

WANTED

PAST & PRESENT PEDIATRIC PATIENTS AND THE FOLKS THAT SUPPORT THEM



**Help Us
Crack
the Case!**

The Department of Pediatrics is developing a new **Patient & Family Partner Program** and invites individuals with lived experience (e.g., patients, caregivers) to join us in shaping the future of Pediatric health research and care. This volunteer-based initiative will be established in the coming months, and we are seeking expressions of interest from individuals living in Saskatchewan.

As a Patient or Family Partner, you may have the opportunity to:



Collaborate
on research
projects



Participate in
committees and
special projects



Co-design and facilitate
training sessions and
workshops



To express your interest, scan the QR code here or you can request an expression of interest form via email by contacting ally.farrell@usask.ca



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Medicine
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
MEDICINE.USASK.CA



FAQ - Pediatric Patient & Family Partner Program

What's this program about?

The Department of Pediatrics is developing a new Patient & Family Partner Program to create stronger, more inclusive connections between people with lived experience (patient partners) and child health researchers in Saskatchewan. This volunteer-based initiative ensures that health research is relevant, respectful, and guided by lived experience. Building on the growth of patient engagement in other areas of health research, the program aims to strengthen and expand meaningful partnerships within pediatric health research across the province.

Who can get involved?

We invite individuals across Saskatchewan with lived experience in pediatric healthcare, including parents, caregivers, youth, or loved ones, to partner with us in shaping research. Your unique perspectives and experiences help inform and improve current and future child health research in Saskatchewan. While we prioritize those living in Saskatchewan, we also welcome expressions of interest from individuals in other provinces with relevant lived experiences who wish to partner with us. Our goal is to create a diverse, equitable, and supportive network of patient partners to guide research priorities and activities.

What will I do as a volunteer partner?

Your partnership with child health researchers improves the quality, relevance, and impact of pediatric research and care. You'll collaborate with researchers by sharing your insights throughout the research process in a capacity-based manner.

Other ways you might collaborate with us include:

- Joining committees or special projects
- Helping co-design and facilitate training sessions or workshops
- Providing feedback on grant proposals, presentations, or health materials

What is the time commitment?

There is no minimum time commitment at this stage, as we're still piloting the program. Our goal is to iteratively co-develop a model that reflects the needs and priorities of the community. While some research projects may span several months or even years, we aim to create opportunities for partnership that feel flexible, respectful, and manageable for you. We understand that families lead busy lives, so partnership is approached in a realistic and capacity-based manner. Time commitments will vary depending on the project, and we'll work with you and the research team to ensure expectations are clear and that your involvement is co-developed based on shared capacity and interests.



Do I need experience or training?

Your lived experience is your expertise, and it's exactly what will guide research teams. You're also welcome to share any professional expertise you may have. We'll provide any training or support you need, including a flexible orientation to help you get started. For example, you'll have access to interactive self-paced online training modules co-developed by parents, caregivers, and researchers.

Who will support me as a patient or family partner?

You will be supported by a team of clinicians, researchers, trainees, and staff within the Department of Pediatrics, in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research. As part of the Pediatric Research Office, the Patient Engagement Navigator serves as a connector between patient/family partners and child health research teams, offering guidance, resources, and recommendations for meaningful engagement based on provincial and national institutional guidelines. These recommendations guide the matching process to ensure engagement is effective, safe, and aligned with best practices. Support may include training, resource sharing, and regular check-ins, offered in a capacity-based manner to reflect everyone's availability and well-being. We also recognize that this work can sometimes be emotionally complex. Your well-being matters, and if you need to step away from a project or could benefit from additional support, we can work with you to identify appropriate resources or options.

How are volunteers matched with researchers?

Volunteers are paired with research teams based on shared interests and lived experience. Meetings can be virtual or in person, depending on what works best for everyone. We prioritize accessibility and flexibility and will work with you and the research team to develop a team charter. When a research team requests a connection with patient or family partners, the Patient Engagement Navigator will first meet with the team to learn about the project. Then, we'll explore which volunteers might be a good fit based on lived experience, interests, capacity, and availability. Where possible, we aim to have at least two patient/family partners per project. Once potential partners are identified, the Patient Engagement Navigator will reach out to see if you're interested and available. If so, we'll coordinate an introductory meeting with the research team to explore how your collaboration might work. This process leverages resources from the Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research to support meaningful partnerships.

Interested or want to learn more?

We're currently collecting expressions of interest to understand community interest. Submitting an expression of interest is not a commitment to partner, but a way for us to connect with you. Please email: ally.farrell@usask.ca or scan the QR code on the accompanying flyer. Once you express interest, we will reach out to schedule a call to share more information and learn about your interests and availability. No research background required - just your voice, experience, and willingness to make a difference.