



In Motion

Highlighting Articles Advancing Pain Research in Canada and the World

Featured article:

Tripp, L., et al. **Evaluating the impacts of patient engagement on a national health research network: results of a case study of the Chronic Pain Network.** *Research Involvement and Engagement*, 9, 73 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40900-023-00491-w>

Key insights from the study:

- **Community and Connection:** The Chronic Pain Network's (CPN) emphasis on patient partnership fostered a sense of community, enriching personal and professional relationships among researchers, staff, and patient partners.
- **Knowledge and Empowerment:** Engagement in the CPN empowered individuals, particularly patient partners, enhancing their knowledge, skills, and confidence. This empowerment led to patient partners becoming leaders and influencers within and beyond the CPN.
- **Shaping Research and Policy:** Patient engagement within the CPN significantly influenced research priorities and decisions, aligning them more closely with the needs and experiences of those living with chronic pain.



What happened?

An exploratory case study was conducted to understand the multifaceted impacts of patient engagement within the CPN. The CPN collaborated with an external evaluation team to ensure an objective, arms-length approach. 46 interviews were conducted with CPN members between 2018-2022, revealing transformative impacts at individual, network, and broader community levels. Themes such as building community, developing knowledge and skills, enabling additional opportunities, and promoting cultural change emerged, illustrating the profound effects of integrating patient knowledge, experience, and perspectives into research networks and the research process.

Why is it important?

The CPN's patient engagement strategy not only enhanced the network and its research initiatives but also contributed to a broader cultural shift towards more inclusive and patient-centered health research. These findings underscore the critical role of patient partnerships in creating research that is more relevant, effective, and attuned to patient needs and the approach highlights the importance of maintaining an objective and reflective stance on patient engagement practices within research networks.

What now?

The study highlights the need for continued and enhanced support for patient engagement in health research and research networks. By fostering an environment where patient experiences and insights are valued and integrated, the CPN and similar networks can drive forward a more empathetic and impactful research agenda.



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