

# Fraser Centre Research Support Award in Patient-Oriented Research

2020-2021 Award Cycle

## Purpose

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to provide a team that includes an SFU academic and a Fraser Health (FH) clinician or decision-maker with funds to engage an SFU undergraduate or graduate student as a research assistant to support a patient-oriented research or knowledge translation project taking place in the Fraser region.

The award is funded and managed by the [BC SUPPORT Unit Fraser Centre](#), a part of the [CIHR Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research](#) (SPOR). The Fraser Centre is a partnership between Fraser Health and Simon Fraser University.

## Definitions

**Fraser region:** area in the BC Lower Mainland encompassed by the [Fraser Health Authority](#).

*Note:* Applicants from universities that have their main campuses in the Fraser region but that work out of campuses elsewhere in the lower mainland, such as Simon Fraser University Vancouver (downtown) campus, are still eligible.

**Patients:** individuals with personal experience of a health issue or the health system, or their informal caregivers, including family and friends. *Note:* while “patient” is used here as an overarching term for simplicity and consistency, some people prefer terms such as “people with lived experience”, “client”, “consumer” or “citizen”, which are all in-keeping with the scope of SPOR.

**Patient-oriented research:** research that is done in partnership with patients, answers research questions that matter to patients, and aims to improve health care. To fit this definition (see link below), projects must include patients as team members or as members of a patient advisory panel tasked with significant input on the project; their role should be tangible and substantial. (See [Patient Engagement](#)).

**Knowledge Translation (KT):** A dynamic and iterative process that includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically sound application of knowledge to improve the health of Canadians, provide more effective health services and products and strengthen the health care system.

**Patient engagement:** involves working with patients along an engagement spectrum ranging from consultation, to involvement, to collaboration and empowerment. Patient engagement is represented by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) in the following ways:

Table 1. Spectrum of Engagement (Adapted from IAP2).

Inform*	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
To provide information	To obtain feedback	To work with to develop alternatives	To partner in each aspect of decision-making	To decide
Disseminate research results in plain language to patients and public	Get feedback on the look, feel etc. of a brochure from patient representatives	Deliberative dialogue event with patients & public to identify their concerns	Patient partners on research team are involved in all aspects of the research	Patient partner organization decides what research question to pursue

\*For the purpose of this award, patients must be engaged at the minimum level of “Consult”. The level of “Inform” is not sufficient.

## Objective

The objective of the Research Support Award is:

- i. To support multi-disciplinary research teams to conduct patient-oriented research or knowledge translation by providing funds to hire a research assistant; and
- ii. To build capacity of SFU undergraduate and graduate students to undertake patient-oriented research or knowledge translation in a collaborative research setting with strong mentorship.

Proposals must demonstrate the following SPOR Patient Engagement Principles ([Patient Engagement Framework](#)):

- **Inclusiveness:** Patient engagement in research integrates a diversity of patient perspectives and research is reflective of their contribution – i.e., patients are bringing their lived experience into the planning and conduct of research.
- **Support:** Adequate support and flexibility are provided to patient partners to ensure that they can contribute fully to discussions and decisions. This includes creating safe environments that promote honest interactions, cultural competence, training, and education. Support also implies financial compensation for their involvement.
- **Mutual Respect:** Patients, researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers acknowledge and value each other's expertise and experiential knowledge.
- **Co-Build:** Patients, researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers work together from the beginning to identify problems and gaps, set priorities for research and work together to produce and implement solutions.

Note: patient partners must be engaged at the minimum level of **Consult**, as per the above IAP2 table.

## Applicant Teams and Eligibility

- An SFU researcher, and one of either an FH health practitioner or an FH decision-maker will be the co-Principal Investigators (PIs) of the award. A patient partner can be added as a third co-Principal Investigator. Either the SFU PI or the FH PI should be designated as the Administrative Lead of the award; please complete a signature sheet through SFU's Office of Research Services ([ors@sfu.ca](mailto:ors@sfu.ca)) or FH's Dept. of Evaluation and Research Services ([ashley.kwon@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:ashley.kwon@fraserhealth.ca)) and include it with the submission package.
- You may apply for this award regardless of whether the proposed project has already been funded.
- Applicant teams must include **at least one of each** of the first three stakeholder types in the following list, with the fourth stakeholder (health care decision-maker) to be included as appropriate, **or** the application must make clear how such individuals will be recruited during the course of the project:

<b>1. Patient partner</b>	The inclusion of patients as partners on research or knowledge translation (KT) teams helps ensure that research or KT is meaningful and relevant to patients and focuses on patient-identified priorities. <i>Note:</i> a staff member from a community organization cannot replace the requirement for a patient partner.
<b>2. Academic Researcher</b>	The inclusion of academic researchers helps ensure that the resulting research or KT plan is robust and incorporates rigorous methodologies, while taking scientific literature into account. The academic collaborator must be an SFU-affiliated researcher.
<b>3. Health Care Practitioner</b> (health authority staff or physicians)	The inclusion of health care practitioners helps ensure that research or knowledge dissemination will have the buy-in of key stakeholders necessary to improve health care systems and practices. These individuals may or may not be experienced in research. The health care practitioner must be Fraser Health-based.
<b>4. Health Care Decision-Maker</b> (health authority or government staff)	The inclusion of health care decision-makers helps ensure that research or KT will have the buy-in of key stakeholders necessary to improve health care systems and practices.
Notes:	<p>Teams with all of these applicant types already in place as team members at the time of application submission will be more competitive as this speaks to the feasibility of assembling the required team.</p> <p>A decision-maker may also be a health care practitioner but is often in a more senior role that includes administrative oversight of a program or department, such as a director.</p> <p>Applicants must work or live (if a patient partner) in the Fraser region and the proposed project must occur in the Fraser region. Applicants based at Simon Fraser University Vancouver (downtown) campus are eligible.</p>

