

FEBRUARY ABSPORU UPDATE

Feb. 28, 2018

AbSPORU Summer Institute draws outstanding lineup of speakers



Co-keynote speaker Victoria Maxwell

From May 14-16, a diverse group of speakers will share insights on mental illness, strategies for involving patients in health research and more with those attending the 2018 AbSPORU Summer Institute (SI2018). The conference has two exciting co-keynote speakers, Victoria Maxwell and Dr. Glenda McQueen. Victoria Maxwell, who is sought out for sharing her lived experience of mental illness will bring a unique perspective to the conference. She has blogged for Psychology Today for over 10 years and is a core researcher with CREST.BD an international team studying bipolar disorder. She is an actor and advocate who has appeared on CNN, CTV national, in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and Women's Health UK. Dr. Glenda MacQueen is Vice Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Calgary. With research interests in structural and functional brain changes associated with mood disorders and the factors that predict outcome in mood disorders, Dr. MacQueen has received funding through several national and international agencies. Also sharing insights is Dr. Caroline Tait Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre First Nations University of Canada & University of Saskatchewan. The AbSPORU Summer Institute conference web site was launched in early February and those interested in submitting abstracts can do so [here](#). Early bird registration is available until March 6. [Learn more and register](#) for SI2018.

Sharing Insights on Patient Engagement in Health Research

The Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit Patient Engagement (PE) Platform recently made a contribution to the discourse on patient engagement in health research in their paper Patient engagement in Canada: A scoping review of the 'how' and 'what' of patient engagement in health research published in the journal Health Research Policy and Systems in January 2018. While there is increased interest in patient-engagement in health research, more work is needed to normalize patient-oriented research in health

and healthcare. In this article, current evidence of the methods for and outcomes of patient engagement in health research are identified to advance the science of patient engagement. “We are seeing efforts in the ways to better engage patients in health research in the UK, US and Canada,” said Dr. Virginia Vandall-Walker, PE Platform Lead and co-author of the study. “We want to build on this momentum, because we know that when researchers and patients engage across the research continuum, opportunities are provided to improve health care outcomes.” Read [Patient Engagement in Canada: A Scoping Review of the “how” and “what” of Patient Engagement](#).

2017 Patient-Oriented Awardees showcase diverse skills and interest in patient-oriented research

In December, AbSPORU announced the results of the 2017 Alberta SPOR Graduate Studentship competition. Ten studentships were awarded, 7 to students at the University of Calgary and 3 to students at the University of Alberta. You can learn more about these outstanding students and their projects through our [online 2017 Studentship Directory](#). Awardees are focusing their research on a variety of topics from the Feasibility of a Physical Activity Program for Advanced Cancer Patients to Assessing Patient-Centredness in Services for Opioid Use. Over the course of the funding year, the awardees will be learning about patient-oriented research by participating in a pilot of the new Patient-Oriented Research Training Program. This program will be open for general registration in Fall 2018. Awardees will also attend the [2018 Summer Institute](#) in Calgary from May 14-16 and present posters showcasing their research projects.



2017 AbSPORU Studentship Awardees from the University of Calgary



2017 AbSPORU Studentship Awardees from the University of Alberta