# PATIENTS DENI

## INNOVATION IN EMPOWERING PATIENTS TO SET RESEARCH PRIORITIES

BINNS, Krystal<sup>1</sup>; DOUCET, Shelley<sup>2,3,4</sup>; COOK, Lauren<sup>4</sup>; STODDARD, Roger<sup>5</sup>; STANDING, Kevin<sup>6</sup>; and ROBINSON; Bryn<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>NB SPOR PIHCI Network; <sup>2,3,4</sup>Jarislowsky Chair in Interprofessional Patient-Centred Care, Associate Professor at the University of New Brunswick, Research Lead NB SPOR PIHCI Network; <sup>4</sup>Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit; <sup>5</sup>Patient partner; <sup>6</sup>Patient Partner; <sup>7</sup>Horizon Health Network

On May 10, 2018, the **New** Brunswick Primary and Integrated Health Care Innovations (NB PIHCI) Network partnered with the Maritime Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Support Unit (MSSU) to host its first annual Patients' Den. Funded by the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation and a patient partner, this unique event was styled after the popular television show where a panel of patient partners evaluated and awarded grants to the winning research teams.

**Patient engagement** at all stages of the research process has emerged as the next evolution in health research and policy. In Canada, this is supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's (CIHR) SPOR strategy. However, patients are seldom involved in research funding decisions.



### Methods Results



- A panel of methodology experts reviewed the studies' scientific merit to create a shortlist of ten proposals.
- At a public evening event, **each** team presented its project to a panel of seven patients.
- The patient panel could pose questions to the presenters to assist with their evaluation of how well each idea would address the network's priorities in primary health care: prevention, access, integration, and impact on the NB health care system.



- Following the presentations, the top three research teams were each awarded \$5000
- Approximately 80 stakeholders from a variéty of backgrounds attended the event, including members of the public, patients, caregivers, clinicians, trainees, researchers, and decision-makers
- The event was the first of its kind in Canada and was livestreamed to over 160 viewers across the country
- The second Patients' Den is scheduled for October 3rd, 2019

### Conclusion

The Patients' Den event provided patient advisors with an opportunity to prioritize health research funding; exposed stakeholders to a model of meaningful patient engagement; and created a positive, collaborative environment for patient partners, researchers, and the public to engage in open dialogue without any barriers.

Patients were also able to provide funding to 3 research teams engaging in patient-oriented research.

> By empowering patients to set primary health care research priorities and partner in the research funding decision making process, research will become even more aligned with patients' needs.



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