

Opportunity for Researchers and Clinicians to Expand Patient Engagement in Health Care CER Research

Since 2017, the Alliance for Aging Research's *Talk NERDY to Me* network has addressed the underrepresentation of older adult patients and family caregivers as stakeholders in research by helping network alumni connect with Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) opportunities at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Department of Defense (DoD), the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the private sector, and in local comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) projects. However, throughout the five years that the *Talk NERDY to Me* training has been offered, the Alliance has noticed a lack of PCOR opportunities for the network's advocacy alumni. When researchers and clinicians engage with older adults who are living with major chronic illnesses, it opens a window into how real and perceived barriers impact access to effective interventions and services.

To achieve this goal, we offer a two-week online workshop for both patient advocates and researchers. The *Talk NERDY to Me* network has a 2022 focus to include researchers and providers in our annual training who would be interested in establishing meaningful PCOR engagement opportunities within their work. The *Talk NERDY to Me* Network empowers older adults and their family caregivers to collaborate with physicians and researchers on PCOR related to (1) Alzheimer's disease, (2) heart valve disease, (3) atrial fibrillation, (4) chronic pain and/or disability, and (5) macular degeneration.

The virtual training is scheduled for the last two weeks of October 2022 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Eastern Time on Zoom. Researcher and clinician participants will learn from researchers in the field, patient advocate attendees, and each other. All participants will complete assignments and have opportunities to collaborate online.

By completing the course, participants will learn the following:

- The purpose of—and best practices in—Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR);
- How to work with older adult patients and family caregivers to develop research questions meaningful to them; and

- How to create and incorporate the older adult patient and family caregiver perspective throughout PCOR projects.

As a participant you will receive direct access to both the *Talk NERDY to Me* Network of advocates and former research participants, and the *Talk NERDY to Me* Advisory Council, a network of patients, researchers, payers, and industry representatives that aid in sculpting the program and encourage application of the teachings post completion.

At the Alliance, we strive to be a place where inclusion lives, and diverse voices are valued. We encourage all researchers and clinicians that focus on one or more of the five disease areas to apply, including those of any race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.

Our goal is to actively educate researchers and clinicians who commit to establishing meaningful, diverse PCOR engagement opportunities for older patients and family caregivers within their work.

We are looking for researchers and clinicians who are:

- Interested in aging and associated health research topics;
- Engaged in research in one of the priority health conditions;
- Interested in expanding PCOR opportunities within existing Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) programs;
- Able to participate in four 90-minute online sessions;
- Able to complete a short amount of homework prior to each session, and;
- Committed to meaningful patient engagement that results in creating new/additional PCOR opportunities for older adult patients and family caregivers!

Participants successfully completing the workshop will receive a stipend of \$1,500 and a Certificate of Completion for participating in the training.

Course Sessions Schedule

Session One: Monday, October 17, 2022

Session Two: Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Session Three: Friday, October 21, 2022

Session Four: Monday, October 24, 2022

Session Five: Wednesday, October 26, 2022

Session Six: Friday, October 28, 2022

How to Apply

Anyone who is engaged in research or clinical care in one of the priority health conditions, and willing to make a full commitment to the two-week program, is encouraged to apply by emailing Beth Mathews-Bradshaw at b Bradshaw@agingresearch.org.

Questions & Answers

How would I use this training?

There are many ways researchers and clinicians can engage patients and family caregivers in their research. This training will highlight best practices when engaging with patients and family caregivers and how to apply their perspectives throughout the PCOR projects to maximize the value of their participation. We also hope researcher and clinician participants bring the training back to their own communities to continue education and create more opportunities.

Am I qualified?

If you are engaged in research in one of the priority health conditions, excited to create new/additional PCOR opportunities, and willing to make full commitment to the two-week program, then you are qualified!

How do I learn more?

Contact Beth Mathews-Bradshaw at b Bradshaw@agingresearch.org.