

Learning Institute 2025 Program Details – Patient 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 Summit4CI is being communicated understandably, so that research can be shared with patient scholars and partners.

What is a Patient Scholar?

A patient scholar is defined as anyone who has lived experience with cancer, either as a patient, caregiver, family member or support person. The patient scholar perspective is essential to improve understanding of how research can and should be conducted to best create positive impacts. We seek to include a diverse range of experience levels when selecting participants for the Learning Institute, therefore, **no previous experience with patient engagement in research is required to apply.**

What will you do?

- Receive training in the scientific fundamentals of cancer biology and immunotherapy
- 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
- Work in partnership with a member of BioCanRx's Highly Qualified Personnel network (academic scholar) 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

Eligibility

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 patient partnership community.

Individuals are encouraged to apply if they:

- Actively or would like to support cancer research through patient partnership, policy advocacy, research advocacy and/or community outreach or
- Are currently in, or would like to be 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,

- Are engaged or have interest in engaging as a patient partner on a cancer research project within the next couple of years

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, 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 academic scholar partners
- Have a willingness to participate as a patient partner in cancer research, whether funded by BioCanRx or other funding bodies

If selected as a participant, BioCanRx will support your attendance by directly paying for travel (e.g., airfare, train), accommodations and registration associated with the Summit4CI conference. BioCanRx will reimburse participants for in-town travel (e.g., Taxi, Uber), and meals not otherwise provided according to the Learning Institute Travel Policy.

“After attending and being involved in all aspects of the Learning Institute including judging 2 days of poster sessions as the incredibly talented presenters had just 3 minutes each to pitch their posters in patient plain language. I am now better educated in the areas of CAR-T therapy, Microbiomes, and overall evolving therapies being developed and used for the betterment of all patients facing cancer. This is a must attend event for anyone involved in the scientific, clinical, industry or patient – caregiver area as BioCanRx continues to lead in the fields of science and cancer immunotherapy innovation.”

-2022 Patient 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](#)

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 in learning about cancer immunotherapy research and plans to use the training in dissemination, research engagement or both.

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 SurveyMonkey Call for Patient Scholars form**](#)

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

NOTE: You can NOT save your form 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.