



CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH

Partnered Perspectives Program
EXPECTATIONS AND PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Table of Contents

1. Purpose and Guiding Principles	3
2. Scope and Participant Expectations	3
3. Pre-Conference Engagement	3
4. Conference Engagement Expectations	4
5. Selection Criteria	4
6. Post-Conference Engagement	5

1. Purpose and Guiding Principles

Ovarian Cancer Canada's Partnered Perspectives Program at the **Canadian Conference on Ovarian Cancer Research (CCOCR 2026)** is designed to foster meaningful engagement between research trainees and patient partners with lived experience of ovarian cancer.

The goal of this initiative is to strengthen patient-centred research by encouraging open conversation, mutual learning, and relationship-building during the conference in **Vancouver, May 29 – June 1, 2026**.

This program is guided by the following principles:

- ❖ Foster respectful and open dialogue between researchers and patient partners
- ❖ Encourage mutual learning through exchange of research knowledge and lived experience
- ❖ Elevate patient perspectives to enrich research discussions
- ❖ Provide a structured yet flexible environment that supports meaningful participation

2. Scope and Participant Expectations

Participants will be connected prior to the CCOCR 2026 and are encouraged to engage throughout the conference to foster meaningful conversations and learning.

The partnership is intended to:

- ❖ Facilitate discussions about research and lived experience
- ❖ Promote understanding of how research impacts patients
- ❖ Provide trainees with insight into patient priorities
- ❖ Share information with patient partners about current research initiatives

The partnership does NOT require:

- ❖ Trainees to interpret or explain all scientific content to patient partners
- ❖ Patient partners to have scientific expertise
- ❖ Attendance at all sessions together
- ❖ Following a rigid schedule or scripted format

3. Pre-Conference Engagement

All participants will join a **virtual introductory meeting (30–45 minutes)** hosted by Ovarian Cancer Canada before CCOCR 2026. This meeting will provide an opportunity for trainees to ask questions and connect with their assigned patient partner or pod in advance of the conference.

This meeting aims to:

- ❖ Build initial rapport between participants

- ❖ Explore shared interests and discuss expectations
- ❖ Coordinate potential meeting opportunities during the conference

Participants are encouraged to exchange contact information.

4. Conference Engagement Expectations

To support meaningful interaction, participants are expected to:

Engagement activities:

1. Attend **at least one scientific session or plenary together** (reserved seating will be provided for plenary sessions)
2. Walk through **one poster session together** – decide in advance which poster session to attend
3. Meet to **reflect on at least one session** (15–30 minutes)

These suggestions are intended to provide structures and guidance while allowing flexibility to accommodate individual schedules and interests.

Professional conduct:

- ❖ Acknowledge and appreciate different perspectives
- ❖ Engage respectfully and courteously
- ❖ Communicate openly about scheduling and availability

Participants are encouraged to approach the engagement with openness, curiosity, and a shared dedication to advancing patient-centred research. This program reflects a commitment to embedding lived experience thoughtfully and meaningfully throughout research discussions.

5. Selection Criteria

Trainee applicants will be evaluated based on their potential to contribute to a meaningful and engaging program experience. The program seeks trainees who are motivated to learn from patient perspectives and bring thoughtful contributions to discussions about ovarian cancer research.

Selection will consider:

- ❖ **Interest and motivation:** Applicants should clearly explain why they want to participate in the program, what they hope to gain, and how this experience fits into their research and professional development goals.

- ❖ **Relevant experience:** Trainees with research experience or training in ovarian cancer or related gynecological cancers are encouraged to apply.
- ❖ **Commitment to engagement:** Applicants should demonstrate openness, curiosity, and willingness to listen, reflect, and learn from patient perspectives.
- ❖ **Alignment with program goals:** Trainees should show an understanding of the importance of patient-centred research and be prepared to engage in conversations that center patient experience and priorities.

The goal of the selection process is to create a diverse and well-rounded group of trainees who can contribute to meaningful dialogues with patient partners, foster mutual learning, and enhance the overall conference experience for all participants.

6. Post-Conference Engagement

Continued connection beyond the conference is **optional**.

Participants may continue to communicate with each other, and trainees who wish to involve a patient partner in a formal research engagement through [Ovarian Cancer Canada's Patient Partners in Research program](#) can reach out to Dr. Jessica Lawson at jlawson@ovariancanada.org.

Additional resource: [Advancing Research Alongside Patient Partners: Next Generation Best Practices for Effective Collaboration in Health Research](#)