

AbSPORU Graduate Studentship Recipients Make an Impact

Since the inception of the Alberta SPOR Graduate Studentships in 2015, Alberta's universities have steadily brought forward exceptional awardees including the University of Calgary's Department of Psychology who are conducting innovative patient-oriented research. Dr. Melanie Noel, who heads the [Alberta Children's Pain Research Lab](#), is supervising three recent awardees including: [Alexandra Neville](#), [Sabine Soltani](#) and [Maria Pavlova](#). They have recently published a paper that examines the relationship between parent and child PTSD and pediatric chronic pain, selected as an Editor's Pick by the [Pain Research Forum](#). "Provincial mechanisms supporting the next generation of researchers in conducting health research are essential to their ongoing success," says Dr. Noel. "Not only do these types of studentships provide invaluable support, but they also provide recognition, validation of work and serve as a jumping off point to build momentum that translates into important work and discoveries. I am training some of the best and the brightest women in science and they are the ones who are leading the innovative streams of my research program. I think AbSPORU is Alberta's best kept secret!" The AbSPORU Graduate Studentship in Patient-Oriented Research provides a one-year award, including funding and training, to first year graduate students pursuing a patient-oriented research approach to their work. The next application cycle will open in August 2018. [Learn more](#).

AbSPORU helps researchers advance Metastatic Bone Disease Project

Collaboration is at the heart of the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit (AbSPORU). When research coordinators like Olesja Hazenbiller of the University of Calgary connect with our unit, their unique needs are assessed and they are directed to the resources, services, and training needed to support their projects. Olesja is working with a team on a Metastatic Bone Disease Project led by Dr. Michael J. Monument (Principal Investigator) and Dr. Shannon Puloski that has a patient-oriented focus. Working with AbSPORU, Olesja received the assistance of three AbSPORU platforms (Knowledge Translation (KT), Patient Engagement and Consultation & Research Services) to advance her project. This included a Letter of Support (which informs grant funders that researchers have access to supports and services), a workshop on how to disseminate the results of the project (KT), training for how to work with patients including how to work together as team, creating tools and resources that engage patients and what is meaningful involvement in a project as well as project method consultations, grant review assistance, development of an analytical plan and sample size calculation. "I value AbSPORU because it gives me access to the skills and expertise in KT, patient engagement and more which helps to save me time, energy and resources," says Hazenbiller. "I can always rely on the AbSPORU subject matter experts to help me with the answers to my questions." The Metastatic Bone Disease Project team recently received a CIHR SPOR Collaborative Grant which is helping them build capacity in patient-oriented research and providing opportunities for training in patient-engagement. If you're a researcher who would like to learn more about services available through the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit visit absporu.ca.

AbSPORU: Last Chance to Register

The Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit Summer Institute is just around the corner. Taking place May 14-16 in Calgary, there is still time to [register](#) to take part in this outstanding patient-oriented conference which brings together researchers, patients, clinicians, students, policy-makers and more to promote and

share knowledge about patient-oriented research. New workshops and facilitated sessions have been added to the program and they are filling up fast, so be sure to sign up soon. One of the highlights of the Summer Institute is that it will showcase the 2017 AbSPORU Graduate Studentship Award recipients and their interactive and inspiring research. Learn about the graduate students presentations at SI2018 [here](#). Did you know that the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit offers opportunities for patients, students and Albertans to attend SI2018 at a reduced cost? There are still spots available and those interested just need to complete an expression of interest through our [conference web site](#). We look forward to seeing you at the Summer Institute.