

## 2019 Excellence in Patient-Oriented Research (POR) Investigator Award Guidelines

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) and the BC SUPPORT Unit are partnering to offer a new award to assist researchers interested in developing or expanding a patient-oriented approach to their research activities conducted within Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH).

### 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 (POR) throughout British Columbia. For further information on the BC SUPPORT Unit click [here](#).

### Patient-Oriented Research

The research projects funded by this award must be patient-oriented, engaging patients and other stakeholders (as appropriate) as partners in the projects. For more information on how to determine if your project is patient-oriented click on "[How patient-oriented is your research](#)". The projects must have a patient-partner who is participating at the "involve" or "collaborate" level of engagement on the IAP2 spectrum on the project ([see levels of engagement](#)).

### Important Dates

\*\*Registration is mandatory for this competition.

**Information session:** Monday September 9, 2019 12:00-2:00pm (PST)

Sign-up for information session here: <https://www.vchri.ca/events/excellence-patient-oriented-research-award-information-session>

**Registration deadline via online form:** Monday, September 30, 2019 by 4:00pm (PST)

Register here: <https://www.vchri.ca/excellence-patient-oriented-research-awards-registration>

**POR consultation and support:** The BC SUPPORT Unit will provide patient-oriented research or patient engagement planning consultations with registered applicants. These consultations can be in person or over the phone, and must be booked through completion of an [online inquiry form](#) on the BC SUPPORT Unit Website no later than October 11, 2019. All award winners will also receive additional consultation and training to support successful patient engagement in the project.

**Investigator Award submission deadline:** Monday, November 4, 2019 by 4:00pm (PST).

Submit here: <https://www.vchri.ca/excellence-patient-oriented-research>

Complete application must be received via email at [education.award@vch.ca](mailto:education.award@vch.ca) or online submission link by the times specified or they will not be accepted.

### Eligibility Criteria

You are eligible to be the principal investigator on an application if you hold an **active VCHRI Investigator award**. Your application will be eligible for this award if you plan to start to engage, or enhance your current engagement with, patients at the '[involve](#)' or '[collaborate](#)' level in research activities conducted within VCH. Please contact the VCHRI Internal Awards team if you are unsure if you meet the eligibility requirements.

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## **Funding and Eligible Expenses**

- Proposals for engaging patients as partners in your research will be considered for a maximum of \$15,000.
- The award can ONLY be used to support expenses directly related to patient engagement activities. Expenses for other research related activities will NOT be accepted. Please refer to the application instructions for a detailed description of eligible expenses.
- Matching/partner funding is not allowed; however, the maximum budget of \$15,000 does not include in-kind contributions (e.g. staff support, use of space and other resources etc.).
- Funding will not be released until a signed patient-partner engagement agreement form has been submitted. This form will be provided to successful applicants.
- The primary project should be completed within an 18-month period after receiving the funds. Any money unspent must be returned. Unused funds are to be returned to VCHRI.
- Awards are non-renewable.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

Award applications will be reviewed by a multidisciplinary selection committee, including health researchers, patients, health care providers and health system decision makers. Applicants should therefore explain the proposed research clearly and define discipline specific terms used. Assume that the topic of your project is completely new to the person reviewing your grant, using plain language where possible. Applications will be assessed based on:

- Strength of the patient-partner engagement plan for participation at the “[involve](#)” or “[collaborate](#)” level of engagement in your VCHRI Investigator Award project
- Additional engagement of VCH health system decision makers and health care providers as partners (as appropriate).
- The amounts and rationale for budgeted expenses are sound and reflect the level of planned patient engagement activities.
- Importance and applicability of the project to the provision of health care / service at VCH.
- The feasibility of the patient-engagement strategy to be completed within the proposed timeframe/budget.

## **Approvals**

Notification of awards will occur in January 2020. Funding will be made available as of February 1, 2020. Funds will be released to the successful applicants as soon as the required patient-partner agreement forms have been obtained. All funds must be spent within 18 months of receiving the award. Unused funds are to be returned to VCHRI.

## **Outcomes & Reporting**

Semi-annual and project end financial reporting is required. As well, an annual (12-month) and final project report (18-months) is required. VCHRI and the BC SUPPORT Unit use the project reports to publicize research activities and to evaluate the impact of the program.

## **Contact Information**

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