

Patients' Den: Patients Setting Research Priorities in Healthcare

What is Patients' Den?

- The Patients' Den is an innovative public event that aims to enhance patient engagement (PE) and is styled in the spirit of two popular television series: Shark Tank and Dragons' Den.
- Three Patients' Den events have taken place since 2018 — most recently, on the evening of October 8th, 2024.
- The interactive, fast-paced format has trainees and early career researchers 'pitch' their research proposals to a judges' panel of five patient partners.
- This panel of patient partners sets health research funding priorities by ranking the research proposals and awarding grants in a public forum.



What are we doing?

- Proposals are screened for basic eligibility, scientific merit, and feasibility by a panel consisting of methodology experts and patient advisors.
- The finalists are invited to present their research proposal at the Patients' Den.
- Each researcher/team/trainee is given a short time to pitch their proposal to and take questions from the 5-member judges' panel.
- The patient panel evaluates each presentation for its potential impact on the health care system.
- The selected research projects are awarded grants.
- We are in the planning stages of our next Patients' Den event, which will take place in 2027

Who can I contact?

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How will this help?

- PE plays a key role in all phases of research and helps research teams address the issues that are most important to the individuals directly affected by the outcomes of health research.
- One avenue for PE is to assist in deciding how research funds should be allocated, based on the priorities set by patients.
- An event like the Patients' Den, where patient partners become key decision-makers in funding allocation, represents a grass-roots effort in PE.