

FEATURE

Julie Drury Chair, Minister's Patient and Family Advisory Council

She is articulate, passionate and tireless, qualities that make Julie Drury, Chair of Ontario's first Minister's Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC), a strong advocate for engaging patients and families in the health care system, from research to clinical care and beyond. Julie advises Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and the ministry's senior leadership team on how to conduct patient engagement, and understand the patient's complete experience while in the health care system. She also plays a key role, along with the Ministry's Patient Engagement Secretariat, in creating a network of patient advisors across Ontario by working with groups like OSSU which are active in patient engagement, as well as the Local Health Integrated Networks (LHINs), and many others to make patient engagement a priority across all aspects of health care.

Julie sees championing patient-oriented research as an important piece of her role.

How can you advance patient-oriented research in the ministry?

The ministry has a group that focuses on research, and policy driven by research. I am exploring priorities with them, and working to understand how they are engaging patients and families, looking at opportunities to engage, perhaps with research agendas driven by patients and families. I can see using the ministry's virtual pool of 700+ advisors from across Ontario, who are interested in participating as patient and family advisors and in focus groups, as a resource for the ministry. It might be as simple as going out and asking them to define what is important in health care and asking them to define some research questions.

I can be a pipeline, creating roles for patients and families, and creating awareness within the ministry, helping them understand how they can include patients and families in research and health care.

How can OSSU work with you to help you in your role?

SPOR and OSSU's work involving patients in research has created awareness in the research community that they should involve patients in projects. This is becoming more embedded and organic in the research system. There are many families working in your network and I want to get more involved with them, to understand what they are doing. Networking is priority number one, then sharing the structure that OSSU has created with the ministry, looking for opportunities, gaps. Is there something that OSSU is doing with the ministry that the Minister's PFAC or the virtual pool of patient advisors could get involved in?

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UPDATES

OSSU Visiting Queen's University

OSSU will be visiting Queen's University in Kingston on Monday, May 14th to host a meeting with researchers. The meeting will serve to introduce OSSU and showcase how OSSU resources and expertise can assist with health/health service research.

OSSU Patient Partnership Event

On March 22, OSSU will be hosting a Patient Partnership event at the Chestnut Residence & Conference Centre in Toronto. The event will provide an opportunity for OSSU to report on its progress with building capacity for patient engagement and receive feedback on its plans for renewal and vision of a people-centric learning health system.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 22	OSSU Patient Partnership Event, Toronto, ON
Mar 27 - 28	CTO Conference , Toronto, ON
Apr 30 - May 1	EQUATOR Canada Publication School , Toronto, ON
May 14	OSSU Outreach Day, Queen's University, Kingston, ON
May 29 - 31	CAHSR Annual Conference , Montreal, QC
June 6	Trillium Primary Health Care Research Day , Toronto, ON
June 7-8	KT Canada Scientific Meeting , Vancouver, BC

ACCOLADES

OSSU would like to recognize the achievements of the following:

- Dr. Walter Wodchis was appointed the inaugural Research Chair in Implementation and Evaluation Science at Trillium Health Partners' Institute for Better Health.
- Dr. Jennifer Walker received an Ontario Public Health Association Award of Excellence for her outstanding leadership, contributions to Indigenous health and research collaboration.
- Mr. Frank Gavin was recognized by The British Medical Journal as "Best Patient Reviewer" for his peer review work.
- Dr. Douglas Lee was awarded a grant from the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research Innovation Strategic Grant competition.

FROM THE NETWORKS

Diabetes Action Canada, in partnership with Diabetes Canada and Manulife, is pleased to announce the rippling-out of the successful [Aboriginal Youth Mentorship Program](#) (AYMP) to the First Nations School in downtown Toronto. AYMP is a resilience-based approach to wellness that empowers Indigenous high school-aged young adults to lead and mentor elementary school-aged youths. Watch the [video](#) or search AYMP on YouTube.

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How does your role align with the [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#)?

That's an easy one. The establishment of the minister's PFAC and my role will help to fulfill commitments outlined in the Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care. The Patients First agenda is about a patient and family-centred system and the patient experience is a key area of knowledge. Their expertise can help inform the system to make it better, safer, provide a better experience and more effective spending. It is all about bringing forward the experience, creating opportunities to hear about it and to do more effective patient engagement through research, clinical, home, long-term, respite and hospice care.

The unique thing about me is I have had experience in all areas of the system except long-term care.

IN BRIEF

OSSU has supported 13 Ontario-based researchers with their applications to the CIHR SPOR Innovative Clinical Trial Multi-Year Grant Competition. We wish all applicants every success in the competition.

Dr. Salim Yusuf presented at the Ontario MOHLTC Research to Policy Dialogue on the Prospective Urban Rural Epidemiology (PURE) study.

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