

Helping researchers to set priorities for head and neck cancers, and other news

Nov. 30, 2016

Newsletter survey extended to December 31 – congratulations to winners!

Thank you to those who have already taken part in our newsletter survey. For those who have not responded there is still time to participate in a short [two-minute survey](#) to help make our newsletter better. Congratulations to our early prize winners Sheila Kelly, Donna Pressick and Nicole Romanow. Those who complete the survey before December 31, 2016 are eligible to win a prize.

Helping researchers to set priorities for head and neck cancers

Head and neck cancer has a survival rate of only 50-60 percent and living with this type of cancer brings many challenges for patients. The Alberta Head and Neck Cancer Priority Setting Project, led by Leah Lechelt, Director, Patient Partnerships at the [Alberta Cancer Foundation](#) is working in collaboration with the [Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine](#) to engage with clinicians, patients and their family members to determine their research priorities for head and neck cancers.

The project team drew on the expertise of the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit [Knowledge Translation Platform](#) who provided services including a literature search to help the team determine if the questions raised by clinicians and patients had been previously answered by researchers. Leah noted that “AbSPORU KT was fabulous to work with and appreciated their excellent service, flexibility and quick turn-around times.” The project team is now assessing the top 25 research priorities identified by clinicians and patients. When the project is complete in early 2017, it is hoped the research priorities for head and neck cancers will inform researchers and funders provincially, nationally and internationally.

For more information contact [Meghan Sebastianski](#).

Survey enables better engagement between researchers and patients

The Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit [Patient Engagement Platform](#) is helping to enable better engagement between researchers and patients. In the summer, a needs assessment survey was developed to determine the knowledge and skills both patients and researchers need to engage with one another. Although there is patient-oriented research training developed by the [Canadian](#)

[Institutes of Health Research](#), the survey results will provide a better understanding of the training and resources needed by patients and researchers in Alberta.

The survey was developed with input from patients and researchers and was sent to patient organizations and research institutes who were asked to pass it on to their networks. The survey closed in October and the platform is currently assessing the input it received. The results of the survey will be used to inform curriculum development and training programs as early as spring 2017.

For more information on this project contact [Sennait Yohannes](#).

Patient-Oriented Research Training Program to continue in 2017

Over the past year, those interested in learning about patient-oriented research (POR) have benefitted from the Patient-Oriented Training Program. The program, offered simultaneously at the University of Alberta, University of Calgary and University of Lethbridge through web-streaming has attracted over 465 students, patients, researchers, clinicians and administrators. Many participants appreciate the opportunity to connect with other like-minded people in the research community to increase their knowledge of patient-oriented research. Presentations this year were focused on introducing participants to the skills and knowledge necessary to engage meaningfully in projects that involve a POR approach. The training program will continue in 2017, starting with new sessions in January. Sessions will feature new perspectives from researchers, students and patients who will share their insights and experiences in patient-oriented research.

[Learn more about the patient-oriented research training program.](#)

Grants

[Patient-Oriented Research Collaboration Grants](#)

Funding organization: CIHR (SPOR)

Application deadline: December 13, 2016

For more information visit absporu.ca or email info@absporu.ca