

Learning Institute 2026 Program Details – Academic Scholars

What is the Learning Institute?

The Learning Institute was formed in 2017 by the BioCanRx Cancer Community Partnership 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 (Summit4CI). It ensures that scientific research at the Summit4CI is being communicated understandably so that research can be shared with Patient Scholars and partners.

What is an Academic Scholar?

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

What will you do?

- Connect with Patient Scholars, who are individuals with lived cancer experience (either as a patient, caregiver, family member, or support person), and engage in discussion about the patient perspective in research
- Attend the in-person national Summit for Cancer Immunotherapy (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 plain language
- 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 7, 2025**), 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 Patient Scholar in advance of the Summit4CI, outside of scheduled Learning Institute activities (virtual or in person)
- Attend multiple pre-summit webinars including:
 - Orientation
 - Cancer biology 101
 - Immunotherapy 101
 - Science communication activity

Each Webinar will be 1-1.5 hours long. This list is not exhaustive and may be updated as new webinars are added. Exact dates and times are TBD.

- Attend the in-person Summit4CI at the Westin Bayshore, Vancouver, BC for the duration of the conference (March 29-31, 2026) and attend all related Learning Institute activities in collaboration with your Academic Scholar partner, including:
 - Meet & Greet
 - Knowledge Exchange Sessions
 - Patient-Researcher Roundtable
 - Post-Summit Virtual Knowledge Exchange Session

Click here for [draft agenda](#).

- 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.”

- Academic Scholar Alumni

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](#)

Calls for Participation will be reviewed by the BioCanRx Learning Institute Working Group, and invitations will be based on:

- Alignment with BioCanRx's mission and research priorities, and
- Interest and commitment to engaging with patients and the learning process of patient engagement in research

Please note that new participants 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 Call for Academic Scholars Participation Form \(Microsoft Form\)](#)

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

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

Do not hesitate to contact Jayden Domitsu (jdomitsu@biocanrx.com) for further information.