

BC SUPPORT Unit

Fraser Centre



About the BC SUPPORT Unit



The BC SUPPORT (Support for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials) Unit is a multi-partner organization created to support, streamline and increase patient-oriented research throughout British Columbia.

It's one of 10 SUPPORT Units established across Canada as part of the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR), a national initiative led by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

A provincial hub, located in Vancouver, coordinates activities across BC.

About the BC SUPPORT Unit Fraser Centre

The Fraser Centre is your first point of contact for the BC SUPPORT Unit. Jointly administered by the Fraser Health Authority and Simon Fraser University, it is one of five BC SUPPORT Unit regional centres located across the province. Fraser Centre staff roles are: Regional Centre Lead, Research Navigator-Leader, Patient Engagement Specialist, Knowledge Translation Specialist, and Education & Communications Coordinator.

Who are patients?

Anyone who has experience with the health care system and/or personal experience of a health issue, and informal caregivers, including family and friends.

What's Patient-Oriented Research?

Research that is done in partnership with patients, answers research questions that matter to patients, and aims to improve health care.

What's Patient Engagement?

Patient engagement involves working with patients along a spectrum ranging from consultation, to involvement, to collaboration and empowerment. Patient engagement is represented by the International Association for Public Participation in this way:

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
To provide with information	To obtain feedback	To work with, to develop alternatives	To partner in each aspect of decision-making	To decide

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Examples of Patient Partner Roles:

- Priority setting
- Formulating a study question
- Identifying study population
- Defining characteristics of study population
- Recruitment
- Determining consent procedures
- Designing interventions
- Choosing outcomes that are important to the population of interest (e.g. survival, function, symptoms, quality of life, etc.)
- Study design
- Monitoring study conduct and progress
- Data collection (e.g. conducting interviews and focus groups)
- Data analysis
- Interpretation of findings
- Designing/suggesting plans for dissemination and implementation activities
- Actual dissemination of research results (presentations, social media)
- Translating documents in plain language
- Helping to develop decision aid tools, clinical practice guidelines, etc.
- Evaluation
- Peer review

Fraser Centre's Service Delivery Process:

Once a researcher, clinician or other stakeholder submits an inquiry request at bcsupportunit.ca for a patient-oriented research project, they begin a supported service journey with Fraser Centre staff, which includes:

- **Research Navigator Lead (RN)**
- **Patient Engagement Specialist (PE)**
- **Knowledge Translation Specialist (KT)**

Inquiry & Triage

Submit an [inquiry form](#), then the RN will work with you to identify needs, provide support & referrals

STEP
01



STEP
02

Consultation

The PE or KT Specialist meets with you to identify needs, goals, and strategize on how they can be of support

Monitor

Ongoing supports and services are provided as needed and the progress of the project is monitored

STEP
03



STEP
04

Communicate

The Fraser Centre shares the impact, successes, & lessons learned in the supported projects

Evaluate

The Fraser Centre, with the BC SUPPORT Unit Hub, evaluates impact

STEP
05

