



# Patient and Community Engagement Research (PaCER) Training Program

Training patients to become **research-informed voices** to benefit health system research, planning and policy



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY



# PaCER Streams



## PaCER Training Program

This program teaches patients how to conduct research projects with, by, and for patients, thereby enabling PaCER graduates to work as partners in health research projects and to support new roles for patients in health care.



## PaCER Contract Opportunities

PaCER graduates become connected to a network of professionals who work on research projects related to patient-engaged research. PaCER graduates assist health research and community engagement projects and are supported through AbSPORU in identifying opportunities.

# About the PaCER Training Program

The PaCER training program teaches learners how to conduct research with, by and for patients in their communities. This program enables patients to tell their stories with the goal of incorporating research-informed patient voices into health system research, planning and policy.

**Two primary goals of the PaCER training program are to:**



Incorporate a research-based patient perspective into healthcare and health research



Teach non-traditional learners research skills and how to conduct patient-engagement research

# Graduating from the PaCER Training Program



This is an institutionally recognized program and graduates receive a University of Calgary Continuing Education Certificate. Upon graduation, PaCER training program graduates become connected to a large network of professionals who work on research projects related to patient-engaged research.



PaCER training program graduates may work on health research projects, in research teams and are supported through Alberta Strategy for Patient Oriented Research\* (AbSPORU) in identifying these opportunities.

*\* For information about AbSPORU visit [albertainnovates.ca/programs/strategy-for-patient-oriented-research/](http://albertainnovates.ca/programs/strategy-for-patient-oriented-research/)*



# Consortium of partners

- [University of Calgary Continuing Education](#)
- [O'Brien Institute for Public Health](#)
- [Alberta SPOR Support Unit](#)
- [Alberta Health Services Strategic Clinical Networks™](#)
- [Cumming School of Medicine Community Health Sciences Department](#)
- Sponsors like you

# Becoming a **SPONSOR?**

Benefits

Sponsor role

Continuing Education role

Join a community





# SPONSOR BENEFITS

**When you sponsor a cohort in the PaCER training program, you benefit a group of patients. By sponsoring a cohort, you:**

- Ensure your health and healthcare improvement efforts are patient-centered
- Contribute to continued inclusion of patient perspective in health research and the health care system
- Enable community involvement and community knowledge translation amongst patient groups
- Develop citizen capacity for involvement in future research and quality improvement efforts
- Acquire a PaCER student authored research report and, if appropriate, the primary data
- Acquire an academically-reviewed research report, depending on negotiated agreement terms



# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



## Sponsor role

- Establish research topic
- Provide funding for up to six students (one cohort) for \$45,000 per cohort, unless sponsoring multiple cohorts
- Recruit students
- Provide a key liaison when working with Continuing Education and the PaCER Training Program
- Promote the potential for new patient roles



## Continuing Education role

- Provide a key liaison/program manager to work with the Sponsor
- Deliver the three-course training program
- Provide support for students when submitting an ethics protocol
- Provide Sponsor with updates on student progression and completion
- Provide transcripts and completion certificate to students
- Provide the final student-authored research report and, if appropriate, the primary data
- Provide the agreed to invoices and financials
- Based on Sponsor needs and negotiated terms:
  - Hire a PaCER mentor to support students with the program's research components
  - Provide the Sponsor with an academically-reviewed and edited research report





# JOIN A COMMUNITY

**As a sponsor you join  
a community of  
patient-centred  
health researchers,  
care networks and  
other health-centred  
organizations**

## **Past Sponsors include:**

- Addictions and Mental Health SCN
- Alberta Health Services (AHS) Collaborative Research and Innovations Opportunities
- Calgary Inflammatory Bowel Disease Clinic
- Canadian Frailty Network
- Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement
- Critical Care Alberta SCN
- Integrated Concussion Research Program
- Libin Cardiovascular Institute
- Maternal, Newborn, Child and Youth SCN
- St. Elizabeth Healthcare, Canada
- South Health Campus

# Becoming a **STUDENT?**

Benefits  
Admission  
Expectations  
Learning Outcomes





# STUDENT BENEFITS

## As a graduate of the PaCER Training Program you:

- Receive a University of Calgary Continuing Education certificate
- Become connected to a large network of professionals who work on research projects related to patient-engaged research
- Are supported through Alberta Strategy for Patient Oriented Research\* (AbSPORU) in identifying health research opportunities

*\*For information about AbSPORU see [albertainnovates.ca/programs/strategy-for-patient-oriented-research/](http://albertainnovates.ca/programs/strategy-for-patient-oriented-research/)*



# ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

**For admission to the non-credit Certificate in Patient and Community Engagement Research, applicants must have:**

- Access to or own a computer or laptop
- Access to a reliable internet connection
- Basic computer skills including typing, emailing, and web skills
- Experience as a patient or with the healthcare system
- Interest in health research
- Previous engagement experience and/or experience on committees is considered an asset



# WHAT STUDENTS CAN EXPECT IN THE PROGRAM

## **The PaCER Training Program will:**

- Be delivered as a blended-learning program or entirely online.
- Make use of a variety of approaches, including:
  - Live online synchronous sessions via Zoom
  - Class discussions
  - Peer feedback
  - Case studies
  - Qualitative data collection
  - Qualitative data analysis
  - Report writing
- Finish with students completing an internship-style research project and report during their final course.



