

Island Health’s Health Research Ethics Board (HREB) is looking to recruit Patient Partner Board Members

Engagement Opportunity

OPPORTUNITY NAME: Island Health’s Health Research Ethics Board (HREB) is looking to recruit Patient Partners as Board Members

OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION: Please consider joining Island Health’s Health Research Ethics Board (HREB). Board members review prospective research studies and evaluate them ethically according to the framework set out by the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2 (2022). All members receive training, administrative support, and compensation for monthly meeting attendance and any studies they review. All HREB meetings and review processes are currently conducted virtually (online), with the option of attending in-person meetings once annually.

WHY: As per TCPS2, all Research Ethics Boards are mandated to be composed of at least one community member that has no affiliation with the institution that they serve. In addition to community members, our Health Research Ethics Board is composed of scientists, doctors, lawyers, ethicists. At Island Health, we find it important that our board is as diverse as possible.

While health research has often brought valuable insights to improving patients’ lives and quality of care, biomedicine and its institutions can be imposing on marginalized communities and can undermine the values of health pluralism, patient self-determination, and justice. For the last decade, decreasing government support programs have made it difficult for marginalized groups to obtain the supports they need to navigate the healthcare system. Increasingly, individuals are expected to assume the responsibility of navigating the health care system largely on their own in a climate of increasing resource and support scarcity.

Patient Partners have traditionally assisted our board in centering the patient’s rights and views both as participants of research studies and as primary beneficiaries of its outcomes. That said, inviting a Patient Partner onto our board is meant to be a collaborative relationship; how a particular individual wishes to contribute and engage our board can be up to them. We welcome all viewpoints, life experiences, and education levels.

DUTIES:

- All our current HREB members commit to attending a 1.5 hour virtual meeting every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 2:00pm – 3:00pm. Meeting dates for 2023 can be found [here](#).
- All our HREB Members are assigned an Island Health email address for confidential communications.
- HREB members commit to being available to review 2 studies per month. Studies take, on average, 2 hours to review. All members receive review and administrative support throughout each review by the full time Ethics Board Coordinator.
- The average number of studies reviewed per year per board member is less than 5.

- All HREB members undergo TCPS2 Core training (4 hours), San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training (8 hours), and training with our online research platforms, RISE and Romeo (1 hour). Training may take less time depending on the individual. Training is not compensated.
- All HREB members are first assigned a mentor who guides them through the review process.

COMPENSATION:

- All HREB members receive a \$50 honorarium for each review and \$100 for each board meeting attended, to a maximum of \$4,500 per year.
- When board members travel to in-person events (often held annually), they are reimbursed for gas used in a personal vehicle at \$.061/km, and any parking charges incurred for a maximum of \$300 per year.
- Compensation will be received quarterly.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?: Our Board welcomes members of all ages, gender identities, and backgrounds. Though proficiency in English is needed to review studies, we welcome those for whom English is a second language or those who may be neurodivergent or need any additional support. While members do receive administrative and technological support from our office, a basic understanding of computers and reliable Internet access is needed to conduct reviews as we all collaborate together online.

We especially welcome inquiries from Indigenous applicants, new parents, and patients with experiences navigating psychiatry.

WHAT & HOW: Most HREB appointments are for 1 or 2 year terms. Over a 1 year period, most HREB members will contribute an average of 3 hours of their time per month totaling 36 hours a year. While we encourage HREB members to attend 75% of our annual meetings, we are accommodating and can facilitate vacations, leaves of absence, and childcare duties.

The types of studies that our board reviews varies. We do not review clinical studies such as clinical drug trials, but primarily focus on behavioural studies. Examples include: substance use, mental health care, Indigenous health, hospital services, health data registries, psychedelic assisted therapy, medical assistance in dying (MAiD). *Please note that there is no guarantee that Patient Partners will be matched with studies that include their own specific health experience.

LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT: Check all that apply. Select the most appropriate level of engagement (see <https://iap2canada.ca/foundations>) for the patient partner.

Inform: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding problems, alternatives and/or solutions.

Consult: To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.

Involved: To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

Collaborate: To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

Empower: To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.

ORIENTATION: We invite all interested candidates to submit a resume or CV by e-mail to Victoria Philibert at Victoria.Phibert@islandhealth.ca. After receiving this, Victoria reach out to you to schedule an informal virtual meeting with herself, the HREB Chair Heather Fudge, and Natasha Van Borek, Leader of Patient & Public Research Engagement, where they can answer any questions you may have about the role.

For more information, please contact:

NAME: Natasha Van Borek

POSITION/TITLE: Leader, Patient & Public Research Engagement

EMAIL: Natasha.vanborek@islandhealth.ca

NAME: Victoria Philibert

POSITION/TITLE: Health Research Ethics Board (HREB) Coordinator, Research Ethics & Compliance, Island Health

EMAIL: Victoria.Phibert@islandhealth.ca