

Jul. 29, 2016

First-year Master's or PhD students have until October 3 to [apply](#) for Alberta SPOR Graduate Studentships in Patient-Oriented Research. Up to eight one-year studentships valued at \$30,000 each are available for successful applicants who undertake research projects with a patient-oriented approach. This year, one of the eight awards will be available in a knowledge translation stream.

Those who receive awards participate in a training and mentorship program and additional Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit (AbSPORU) activities throughout the year. The program helps increase the quantity and quality of patient-oriented research in Alberta by providing researchers-in-training with the support, tools and training needed to conduct research with a patient-oriented approach.

### **Tools for Better Health podcast inspires with ideas to enhance health**

Methodologists, scientists, academics and researchers from across Alberta, Canada, UK, Spain and other countries are tapping into an on-line resource developed by the AbSPORU Methods Support and Development Platform to broaden their knowledge of methods for patient-oriented research and health research.

The Tools for Better Health podcast launched in September 2015, focuses on quantitative and qualitative research methodologies applied to patient-oriented research, health services and outcomes research and problem solving. Some of the podcasts include Dr. Maria Santana's discussion on patient-oriented research and the patient reported outcome methodology ([Episode 7](#)) and Dr. Jose Valderas of the University of Exeter's talk on Reported Outcome Measures in Clinical Practice ([Episode 4](#)). New podcasts are released each month and archived episodes can be found at the [Methods Hub](#).

### **AbSPORU and SPOR Networks in Chronic Disease: Working together to advance SPOR strategy**

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR) includes SPOR Networks i.e. Chronic Disease Networks across Canada. Units and networks are working collaboratively to advance the broader strategy of SPOR – ensuring that the right patient receives the right care at the right time. There are seven multi-provincial networks focused on youth and adolescent mental health (1), primary and integrated health care (1) and chronic disease (5). An example of a researcher in Alberta contributing to the Chronic Disease Network is Dr. Braden Manns, a nephrologist who is advancing kidney research at the University of Calgary.

Like researchers from Strategic Clinical Networks or academic institutions, those advancing research within a SPOR Chronic Disease Network can access the services, knowledge and expertise of AbSPORU. “Chronic Disease Networks and investigators have an established research plan in specific areas and the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit is there to provide enabling expertise, resources and strategies to help accelerate their research,” says Tim Murphy, Vice President, Provincial Platforms & SPOR. By working together the SPOR Units and SPOR Networks in Chronic Disease across Canada are accelerating knowledge to impact while engaging patients. [Find out more.](#)