# HOW STUDENTS SUCCEED IN THE PROGRAM

## **Students are expected to:**

- Attend all sessions
- Manage their time effectively
- Dedicate time to focus on course work
- Collaborate with their classmates on group projects
- Read material before each online class (if applicable)
- Take notes
- Be active in online class (participate, inquire)

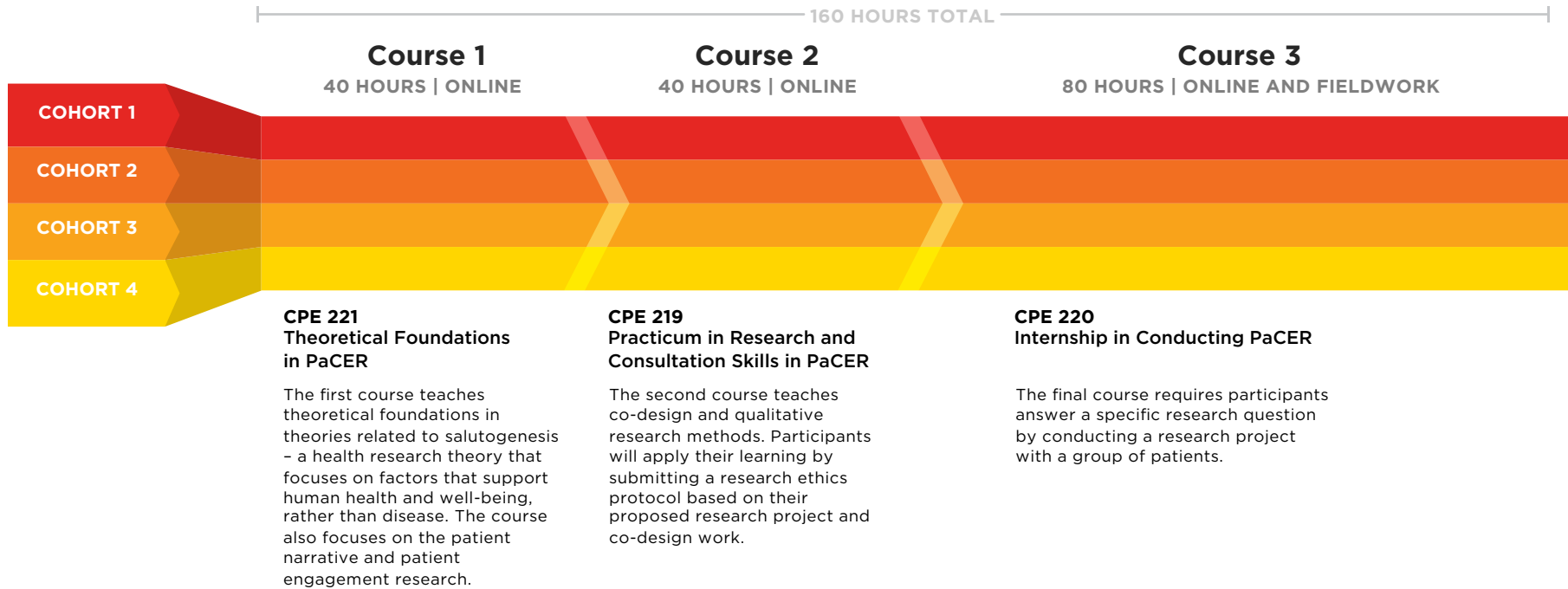


# LEARNING OUTCOMES

**By completion  
of the program,  
successful students  
will be able to:**

- Apply relevant theories, including salutogenesis, narrative, patient engagement theories, and qualitative research theories
- Co-design and conduct research in full compliance with ethics protocols and the PaCER framework for engagement ethics
- Carry out research project logistics
- Apply, test, and expand engagement strategies with special health populations
- Use qualitative research methods and skills
- Analyse qualitative research data
- Write formal research reports
- Demonstrate leadership and team-building skills

# STUDENT JOURNEY



**Academic Lead**  
Oversees program



**Instructor**  
Teaches program



**Mentor**  
Mentor involvement is negotiable



# UCalgary Continuing Education approach



## Instructor led classes



## Significant applied learning

- Application-based assignments and exercises
- Applied learning activities
- Real life examples



## Students use UCalgary's learning management system to access the following:

- Course outline
- Course content/material
- Assignments, rubrics and grades
- Discussion board to share information between students in cohort and instructors
- Additional resources

# Questions?

Contact Meagan Peacosh  
for further information

**Meagan Peacosh**

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