

## Summer Institute 2017 and more

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**The Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit is getting ready for Summer Institute 2017, taking place June 25-27 at Lister Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton.**



Simon Denegri

Researchers, patients, clinicians, students, policy makers and more will gather to share insights, connect with colleagues and promote patient-oriented research. “Summer Institute 2017 is the place to be if you are passionate about patient-oriented research, or you want to learn from experts in the field,” says Dr. Diane Aubin of the AbSPORU Career Development Platform. A highlight of the conference will be keynote speaker Simon Denegri of the National Institute for Health Research and INVOLVE who will share insights and experiences of the UK’s patient-oriented research journey. A key aspect of the conference is connecting and collaborating with patients. “This conference helps give patients an insight into the health care system from a research perspective. This is a great opportunity for patients who want to be engaged in improving health care,” says Neil Durrant a patient member of the AbSPORU Patient Engagement Platform Advisory Committee.

[Visit us to register or learn more about the Summer Institute 2017.](#)

## **Patient-Oriented Research (POR) Classification Project: Who’s doing POR?**

Understanding the depth and breadth of patient-oriented research publications is the purpose behind a unique collaborative project between Alberta Innovates, CHIR, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), UberResearch, the University of Alberta, and the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit. The project involves creating a keyword algorithm to assist with developing a common language when describing POR to ensure knowledge about POR can be easily found and consistently communicated. “Finding POR publications is the first step in understanding the amount, reach and quality of POR being done locally, nationally and internationally” says Shannon Cunningham, PhD, Senior Research Evaluator with Alberta Innovates. This research is ground breaking because no POR classification system currently exists that will enable

a bibliometric baseline and future comparative analyses to determine the value and impact of patient-oriented research. The project is expected to be complete by spring 2017 and results will be posted on [absporu.ca](http://absporu.ca).

## AbSPORU Helps Calgary Researcher's Organ Donation Project



**Dr. Chip Doig**

In Canada, a large number of people die while waiting for an organ transplant. The demand for transplantable organs continues to increase, while there still remains a shortage of viable organs. A research project lead by Dr. Chip Doig from the Department of Critical Care at the University of Calgary is looking at defining and estimating the number of potential organ donors in Canada. This project involved using multiple large-scale databases – both administrative and clinical, medical record reviews, and linking and analyzing data. The project team learned that expertise and support for acquiring and linking data and designing the study was available through the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit which lead them to apply for services. Both the Data and Methods Support and Development Platforms worked together to help the research team with their protocol, ethics requirements, data requests and study design. Specifically, the Data Platform helped determine which data sources would be best to use, and supplied support for the data requests, while the Methods Support and Development Platform supplied advice on the methodology on how to link the data, validate administrative case definitions of potential organ donor patients, and which analysis to use. This project is important and relevant, in terms of advancing the knowledge surrounding organ donation, which will inform both practice and policy, helping to procure more organs and provide more organs for patients already on wait lists, ultimately saving more lives.