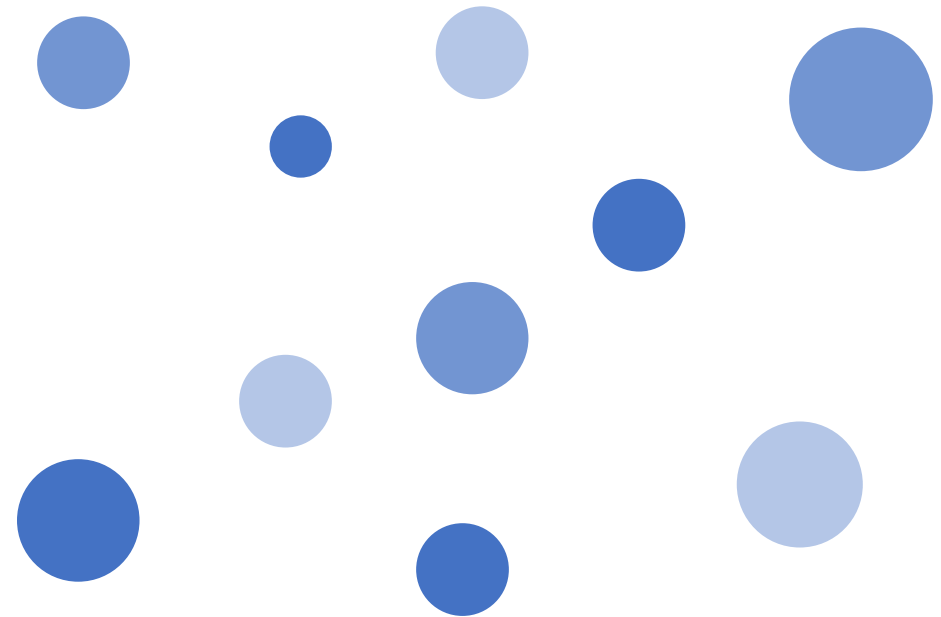
# A two-pronged vision for the future of engagement at SickKids

An **enterprise-wide community** of patients and families who want to support the design of care, research and learning.



*A broader + more diverse community to recruit from  
Will include patients & families from PFACs  
We can keep them connected to each other + SickKids*

A suite of services, tools and processes to **make engagement easy** for staff, **consistent** enterprise-wide and **value creating**



*Provide consultations, tools and templates  
Evaluate engagement to drive ongoing improvement  
Easier onboarding + fair compensation policies*

Thank you for  
listening.

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