

Patient Engagement in Research (PEiR) Committee

BC SUPPORT Unit Interior Centre

Who is PEiR?

The Patient Engagement in Research (PEiR) Committee was formed in 2016, and includes patient-partners from across the Interior region. We provide support to increase the ways that patients contribute to research, with the aim of improving the delivery of health services. “Patients” simply means anyone who has experience with the health system, either directly or as friends and family. The current committee members have had experiences in the delivery of healthcare, research, education and mentorship. PEiR members speak from their own experiences to reinforce that the lived experiences of patient-partners, and what matters to them, is essential in guiding planning, processes and decision-making with healthcare research.

What We Do

The PEiR Committee works collaboratively with the [Michael Smith Health Research BC](#), [BC SUPPORT \(Support for People & Patient-Oriented Research & Trials\) Unit](#) and [Interior Health](#) in supporting and advancing meaningful patient-oriented research to improve the health and well-being of people living in the Interior Region.

PEiR members align their activities around the specific needs and considerations of the Interior Region. Our goals are:

- Strengthening the ways patients are recruited and supported to work with researchers and decision makers
- Raising awareness of the benefits of patient engagement in research
- Matching patients with researchers to increase collaboration
- Ensuring that patients, researchers, healthcare providers and decision makers are knowledgeable and supported in their actions with patient engagement in research

Why Patients Matter

“Patients are active partners in health research that will lead to improved health outcomes and an enhanced healthcare system,” as envisioned by the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR), implemented by Canadian Institutes of Health Research ([CIHR](#)). Supporting health research that engages patient-partners and focuses on patient-identified issues will allow for the improvement of healthcare practices and services. Integrating the voices of patients into any healthcare improvement will support positive changes into the healthcare system.

How You Can Help

Sharing your suggestions and/or experiences is important to us and we invite your ideas! If you would like to provide feedback and suggestions to the committee, please contact us by email research@interiorhealth.ca