

January 2021

Patient Partner's experience in engaging in Patient-Oriented Research:

Moira McMillan



After retirement, Moira McMillan and her husband found their healthcare needs were increasing, many of which involved travel for care. The necessity for travel for health care was impacting Moira's experience and outcomes. Moira realised the issue of having to travel for care impacted families across Northern BC and because of this she became a patient partner on the [Northern Patient Travel Improvement Committee \(NPTIC\)](#). The Committee, led by Dr. Denise Jaworsky, researches the impact travel has on patients and their care, with the intent of informing future practice for the Northern Health Authority.

Moira recently presented her perspectives on being a part of the NPTIC at the [2020 Putting Patients First Conference](#). Putting Patients First is our annual conference designed to encourage learning and collaboration between patients interested in patient-oriented research (POR), health researchers, health care providers and health system decision makers. At this conference, patients are encouraged to participate and present. Being very involved in her committee's research topic, and wishing to promote the committee, Moira pursued this opportunity to share her perspectives on being part of the NPTIC and the results gained so far.

In preparation for the conference, Moira learned that the expectations for presenting were the same for patient partners as for health researchers, and were, in her view, unnecessary barriers for input from an average person. Firstly, an abstract had to be submitted and judged. The abstract had very tight parameters and was something Moira hadn't done before. The abstract was submitted on behalf of the NPTIC entitled: ["How Travel for Medical Care Impacts Patients Living in Northwest BC: A Patient Partner Perspective"](#). Once the abstract was accepted, Moira undertook the preparation of the poster presentation, based on a required template outline. This meant downloading and using Power Point, a program she hadn't used before. Undaunted and resourceful, Moira devoted many hours and sought support to learn PowerPoint and to create her first research poster. Difficulties sending and sharing large files with other committee members meant she had to do a lot of the work on her own. Luckily, Moira was able to reach out to her daughter-in-law, who had a research background. Finally, Moira also became adept with Zoom in order to seamlessly present her poster during the virtual conference.

Moira's difficulties highlights the need to minimize the obstacles for patient partners to share their experiences in patient oriented research. "I really enjoyed being part of the conference focused on improving care, but I struggled to follow the standards that were put in place for patients to get involved," says Moira. Enhanced patient partner participation in conferences, including presentations, will require exploring more accessible ways for patient partners' experiences to be presented.

Collaboration for Health Research in Northern BC Seed Grant Applications now open! Requests due February 19, 2021.

The Seed Grant program is sponsored by the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), Northern Health (NH) and the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA).

The goal of this program is to enable researchers and knowledge users at PHSA, NH and UNBC to work in partnership and initiate new research projects that focus on improving the quality of health services and improving population health in Northern BC.

This opportunity will fund up to seven research teams, with a maximum award of \$10,000 over a 12-month project term.

The tri-partite partnership will also support activities that promote networking and knowledge translation events between PHSA, NH and UNBC.

For more information on the Seed Grant program and how to apply visit the Health Research Institute website at: <http://www.unbc.ca/health-research-institute/funding-opportunities>.

UNBC Health Research Seminar Series: Dr. Kendra Furber

January 21, 2021 | [Dr. Kendra Furber](#) | Assistant Professor, NMP

2:30pm - 4:00pm | Zoom

Title: Myelination in the central nervous system: the multifaceted role of Sirtuin 2

Please visit the [HRI website](#) for webinar login information, future presentations, as well as links to view past presentations.

The goal of the Health Research Seminar Series is to offer a regular place for students and faculty to engage in discussions about current health research from across all programs and campuses of UNBC. To ensure everyone can access the presentations, each session will be broadcast via Zoom and recordings and the PowerPoint from the presenters will be posted on the HRI website.

Upcoming Events

Brown Bag Lunch Series

Title: [Centre for Technology Adoption for Aging in the North \(CTAAN\)](#) program.

Date: January 28, 2021

Presented by: [Dr. Shannon Freeman](#) and Dr. Richard McAloney

The Modernization of Clinical Trials Conference 2020 (Virtual)

Date: January 26-28, 2021

The conference will showcase:

- Regulatory renewal
- New innovations in trial approaches and design
- Diversity of populations and teams
- Current topics, and leadership.

[Learn more about the conference and register](#)

Upcoming Webinar: Hear the results of a side-by-side comparison of two commonly used generic patient-reported outcome measures (PROMS), the VR-12 and EQ-5D-5L.

Date: January 27, 2021

Time: 4-5pm PST

Presenter: Dr. Jae-Yung Kwon, PhD, RN. Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Victoria

The objective is that you will be able to:

- Interpret different types of summary scores obtained from VR-12 and EQ-5D-5L data.
- Compare strengths and limitations of VR-12 and EQ-5D-5L summary scores for different purposes.
- Understand which PROM to select for different purposes.

[Webinar Link](#)

Webinar password: 667719

Contact Information

For more information, contact the Northern Centre by [email](#) or visit our [website](#).

