

# Why should you get involved in health research?



## **Darlene Gallant**

I'm optimistic that every patient can find the right place to get involved; a place where patients are the focus and are seriously heard. This can be challenging, but there is a lot of good work out there being done. It's about working together with people who share a common goal that focuses on the collective good for patients in Alberta.

**Family Member, Wife of Patient**



## **Neil Durrant**

I continue to be involved with the PE Platform to ensure that changes in health research benefit patients and not just administrators/researchers - we need to see a direct patient benefit from research. I am concerned by the amount of money being spent in the healthcare industry; there are steps we can take by being engaged in research to ensure effective health care for the general population. I push for patient engagement to start happening earlier in the process, in the hopes that their involvement is no longer an afterthought in research work.

**Patient Engagement Platform Advisory Council (PEPAC) Member**

## **Jessica Havens**

Very rarely are youth talked to as though our opinions count; that our lived experience is just as legitimate as the experiences of adults. Patient engagement in research, and in all aspects of healthcare, is key because there are never one-size-fits-all questions or answers. Healthcare should be constantly ongoing, evolving, and improving, and that cannot happen without the involvement of patients and family members who are willing to let researchers learn from patients' personal experiences. Getting involved means that together we are turning both good and bad experiences into learning experiences for all Albertans to benefit from.

**Child and Youth Advisory Council (CAYAC) Member**

**Patient Engagement Platform Advisory Council (PEPAC) Member**



## **Nicole Olivier**

I [realize] how complementary patient engagement [is] to the project. The contributions that have been made by patients to our project have expanded the limits of our research comfort zone to include ethics and marketing. Who better to help us determine if our project mattered to patients than by patients themselves?

**BedMed Study Coordinator**

## The Patient Engagement Platform is:

- a small team
- involved in the Canadian Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) initiative
- helping influence active, meaningful patient engagement in health research in Alberta.

“**Patient**” is an overarching term inclusive of people with a personal experience of a health condition (including caregivers, family, and friends).

**Patient engagement** includes patients working with researchers in all stages of health research, from the choice of research project, through to collecting data and the sharing of study results.



## Connect with Us

Patient Engagement Platform  
Athabasca University

5-017 Edmonton Clinic Health Academy  
11405 - 87 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T6G 1C9

Phone: 780-492-9695

Email: [rlaczy@athabascau.ca](mailto:rlaczy@athabascau.ca)

Web: [www.absporu.ca/patient-engagement](http://www.absporu.ca/patient-engagement)

Facebook: SPOR Patient Engagement Platform

Twitter: @AbSPORU\_PEP



**Patient Engagement Platform Team**  
(left to right)

Dr. Virginia Vandall-Walker, Lead  
Kiara Krawec, Administrative Assistant  
Sennait Yohannes, Program Educator Liaison  
Ping Mason-Lai, Associate Director  
Robyn Laczy, Program Coordinator  
Dr. Lisa Petermann, Program Educator Liaison

## Albertans!

**The Patient/Family Registry**  
**Sign-up** to learn more about engaging  
in health research in Alberta.

View engagement opportunities!

[www.bit.ly/peRegistry](http://www.bit.ly/peRegistry)