

## 2021 Excellence in Patient-Oriented Research (POR) Award Guidelines

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) and the BC SUPPORT Unit are partnering to offer support 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

**Application submission:** Monday, May 3, 2021 by 4:00pm (PST).

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

**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. All award recipients will also receive additional consultation and training to support successful patient engagement in the project.

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 Internal Award** (Innovation & Translational Research, or Team Grant). Your application will be eligible for this award if you are engaging with patients at the '[involve](#)' or '[collaborate](#)' level in research activities conducted within VCH. Please contact the VCHRI Education & Funding team if you are unsure if you meet the eligibility requirements.

### Funding and Eligible Expenses

- Proposals for engaging patients as partners in your research will be considered for a maximum of \$5,000.
- 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 \$5,000 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.
- Project must have currently approved ethics and research operational certificates.

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- The primary project activities must be complete by December 31, 2021. 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 an internal selection committee, including health researchers, patients, 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 Internal 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 mid-May 2021. Funding will be made available as of June 1, 2021. Funds will be accessible to the successful applicants as soon as the required patient-partner agreement forms have been obtained. All funds must be spent by December 31, 2021. Unused funds are to be returned to VCHRI.

### **Outcomes & Reporting**

Final research project and financial reporting 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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