

January 31, 2017

ABSPORU awards graduate studentships in patient-oriented research



Nathan McClure (University of Alberta) and Danielle Whitter (University of Calgary). Two of 13 recipients of the 2016 Alberta SPOR Graduate Studentship

For a second year in a row, the Alberta SPOR Graduate Studentship is helping PhD and Masters students further their theoretical and practical knowledge of patient-oriented research. On December 21, 13 one-year \$30,000 studentships totaling \$390,000 were awarded to students from the University of Alberta, University of Calgary and University of Lethbridge. During the upcoming year the studentship recipients will participate in a patient-oriented training program and present their work at Summer Institute 2017 taking place June 25-27 at Lister Hall at the University of Alberta. Last year 10 studentships were awarded to students from the University of Alberta and University of Calgary.

How measurement helps patient experience and improves health care

Patient reported measures are increasingly being applied in the health care system for use in clinical practice and as measures for health system performance. Health care professionals use patient-reported experience measures (PREMs) and patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) for screening and diagnosis, patient-centered care, goal setting and quality improvement. Patients use patient-reported outcome measures for goal setting and shared decision making. The AbSPORU [Methods Support & Development Platform](#) has gathered a list of [SPOR SUPPORT contacts](#) across Canada with expertise in PROMs and PREMs who are willing to share their knowledge with those who want to incorporate PROMs and PREMs in their research. You can also hear how the Netherlands have used PROMs and PREMs to enhance patient experience and improve their health care system by listening to the [Method's Hub Podcast](#) featuring Dr. Sandra Beurskens, a professor of Goal Oriented Measurement in Patient Care at Maastricht University.

New Leaders Join AbSPORU



Shannon Hennig (Patient Member, Steering Committee) and Lawrence Richer (Pragmatic Clinical Trials Platform Lead) join the AbSPORU team

We are pleased to welcome two new leaders to the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit. In December, Shannon Hennig was appointed to [AbSPORU Steering Committee](#) as a Patient Member for a two-year term. Shannon is a healthcare and research professional with experience in healthcare operations and the non-profit sector. Shannon gained insight of the patient experience as an inpatient, outpatient and when accessing primary care, which provided a solid understanding of the difficulties patients and their families face when trying to manage acute and chronic conditions. She will be a strong advocate for the patient voice on the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit Steering Committee.

Dr. Lawrence Richer, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry University of Alberta also joined the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit in January. He and Dr. Michael Hill will jointly lead the Pragmatic Clinical Trials Platform which enhances Alberta's research environment by developing resources and tools for clinical trial planning and management. Dr. Richer is a pediatric neurologist with clinical and research interests in the treatment of headache and disorders of the autonomic nervous system. As Associate Dean, Clinical Research and Director of the Northern Alberta Clinical Trials and Research Centre (NACTRC) he has a broad commitment to maximizing the use of health data to improve patient outcomes through research, to optimizing research administration processes, and to enhancing support for innovation in clinical trials.

[Read more](#) about the Pragmatic Clinical Trials Platform and Dr. Richer.

Newsletter Survey Closes and Prize Winners

Thank you to those who took the time to participate in our newsletter survey and congratulations to our additional prize winners Emi Sanders and Tessa Kleissen who join Sheila Kelly, Donna Pressick and Nicole Romanow in receiving a AbSPORU prize for completing our survey.