

Graduate studentships in patient-oriented research spark student interest

On October 1, 2015, the window closed on applications for the first competition for SPOR Graduate Studentships in Patient-Oriented Research offered by the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit (AbSPORU) Career Development Platform. This inaugural competition closed with 41 applications received showing a tremendous interest in this initiative. It's expected that at least eight studentships will be announced by the end of this year.

The studentships support MSc or PhD graduate students in the practice of patient-oriented research while at the same time building capacity for patient-oriented research in Alberta. Graduate Studentship recipients will participate in a Career Development Platform Training Program and a Summer Institute which will take place in May. The next competition for Graduate Studentships in Patient-Oriented Research will be announced at the Summer Institute in May and the application window will be open until fall 2016. More information can be found at www.absporu.ca under the Career Development Platform.

Putting evidence into practice workshop benefits researchers

From November 23-25, the Knowledge Translation Platform hosted a successful "Putting Evidence into Practice Workshop" at the University of Alberta. The three-day workshop involved plenary and small group sessions lead by experts in knowledge translation and knowledge synthesis. Participants chose one of four intensive streams for researchers: knowledge translation for researchers; basic systematic reviews; advanced systematic reviews; and rapid reviews which helped focus their learning experience. Response from participants to the event was overwhelmingly positive with 100% of participants indicating they would recommend the next webinar. The Knowledge Translation Platform's next webinar "Evaluating Research Impact" will take place on January 20, 2016. More information can be found in the events section of this Update.

Platform updates

In the last Update, we highlighted the fact that three platforms (Data, Methods Support & Development and Career Development in Methods & Health Services Research) of the seven platforms were open for business and offering services and supports to researchers. The Patient Engagement platform and Career Development in Methods & Health Services Research platform are the next two platforms to be launched. Researchers can learn more about the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit and the services offered by these platforms by visiting www.absporu.ca.

Sharing info about AbSPORU

Word is getting out about the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit (AbSPORU) and how to access services and supports. Tim Murphy, Vice President, Alberta Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) SUPPORT Unit & Provincial Platforms, has made a number of presentations on AbSPORU over the past few months including:

Women and Children's Health Research Institute (Nov. 10)

SPOR SUPPORT Unit Council, Winnipeg (Nov. 4)

University of Calgary, Cumming School of Medicine (Oct. 22)

A listing of upcoming events can be found on the [Research Alberta Events Calendar](#). If you would like a presentation by Tim or a members of the AbSPORU team contact spor@aihealthsolutions.ca