PERC TUTOR-PHC Patient Engagement in Primary Health Care Training Fellowships

Objective:

As part of the INSPIRE (Innovations Strengthening Primary Health Care Through Research) network, the Patient Expertise in Research Collaboration (PERC) aims to promote and support the meaningful and appropriate engagement of patients in primary health care (PHC) research in Ontario. PERC provides expertise, resources and tools, and methods support to build capacity in patient-oriented research in PHC.

In their patient engagement framework, CIHR defines patient-oriented research as a "continuum of research that engages patients as partners, focusses on patient-identified priorities and improves patient outcomes. This research, conducted by multidisciplinary teams in partnership with relevant stakeholders, aims to apply the knowledge generated to improve healthcare systems and practices."

PERC will provide support (funding & structure) for TUTOR-PHC trainees, who wish to integrate patient expertise into their PHC research. This opportunity will build on and extend the TUTOR-PHC training program with opportunities to strengthen patient-oriented research capacity.

Secondary objectives:

- To build capacity in patient-oriented primary health care research provincially and nationally
- To provide opportunities for PERC Advisory Board members to share their expertise and lived experiences with the next generation of PHC researchers
- To provide support to SPOR-aligned research initiatives
- To provide an embedded learning experience in patient engagement by attending quarterly PERC Advisory Board meetings and contributing to PERC deliverables

Funding amount:

Support for up to two successful trainees to learn from and engage with PERC. This learning opportunity will include financial support (up to $10,000 per fellowship) as well as engagement training and guidance from PERC's Advisory Board members and academic team over the 1-year duration of their participation in the TUTOR-PHC Training Program.

Eligibility:

Any Ontario-based TUTOR-PHC trainee who is conducting research that aligns with SPOR initiatives. In exceptional cases, trainees from other provinces or territories will be considered for eligibility (e.g., Nunavut, NWT).

Application process:

Applications will be reviewed and awarded once a year. Applicants will be asked to:

- Submit a funding application (using template form provided)

Funding application:

Application should include:

- A one-page summary of current research interest and proposed title of TUTOR-PHC project (it is expected the research is the topic of the student's thesis/dissertation).
- Explanation of trainee's interest in engaging with patients as research partners within their TUTOR-PHC project, and the value and potential impact of engaging patient partners to inform their research project. (max. ½ page)
- Explanation of how the opportunity to participate in PERC TUTOR Patient Engagement in Primary Health Care Training Fellowships will further your career goals over the next 5-10 years. (max. ½ page)
- Outlining research ethics board review status; proposed engagement plan including recruitment, method(s) of engagement, budget, and timeframe (applicants will be asked to address the guiding principles and desired outcomes of engagement identified in the SPOR Patient Engagement Framework) as well as equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations (applicants will be directed to the OSSU Equity Framework, and required to answer specific questions about how they will consider health equity and inclusion in their plan). (max. 1 page)

Submission and selection process:

Email submissions to macnem18@mcmaster.ca and include "PERC Fellowship" in the subject line. Applications will be reviewed by members of the PERC Academic Team and Advisory Board.

Deadline:

May 31, 2023 5 p.m. ET

PERC will select the award recipients based on the quality, feasibility and impact of the research proposal, the value of the interdisciplinary approach, the value of the patient engagement plan, the excellence of the candidate and supervisory team, and the alignment with PERC's goals and mandate. If a suitable candidate is not identified based on the feedback of the review committee, the award will not be offered.
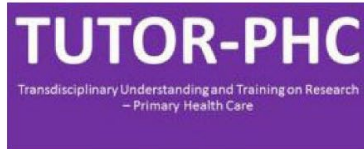**Recipients are expected to be announced in late June.**

Funding requirements:

Conditions of funding include:

- Present proposal to the PERC Advisory Board for feedback (and follow up with revisions made based on the discussion).

- Submit a written progress report to PERC at least twice throughout the funding period (template will be provided).
- Acknowledge PERC in any reporting and presentations resulting from this fund.
- Share highlights of their work through PERC's website, social media, PHC conferences (e.g., INSPIRE-PHC's Trillium Conference, North American Primary Health Care Research Group Conference).
- Share with other TUTOR trainees' lessons learned in the planning, operation, and impact of their engagement with older adults (e.g., through TUTOR discussion groups).
- Submit a short, written report and impact statement at the end of the fellowship, highlighting outcomes of the project, (for the purpose of publishing on PERC's website and/or sharing via newsletter and/or social media) by **May 15th, 2024**.
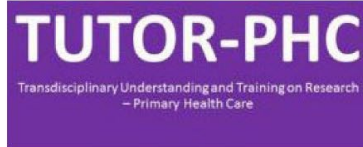
PERC TUTOR Patient Engagement in PHC Research Training Fellowship Application Form

Name:		Telephone:	

Email:		Alternate email (if applicable):	

Current or most recent institution:	
Date of TUTOR-PHC completion: *Must be within current cohort of TUTOR Trainees*	
Title of proposed research project:	

Supervisor

Name:	
Faculty & Department:	

Email:		Telephone:	

Application Requirements

All documents (excluding confidential letter of support) **must be** submitted in one PDF file in the order listed below.

- ☐ 1. Fellowship Application Form

- ☐ 2. A one-page summary of current research interest and proposed title of TUTOR-PHC project (it is expected the research is the topic of the student's thesis/dissertation)

- ☐ 3. Explanation of trainee's interest in engaging with patients as part of your TUTOR-PHC project and the value and potential impact of engaging patients in the research project (max. ½ page)

- ☐ 4. Explanation of how the opportunity to participate in PERC TUTOR Patient Engagement in Primary Health Care Training Fellowships will further your career goals over the next 5-10 years (max. ½ page)

- ☐ 5. Outlining research ethics board review status; proposed engagement plan including recruitment, method(s) of engagement, and timeframe (applicants will be asked to address the guiding principles and desired outcomes of engagement identified in the [SPOR Patient Engagement Framework](#)) as well as equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations (applicants will be directed to the [OSSU Equity Framework](#), and required to answer specific questions about how they will consider health equity and inclusion in their plan) (max. 1 page)

- ☐ 6. Completing the PERC TUTOR Patient Engagement Fellowship Budget Template document

- ☐ 7. Curriculum vitae of the candidate

- ☐ 8. Supervisor to complete the [Supervisor Acknowledgement Form](#)

Signature of Applicant

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For further information, please email macnem18@mcmaster.ca