



## Comox Valley Patient-Oriented Research (POR) Dementia Care Research Pilot Grant 2024-25

### Background

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has developed provincial partnerships to support Patient-Oriented Research (POR) with expertise, resources, and knowledge.<sup>1</sup> In British Columbia (BC), the BC SUPPORT (SUpport for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials) Unit is a multi-partner organization dedicated to increasing the quantity and quality of POR, and is one of ten SUPPORT Units across Canada.

This Comox Valley Dementia Care POR Pilot Award opportunity is sponsored by the Comox Valley Community Foundation who made a generous contribution from the Robert and Florence Filberg Fund, held at the Vancouver Foundation, and facilitated by the Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation. In September 2023, the BC SUPPORT Unit Island Centre invited persons with lived experience of dementia-including caregivers, families and friends-researchers, and health system leadership to come together to identify priority areas for improvement and research in dementia care in the Comox Valley.

POR is done in partnership with patients/ people with lived experience (for this call, the term 'patient' is inclusive of people with lived experience (PWLE) of dementia, as well as their informal caregivers, family, and friends), responds to patient-identified priorities, and aims to improve health outcomes.

***The POR pilot award is intended to support teams in the Comox Valley (though projects may also impact the larger Island Health region) who are piloting dementia care POR projects aligned with a research priority area from the list below:***

### Comox Valley Dementia Care Research Priority Areas

**1. *Staying at Home Longer:*** This priority area emphasizes choice, autonomy, and support systems that enable People with Lived Experience (PWLE) of dementia to stay home longer. POR applications with a focus on day programs, transportation, housing options, home supports, social isolation, Indigenous Elder perspectives, and early identification of risk factors are all in alignment with the priority areas identified by the Comox Valley community.

**2. *Caregiver Supports and Respite:*** This priority area highlights the need for different styles of respite, level-of-care-dependent adult day programs, caregiver education and training, access to emergency and long term respite beds, and reduced waitlists for programs and services.

**3. *Dementia-Friendly Communities:*** Community engagement & building on existing community supports, dementia education and awareness in community, infrastructure and transportation, and stigma were identified as priority areas for POR in the Comox Valley.

**4. *Navigating Supports:*** Coordination of current dementia care resources (Island Health Resource Guide, for example), educating general practitioners about the current resources for patients and families, nursing student placements in community, improved access to services, mapping of available services, and public-funded transportation services beyond medical appointments were identified as priority navigation supports that warrant POR.

1. <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51036.html>

## Description of Funding Opportunity

*The objectives of these awards are to:*

- Support POR teams in strengthening a major dementia care grant application through pilot and/or feasibility work.<sup>2</sup> The expectation is that the subsequent POR grant, when submitted to agencies such as CIHR, will be viewed more positively given that some foundational feasibility/pilot questions have been answered.
- Build and strengthen BC's capacity in dementia care POR with a specific focus on the Comox Valley.

***Note: The award funds may not be used exclusively for team building, question development, or for operating funds for a substantive or ongoing POR project.***

<sup>2</sup> A feasibility study asks whether something can be done, should we proceed with it, and if so, how. A pilot study asks the same questions but also has a specific design feature: in a pilot study a future study, or part of a future study, is conducted on a smaller scale. In feasibility work, investigators need to identify appropriate objectives and methods related specifically to feasibility; and give clear confirmation that their study is in preparation for a future larger study designed, for example, to assess the effect of an intervention. From: Eldridge *et al.* (2016) Defining Feasibility and Pilot Studies in Preparation for Randomised Controlled Trials: Development of a Conceptual Framework.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0150205>

## Funds Available

- A total of \$60,000 is available through this competition, with one-time funding being provided up to a maximum of \$30,000 per team.
- Funding terms are a maximum of twelve months in duration, with awards beginning August 1, 2024 and ending on or before August 1, 2025.
- Applicants must not have already received confirmed funding for the proposed activities.
- Applicants need to indicate the Comox Valley dementia care research priority area(s) they are applying to.
- Applications will be ranked in scoring order with awards being distributed to teams from the top down. Applicants may only identify themselves as the lead on one application, though they may act as co-applicants on as many applications as they wish.

## Eligibility

The Lead Applicant must be a researcher, clinician, allied health professional, or healthcare decision-maker whose host institution is located in the Island Health region and eligible to hold funding.

- Teams must include at least one representative from each of the following interest holder groups: patient partners (people with lived experience of dementia); academic researchers; healthcare professionals or clinicians; healthcare decision-makers.
- The inclusion of trainees (e.g. graduate students, postdoctoral fellows) is encouraged.
- Lead applicants must be from an Island Health region institution and conduct their research in the Island Health Region. The proposed activities must be relevant to the Comox Valley and Island Health populations.

- Projects that involve Indigenous communities must demonstrate that the appropriate relationships are in place, and must have a clear plan for meaningful and culturally safe engagement throughout.
- Applicants must ensure equity, diversity, and inclusion in the team, for all participants, and the design and implementation of the project.

### **Examples of Eligible Expenses**

All expenses must follow the policies of the host institution.