- To emphasize the patient-oriented aspect of this award, research teams will be required to submit a patient engagement plan as part of their application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Fraser Centre staff to discuss their patient and/or stakeholder engagement plans prior to submission.
- **The Fraser Centre will not participate in the recruitment, hiring, or management of research assistants.** However, Fraser Centre staff are available to connect teams to resources, such as SFU's co-op programs, that can help with the hiring process.

## Funding

Five awards of \$9,700 each will be awarded (total \$48,500) to supplement salary for a research assistant. Funds must be spent prior to February 28, 2021.

Eligible costs:

- Salary contribution for research assistant.
- Expenses related to patient partner engagement activities up to \$500. For example, but not limited to, reimbursement of travel expenses and honoraria.

In addition, applicable CIHR and institutional policies regarding use of funds will be in effect.

## Key Dates

Competition launch	February 28, 2020
Deadline for application submission	March 31, 2020
Review committee meeting	Mid-April, 2020
Project closure	February 28, 2021
Report deadline	February 28, 2021

*Note:* Deferral of the award is not permitted. Requests for extensions of the funding will not be granted.

## Key Deliverables

- Final report detailing research assistant activities and research or KT project progress, including progress on patient/stakeholder engagement plans (a report form will be provided)
- Detailed budget report compiled by institutional finance officer

In addition:

- Award recipients are expected to notify the Fraser Centre once a research assistant is hired.
- Research assistants will be expected to attend a POR training workshop hosted by the Fraser Centre. Timing of workshop to be determined based on date of hire.
- Award recipients will be invited to present their work at a future event, such as Fraser Health Research Week, SFU research events and departmental (FHS/BPK/Faculty of Science) research days, and events hosted by the BC SUPPORT Unit Fraser Centre.

- Successful applicants must participate in evaluation of this award program, which includes ongoing follow-up.

## Support for Applicants

Staff at the Fraser Centre includes a Regional Centre Lead, SFU Research Navigator, FH Research Navigator, a Patient Engagement Specialist and a Knowledge Translation Specialist. They can support applicants via the following services:

- Feedback on award proposals
- Patient engagement, including planning, recruitment and training
- KT planning and design
- Facilitating connections between academic researchers and Fraser Health clinicians and decision-makers

See Contacts section at end for staff email addresses.

*Note:* It is the strong recommendation of reviewers of past Fraser Centre award competitions that applicants contact Fraser Centre staff for support with applications before they submit to better align applications with review criteria.

## Application

Send completed applications via email to Brittney La Pietra: [blapietr@sfu.ca](mailto:blapietr@sfu.ca).

Include the following documents:

- Application Form (including budget)
- Reference List (APA formatting)
- Team Member Descriptions (Academic team members may use CIHR Biosketch Common CV)
- Letters of Collaboration (if applicable)

## Review Criteria

### *Approach*

- a. Fit with definition of patient-oriented research
- b. Clarity and alignment of the goals of the proposed project with the objective of this funding opportunity
- c. Appropriateness of the patient-oriented research / KT approach, as per CIHR SPOR Patient Engagement Principles (see page 1, Objectives)
- d. Outline of research or KT project including a description of the research assistant's role
- e. Justification of need for research assistance on the project

### *Building capacity for patient-oriented research*

- a. Degree of meaningful inclusion of patients and other relevant stakeholders and their appropriateness in relation to the goals of the proposal

- b. Commitment to training and mentorship of a student research assistant
- c. Benefits to the student from contributing to this research project (e.g., what skills and knowledge will the student acquire?)

#### *Feasibility*

- a. Appropriateness of the team to carry out the proposed activities and achieve stated objectives (or appropriateness of team and stakeholder recruitment plan)
- b. Feasibility of engagement activities
- c. Feasibility of proposed research assistant activities

#### *Impact*

- a. Realistic expectations of impact of project activities and outputs
- b. Potential to contribute to the improvement of health care systems and practices
- c. Potential to foster a supportive mentorship environment and contribute to the training of a student research assistant

## Review Committee and Scoring

The competition will be adjudicated by a review committee that includes patient representatives, academic researchers, health care practitioners and decision-makers, and such additional reviewers as needed with relevant expertise in patient-oriented research and KT.

The four review categories (Approach, Building capacity for POR, Feasibility, and Impact) will have equal weight in scoring (25% of overall score).

The [CIHR scoring system](#) will be used.

## Contacts

### **Brittney La Pietra**

SFU Research Navigator  
BC SUPPORT Unit Fraser Centre  
[blapietr@sfu.ca](mailto:blapietr@sfu.ca)

### **Rich Sobel**

Fraser Health Research Navigator  
BC SUPPORT Unit Fraser Centre  
[richard.sobel@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:richard.sobel@fraserhealth.ca)