

“We need to create a culture [in healthcare] that supports the value in ‘listening through despair’ and allows for the creation of the necessary space to have that happen”

–Caregiver Participant



Study Title: Improving Mental Health Service Users’ Experiences of Cancer Care via Patient Engagement

Funding Agency: BC SUPPORT Unit – Northern Centre (awarded to Dr. Larstone)

Community Partner: BC Schizophrenia Society Prince George Branch

Do you want to share your experiences & ideas about cancer care and cancer support services in the North?

Researchers at UNBC and BC Cancer – Centre for the North are leading a patient-oriented research study to learn more about patient priorities and experiences of cancer care for individuals experiencing enduring mental illness and cancer.



FACULTY OF MEDICINE



Provincial Health Services Authority



Why is this research urgent?

Mental illness affects 1 in 5 Canadians. Individuals with enduring mental illness encounter high rates of cancer risk, incidence and cancer-related mortality.

Recent estimates suggest nearly 1 in 2 Canadians will develop cancer in their lifetime (Canadian Cancer Society, 2019; Public Health Agency of Canada, 2017). Cancer incidence rates are rising in Northern BC; as such, this region of the province is identified as having high cancer care need.

What do participants need to do?

If you would like to participate in this study, you would:

- 1) Attend at least one (1) of up to three (3) planned knowledge sharing sessions to be held in an easily accessible location in the community; and
- 2) You would also be invited, but not required, to attend one of two community feedback sessions to help us identify patient-focused research questions as a foundation for future work in this area.

What are the study goals?

We are collaborating with patient and community partners and healthcare professionals to support meaningful and inclusive patient engagement to achieve the following goals:

- 1) Engage with patient, family and health care professionals to promote co-learning and 'scale up' our knowledge exchange activities; and
- 2) Identify patient-focused research questions to inform future grant applications.

Who is leading the research?

The investigative team includes:

Dr. Roseann Larstone, National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health;
Dr. Robert Olson, BC Cancer Agency- Centre for the North;
Dr. Sarah de Leeuw, Northern Medical Program, UNBC.

Our patient and community partners at the BC Schizophrenia Society Prince George Branch are integral to this work.



This work builds on a long-term research partnership between our research team at UNBC and the BC Schizophrenia Society Prince George Branch.

“How do we best support people after cancer treatment – life is still going on”

—Patient participant

If you are an individual over the age of 19 years who is experiencing enduring mental illness, are currently experiencing stable mental health, and who has ever been diagnosed with cancer; or, if you are an individual over the age of 19 who provides informal care and support to an individual meeting these criteria you may be eligible to participate.

What do I do next?

If you would like more information please contact a member of the research team at the telephone numbers or email addresses below. We will be happy to share information and answer your questions. There is no obligation to participate.

Contact Us

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