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AbSPORU: Helping researchers get funding through Letters of Support



Dr. Glen Hazlewood, University of Calgary

AbSPORU provides services to researchers who already have studies underway, but you may not know that we also help researchers through our Letters of Support service. A Letter of Support is often required by grant programs as a way to show that a research project has established resources behind it which increases the feasibility of the study.

For Dr. Glen Hazlewood, a rheumatologist and clinician scientist from the University of Calgary, the AbSPORU Letters of Support service was valuable in helping him receive a CIHR SPOR Innovative Clinical Trials Catalyst Grant. “AbSPORU staff worked with me to identify what supports my project needed and they tailored the Letter of Support to my specific project,” says Hazlewood. “The value for researchers is the ability to clearly demonstrate within a grant the experienced, capable staff that AbSPORU has to offer.” Researchers who are in the process of, or considering applying for research funding or awards, are encouraged to visit [AbSPORU](#) to request a Letter of Support. Requests that are eligible for support will receive initial consultation and advice to assist in preparing a funding application and obtain a Letter of Support that outlines what AbSPORU will provide to the project if it is successfully funded.

Sharing the patient voice with the AbSPORU Steering Committee



Peter Oxland, Patient Member

Sharing the patient perspective in research and with organizations and committees isn't something new for Peter Oxland, a patient member who was recently appointed to the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit **Steering Committee**.

Peter joins two other patient members, Shannon Hennig and Dr. Jay Smith, on the Steering Committee. "Patients want to share their experiences and see their voices impact health research and ultimately health care," says Peter Oxland. "My experience has shown that embracing patients and family members in research as collaborators ultimately benefits both research projects and patients themselves within a health care system."

Peter has spent over 30 years with a large IT company and over four years as a Family Advisor with Alberta Health Services (AHS) Critical Care **Strategic Clinical Network** (SCN), conducted two Patient and Community Engagement Research projects, is an AHS Patient Engagement Reference Group member and helps with AHS Grief Support Program, Wellspring Calgary and the Distress Centre.

Peter's knowledge and insights, along with all of the patient members, are invaluable to the AbSPORU Steering Committee which sets priorities for achieving the goals outlined by CHIRs Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research. AbSPORU continues to monitor its programs, services and supports to ensure they align with these goals. If you have questions about AbSPORUs governance or goals

contact absporu@albertainnovates.ca

Connecting with AbSPORU at the University of Calgary



AbSPORU staff meeting with students at Connecting with AbSPORU event

The latest “Connecting with AbSPORU” event took place April 27-28, 2017. The event provided the opportunity for AbSPORU staff to showcase services, training and supports available to researchers. Students, faculty, and others had the opportunity to hear presentations and meet with AbSPORU staff at research consultations. As well, there were two Knowledge Translation Workshops; “How to do a Systematic Review” and “Integrated Knowledge Translation”. The last “Connecting with AbSPORU” event took place at the University of Lethbridge on March 14, 2017. If you would like a presentation by AbSPORU contact absporu@albertainnovates.ca