

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR PATIENT & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT 2019–2024

At the core of the Women’s Health Research Institute (WHRI) are the women and families directly affected by health research. In line with Canada’s Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR), the **WHRI Strategic Framework for Patient & Public Engagement** ultimately seeks to transform the role of patient from a “*passive receptor of services to a proactive partner who helps shape health research and, as a result, health care*”¹. We are committed to upholding the SPOR guiding principles of inclusiveness, support, mutual respect and co-building, and recognize that patient engagement not only includes those receiving care, but also their families, support network and members of the public.

Patients and their families have invaluable expertise through lived experience. This unique perspective can inform study objectives, hypotheses and design, increase research transparency, and ultimately lead to meaningful outcomes³. Patient partners indicate that engagement with research increases their confidence, allows them to develop new skills and provides them the opportunity to contribute to meaningful change in their communities¹. Patient engagement also enables researchers to more effectively and efficiently translate research findings to clinical care.

By addressing the spectrum of engagement outlined by the International Association of Public Participant (IAP²), the WHRI will support members who wish to pursue meaningful engagement with patients and the public across the whole research lifecycle including research design, interpretation of data and knowledge translation^{1,2}.

Domain	Intention	WHRI Commitment
Inform	To disseminate evidence- based knowledge to a wide variety of audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host public events to facilitate plain language knowledge translation of evidence-based healthcare information • Create a public newsletter/e-blast to feature plain language research findings and engagement opportunities • Inform members on meaningful patient-oriented research strategies through training and 1:1 support • Foster the next generation of patient-oriented researchers as part of the Trainee and Mentorship Strategic Framework
Consult	To obtain public feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with patient partners on priorities for the WHRI Strategic Plan and other initiatives
Involve	To support the development of patient partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate opportunities for members and patients to form relationships outside the direct care continuum • Support members and patient partners to co-develop meaningful partnership strategies
Collaborate	To partner directly with members, patient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support members to implement meaningful patient-oriented research activities into their research programs

	partners and other patient engagement organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support members to develop appropriate funding models for patient partnerships • Strengthen partnerships with the BC Support Unit to advance patient-oriented research in women's health • Foster partnerships with current teams/organisations that demonstrate best practice in patient-oriented research (eg. Arthritis Research Canada)
Empower	To provide members and patient partners with the tools they need to make a meaningful impact in women's health research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equip patient partners and members with tools for patient-oriented research, by leveraging resources available through organizations such as the BC Support Unit and the PHSA Patient Engagement Office

Overall, this Strategic Framework for Patient & Public Engagement will position the WHRI as a strong ally in patient engagement and patient-oriented research for women's health.

1. Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR): Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR). Patient Engagement. <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/45851.html> Date Modified 2018-07-23
2. International Association for Public Participation (2018) <https://www.iap2.org/page/pillars>
3. Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR). (2018-2019) Draft CIHR Ethics Guidance for Developing Research Partnerships with Patients. http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/documents/ethics_guidance_developing_research-en.pdf