

Call for Learning Institute Patient Scholar Applications

OVERVIEW

The BioCanRx Cancer Stakeholder Alliance Learning Institute is entering its' 4th year, having debuted at BioCanRx's annual scientific conference - Summit for Cancer Immunotherapy (Summit4CI) in [2017](#). BioCanRx is a federally funded network that aims to bring promising cancer immunotherapies to clinic by using a network approach - funding researchers, providing training, and engaging key stakeholders including patients and caregivers. The Learning Institute was established by the [Cancer Stakeholder Alliance](#) with the overall aim of training patient scholars in cancer immunotherapy with the intention of growing patient experts in this field. The Learning Institute brings together patients and caregivers and trainees (graduate and medical students) at the [Summit4CI](#). The LI participants engage in a series of interactive knowledge exchange sessions with the purpose of teaching patients and caregivers about the emerging and innovative concepts in immuno-oncology and providing trainees an opportunity to learn from patients and get feedback about their research.

What are the Learning Institute goals?

- Create a model of learning that encourages, supports and creates the integration of patient leaders into the scientific conference,
- Integrate the patient/caregiver perspective to ensure cancer research is well informed by the patient voice and lived experience,
- Ensure that cancer immunotherapy research is accessible so that patients can be advocates to their community, and
- Bridge the knowledge gap between patients and researchers through bi-directional learning.

What are the main components of the Learning Institute?

- Pre-Summit Training: familiarization of basic cancer biology and immunotherapy concepts in advance of the Summit for Cancer Immunotherapy.
- Buddy System: The buddy system consists of pairing a technical expert (academic scholar) with people with lived cancer experience (patient scholar) for information sharing of their expertise with each other.
- Knowledge Exchange System: Buddy groups get together and discuss the research they have heard. After discussion, buddy groups present to the group and explain the key take-aways of the research.
- Dissemination Report: Co-authorship of a community dissemination report outlining key take-aways from the Summit. This report is available to the general public and is written in lay language to make it accessible.

You can learn more here:

1. [Learning Institute Webpage](#)
2. [2019 Dissemination Report](#)
3. First-hand stories from [2017](#), [2018](#) and [2019](#)

What are the expectations?

By participating as a member of the Learning Institute, you will be expected to:

- Take part in two 1.5-hr introductory training webinars in advance of the Summit4CI (dates TBD)
- Attend all activities of the LI at the Summit4CI:
 - Meet and Greet on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at 4:30 – 5:30pm
 - Participate in Learning Institute knowledge exchange sessions on Sunday, November 21 and Monday, November 22, 2021.
 - Attend plenary and poster sessions with your paired patient learner
 - Attend the patient-researcher round-table lunch taking place on Monday, November 21, 2021 attended by participating network investigators, patient advocates, and trainees.
- Co-author the dissemination report following the Summit4CI
- Have a willingness to participate as a patient partner in cancer research, whether funded by BioCanRx or other funding body.

Who is eligible?

Current and previous patients and caregivers from across Canada are invited to apply. We are looking for individuals who currently are involved or intend to get involved with the broader cancer research or advocacy community.

Individuals are encouraged to apply if they:

- Actively support cancer research through policy advocacy, research advocacy and/or community outreach
- Are in a position to communicate (i.e., disseminate) the knowledge gained from the Learning Institute to colleagues and/or constituents and have access to avenues for disseminating this information or
- Have immediate plans to become engaged as a patient partner on a cancer research project within the year.

Applications will be reviewed by the BioCanRx Learning Institute Working Group, and acceptance will be based on:

- Alignment with BioCanRx's mission and research priorities
- Interest in learning about cancer immunotherapy research and plans to use the training in dissemination, patient partner or both.

Please note that new applicants will be given preference. We expect to receive many applications, and unfortunately not all individuals will be able to participate, but we will let all applicants know of their success. Those who are selected to participate will be reimbursed for all travel associated with participation.

How do I apply?

Please submit your application to us by Megan Mahoney, memahoney@biocanrx.com on **July 9, 2021 EST**. You can find the full application here: <http://cancersummit.ca/program/the-learning-institute>.