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\*\* Call to Actions (2)

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\*\* 1. RI Family Patient Advisory Committee

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Expression of Interest for PFAC Membership – Terms Starting September 2025

We are excited to announce that expressions of interest are now open for up to 5 new members on the Patient and Family Advisory Committee (PFAC) at CHEO Research Institute (RI). This is a fantastic opportunity to contribute your voice in shaping healthcare services, research, and policy at CHEO.

Who can apply:

We welcome individuals with lived experience, including patients, families, and caregivers. Additionally, there is one upcoming vacancy for a Research Institute (RI) staff member with an interest in patient engagement and patient-oriented research.

Term Details:

The new 2-year terms will begin in September 2025. The committee meets virtually for 10 evenings per year, taking a break over the summer months. For more information or to submit your expression of interest, please contact Kimberly Courtney (mailto:kcourtney@cheo.on.ca?subject=PFAC&body=Hi%20Kim%2C%20%0AI%20would%20like%20to%20put%20my%20name%20forward%20with%20an%20expression%20of%20interest%20for%20a%20PFAC%20term.%20) by June 30th.

\*\* 2. Family Reviews Starting Soon

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We have two grant competitions coming up that will require Family Review: the Research Growth Awards and the Trainee Awards. We expect project summaries to be ready for review in early June.

We aim to have two family reviewers per project, and your input is vital in helping shape these proposals to reflect what matters most to patients and families.

Stay tuned—we’ll share more details soon! We hope you’ll consider lending your voice to this important work.

\*\* PCYMH Event

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A big thank-you to Karina and Aidan for their thoughtful help in planning our recent Art of Collaboration event with the Precision Child Youth Mental Health Collaboratory. Their input helped create a welcoming and creative space to connect around youth mental health research—thank you both for your time, care, and insight!

Congratulations to the family leaders whose projects were funded in this PCYMH grant cycle as co-applicants! Your collaboration and leadership continue to shape research in meaningful and impactful ways. We can’t wait to see your projects take off!

\*\* Farewell and Best Wishes to Bina Sharma

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We’re sending our heartfelt thanks and warmest wishes to Bina Sharma, who will be retiring from the RI Family Leader Program. It has been a true joy to have Bina with us—her thoughtful contributions and calm presence have made a lasting impact on our team and the broader CHEO research community.

Before joining our program, Bina was a translator at CHEO and authored a book (https://a.co/d/9lAFY9g) about the cultural heritage of the Nepalese, reflecting her deep commitment to sharing stories and bridging cultures. As she steps into this new chapter filled with travel and well-earned rest, we wish her all the best!

\*\* Well Done Suzanne!

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Our Family Leader Suzanne recently completed the Family as Faculty course at Holland Bloorview! She was also recognized as a top participant in the Ontario Brain Institute’s recent workshop. She continues to champion meaningful family engagement in research and promote patient- and family-oriented approaches. We’re so proud of all she’s accomplished!

\*\* A Resource Worth Sharing

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Providing input on a research team’s draft manuscript Full article by Anna Samson, Chantale Thurston, Don Wood, Trinity Lowthian, Dawn Richards and Perri Tutelman availablehttps://pxphub.org/research-team-blog/here (https://pxphub.org/research-team-blog/)

The checklist are available here (https://pxphub.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Manuscript-Input-English-PDF-Reviewers.pdf) too! Amazing work Trinity!

\*\* Everything Gift Card

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Have You Received Your E-Gift Card?

All Family Leaders should have received an Everything E-Gift Card by email on April 28th. Please take a moment to check your spam or other folders in case it landed there.

If you haven’t received your gift card, please let me know! One has been assigned to you, and I want to resend it from my admin portal to ensure it reaches you. It’s important we have feedback on using this service for honorariums - so we can give you the best experience possible.

Thank you again for all that you contribute—we truly appreciate you!

This newsletter is a space to highlight your engagement, celebrate milestones, and share resources that inspire others across our Family Leader Program

Send us your contributions—we’d love to feature them!

Plain Text Version (https://www.cheoresearch.ca/for-patients-family/partner-in-research/)

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