

Learning Institute 2025 Program Details – Academic Scholars

What is the Learning Institute?

The Learning Institute was formed in 2017 by the BioCanRx Cancer Stakeholder Alliance to pair together patient and academic scholars in the cancer immunotherapy community. The Learning Institute fosters a bidirectional model of learning where patient scholars and academic scholars learn from each other. The Learning Institute also encourages and supports patient scholars within the Summit for Cancer Immunotherapy. It ensures that scientific research at the conference is being communicated understandably so that research can be shared with patient scholars and partners.

What is an Academic Scholar?

Academic Scholars/HQP (highly qualified personnel) are defined as individuals working or studying in the cancer immunotherapy field, and is inclusive of students, post-doctoral fellows, research associates, medical students, and others engaged in research.

What will you do?

- Connect with a group of people with lived cancer experience (cancer patient or support person/family member) (patient scholars), and engage in discussion about the patient perspective in research
- Attend a national cancer immunotherapy scientific conference (Summit4CI) with internationally recognized speakers, presentations, poster sessions and more!
- Listen to talks from leading scientists on the cutting-edge research across a broad range of cancer immunotherapy topics with the goal of reinterpreting research into lay terms
- Work in partnership with patient scholars and learn how to break down complex scientific topics and distill key messages through oral and written communication
- Build connections and network with researchers, academics, students, patients, and other like-minded individuals in the cancer immunotherapy community
- Spend time during the conference engaging with Learning Institute participants outside of Learning Institute sessions

Eligibility

All HQP are eligible to apply.

If accepted as a participant of the Learning Institute, your registration to attend the Summit4CI will be covered by BioCanRx. The expectation is that HQP participating in the Learning Institute will support their own travel either via a BioCanRx Travel Award via the Abstract Submission mechanism (**November 8th, 2024**), and/or supervisory support to attend the Summit4CI proper.

What are the expectations?

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

- Meet/connect at least once with your academic scholar in advance of the Summit4CI, outside of scheduled Learning Institute activities (virtual or in person)
- Attend a virtual Orientation webinar in February (1 hr)
- Take part in two virtual introductory informational webinars in advance of the Summit4CI in February/March (Cancer Biology 101 and Immunotherapy 101) (1 hr-1.5 hrs each)
- Participate in a virtual science communication activity with patient scholars in September (1 hr-1.5 hr)
- Attend the Summit4CI at the Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto, ON for the duration of the conference (April 6-8) and attend all related Learning Institute activities in collaboration with your academic scholar partner, (click here for draft agenda) including:
 - Meet & Greet (1 hr)
 - Knowledge Exchange Sessions (2 x 1 hr sessions)
 - Patient-Researcher Roundtable (2 hrs)
 - Post-Summit Virtual Knowledge Exchange Session (1 hr)
- Assist in co-authoring the dissemination report following the Summit4CI along with patient scholar partners
- Have a willingness to actively engage with your patient scholar buddy and work with them throughout the pre-summit training and conference, as well as engage with other Learning Institute participants throughout the Summit4CI

“Overall, I feel that the patient perspective was extremely valuable for me as a young researcher, especially as one who is involved in pre-clinical research. I leave the Summit4CI not only with a recharged passion for research, but also a new perspective on research and development and a group of patients ready to lend their ear or advice should I need it. I would whole-heartedly recommend this experience for anyone involved in research; involving patient research has already proved extremely valuable in our lab. Ultimately, the progression of cancer treatment is a shared, collaborative goal.”

-2022 Academic Scholar

You can learn more here:

1. [Learning Institute Webpage](#)
2. [Summit4CI Learning Institute Webpage](#)
3. [2023 Dissemination Report](#)
4. First-hand stories from [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#) and [2022](#)

Please note that new applicants will be given preference. BioCanRx informs all applicants of the decision regarding their involvement in the Learning Institute.

[Click here for the link to the SurveyMonkey Call for Academic Scholars form](#)

[A document version can be downloaded here](#)

NOTE: You can NOT save your application in SurveyMonkey – we recommend you draft your responses in a word document and then copy them over.

Do not hesitate to contact Mackenzie Huckvale (mhuckvale@biocanrx.com) for further information.