

Denise Jaworsky and Dave Sohi
500-4634 Park Avenue
Terrace, BC V8G 1V7

May 17, 2019

Dear community member,

We are two internal medicine practitioners in Northwestern BC, with research interest in rural health, and patient-oriented research. We are interested in forming a Patient Partner Steering Committee to oversee research activities and knowledge sharing with a focus on patient and family experiences in medical travel. The steering committee will include patient partners, health policy makers, health researchers, health care providers, and representatives from Indigenous communities.

This Patient Partner Steering Committee would guide a study called "Optimizing Patient Experience in Medical Travel." This study aims to better understand the stresses associated with transfer for medical care. This is a common scenario in our region, where patients require transfer to large urban centers to receive medical care. Leaving their home community behind to travel to an unfamiliar metropolitan center can be a very distressing experience for these patients and their families. We will be interviewing patients and family members about their experiences.

We are asking you to join this committee because you have unique skills or experiences that would be an asset. The committee is based on a co-learning model, where academic partners will provide training on research methods while other stakeholders provide training on topics within their areas of expertise, with an emphasis on the value of personal experiences. The committee will meet every two months, with in person meetings in the spring to fall and teleconference meetings in the winter. The first goal will be to plan the best way to gather information about experiences of individuals and their families who have had to travel away from home for medical care. We believe your participation in the Patient Partner Steering Committee will help ensure the knowledge gained in this study will be used to help support patients and families during this difficult time.

We will be having a meeting on **June 7th, 2019 from 12:30-1:30 PM** at the UNBC campus in Terrace to discuss this project and gather the committee. You will receive a honorarium, as a thank-you for your time and expertise. The cost of travel and childcare will also be covered, if necessary.

If you are interested in being a member of this committee (and to RSVP for the meeting), please contact our research assistant, Simran, at healthresearchnw@unbc.ca or by phoning 250-960-6204.

Please note that we only use this e-mail for research and program-related communication. Any communication about medical care involving specific patients must go through our office. Our office phone number is 250-615-5088.

Sincerely,

Denise Jaworsky, MD, FRCPC
General Internal Medicine

Dave Sohi, MD, FRCPC
General Internal Medicine