#### ***Human Resources***

- Stipends for students and trainees
- Salary support for research staff (e.g. research assistants, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows). Must be a direct cost of the research project.
- Compensation for patients' (PWLE) or research users' participation as a team member.<sup>3</sup> Buy-out/release time from work for clinicians.
- Fees for meeting facilitators

#### ***Services and Supplies***

- Costs associated with facilitating Comox Valley Dementia Care POR activities, which may include (but are not limited to) planning, co-ordination, data collection, data analysis, etc.
- Meeting rooms and associated meeting costs (e.g. audio-visual equipment fees, videoconference fees, registration services, etc.)
- Office costs including supplies, communications, stationery, photocopying directly related to the Dementia Care POR project activity
- Hospitality costs (non-alcoholic refreshments or meals)
- Open access publishing costs

#### ***Travel***

- Travel required to conduct the feasibility/pilot work
- Include travel costs necessary to attend research conferences, workshops, symposia, congresses, at multiple or community sites. This may include travel (most reasonable method of travel and accommodation) for project leads, research team members and/or PWLE.

<sup>3</sup> Please note that there may be tax implications for patients who receive compensation. Patient partners should be made aware of this possibility.

### **Ineligible Expenses**

- payments that result in personal gain for any team member
- costs incurred before or after the term of the award
- ongoing operating or maintenance costs
- leased equipment or software
- equipment costs over \$5000 or software over \$2000
- costs not directly related to the project (indirect costs of research)

## Key Competition Dates

- Deadline for full application submission: May 19, 2024 at 4pm (PST)
- Notification of results: July 15, 2024
- Funding Period: August 1, 2024 – August 1, 2025

## Award Conditions and Responsibilities

- *Letter of Agreement:* Successful applicants will be required to sign a letter of agreement with the Conditions and Responsibilities of the Award before funds are disbursed.
- *Management of Funds:* The Host Institution must administer the funds for the benefit of each successful applicant in accordance with the policies relevant to the host institution, including those at:
- *Return of Funds:* The Host Institution will repay any unspent funds at the end of the award period.
- *Acknowledgement:* Any formal presentation or publication resulting from the Award must acknowledge the support of the Robert and Florence Filberg Medical Research Fund sponsored by the Comox Valley Community Foundation and facilitated by the Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation, Island Health Research Department, and BC SUPPORT Unit Island Centre.
- *Final Report:* A summary of the activities and accomplishments achieved during the Award period will be required within 30 days of the end of the funding period.
- *Financial report* – A final financial report will be required within 30 days of the funding end date.

## Full Application Components

1. Application form
2. Identified Comox Valley Dementia Care POR priority area (max. 250 words): Explain how your proposed work stems/aligns with the identified research priority areas listed on page 1.
3. Patient-Oriented Research plan (max. 1,500 words):
  - i. Provide an overview of your project, including background on the topic, objectives, methods and proposed patient and public engagement methods.
4. Proposed budget (max. 1 page, please use template provided)) including justifications for amounts requested
5. Knowledge Translation plan (max. 500 words):
  - i. Describe how you will create impact with your proposed project. This may include plans for future grant submissions or research.
  - ii. Provide an overview of your knowledge mobilization strategies and describe how you intend to maximize the impact of your research.
6. Team composition (max 500 words): Provide a short summary of team members' relevant experience and/or qualifications. Patient and public partners or other interest holders may wish to remain anonymous if the proposed activities deal with sensitive or confidential information.
7. Letters of Support (optional)

Please do not include any additional materials, as they will not be reviewed.



Applications must use a minimum of 12-point font and 1-inch margins for all submitted documents.

### **Selection Process and Review Criteria**

All applications will undergo a comprehensive review and final selection process involving an external review panel convened by the BC SUPPORT Unit Island Centre. The review panel will be multidisciplinary and include PWLE reviewers. Reviewers will follow a formal selection process to evaluate each of the submissions, considering the following:

#### ***Approach (25%)***

- a. Fit with definition of patient-oriented research
- b. Clarity and alignment of the goals of the proposed activities with the objectives of this award
- c. Appropriateness of the patient-oriented research approach, as per CIHR SPOR Patient Engagement principles
- d. Demonstrated knowledge of area of interest, including key studies, theories, or practices
- e. Evidence for need of research in the area of interest
- f. Description of how equity, diversity, and inclusion among those engaged will be considered throughout the project

#### ***Building capacity for patient-oriented research (25%)***

- a. Degree of meaningful inclusion of PWLE of dementia and other relevant interest holders and their appropriateness in relation to the goals of the proposal
- b. Willingness to adapt activities based on input from all team members and interest holders
- c. Level of involvement in decision-making of each team member

#### ***Feasibility (25%)***

- a. Appropriateness of the team to carry out the proposed activities and achieve objectives
- b. Appropriateness of the budget based on proposed activities, including justification for items
- c. Feasibility of engagement activities

#### ***Impact (25%)***

- a. Realistic expectations of impact of POR pilot activities
- b. Potential to contribute to the improvement of health care systems and practices

### **Application Submission and Support**

General inquiries and application submissions can be addressed to: [islandcentre@islandhealth.ca](mailto:islandcentre@islandhealth.ca)

- If you plan to submit an application with Island Health as your host institution, please contact Annie Moore, Research Education and Grant Facilitator, for assistance with determining eligible and non-eligible expenses in advance of your submission ([isabel.moore@islandhealth.ca](mailto:isabel.moore@islandhealth.ca))



Island  
Centre



- For support with developing an application or connecting with interest holders, please email Uta Sbotofrankenstein, Research Navigator for the mid/north Island ([uta.sbotofrankenstein@islandhealth.ca](mailto:uta.sbotofrankenstein@islandhealth.ca))
- For support with patient and public engagement activities, please email Taylor Hainstock, Patient and Public Research Engagement Lead ([taylor.hainstock@islandhealth.ca](mailto:taylor.hainstock@islandhealth.ca))  
For support with knowledge translation activities, please email Heather Strosher, Knowledge Broker ([heather.strosher@islandhealth.ca](mailto:heather.strosher@islandhealth.ca))