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https://www.cheoresearch.ca/for-patients-family/partner-in-research/

\*\* Call to Actions (2)

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1.Sexual and Reproductive Health Promotion Research and Quality Improvement Project

Have you ever been supported by a health care provider for your child or youth’s sexual health and development? Do you have questions about your child’s sexual health, development or behavior that you are not sure how to get answered? Do you have thoughts on how these conversations take place within health care?

If so, we want to hear from you!

This project is exploring how we support children and families with sexual and reproductive health information as children grow and develop through childhood and adolescence.

We are looking for a small group of parents (and youth if applicable) to share your needs, experiences, and some input on what approaches and resources might improve care for CHEO patients and families.

You can communicate in whichever way feels most comfortable for you: answer some questions in writing, participate in a group discussion, or have a one-on-one conversation with the project lead, Marita Smith.

Marita is a CHEO nurse and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner with extensive experience supporting families through sensitive and challenging conversations and situations. All your information will be kept confidential and will be used only to inform our practice at CHEO and build the recommendations of this project. Please reach out to masmith@cheo.on.ca (mailto:masmith@cheo.on.ca?subject=RI%20Family%20Leader%20Request%20&body=Hi%20Martia%2C%0AI%20am%20interested%20in%20helping%20with%20your%20project.) if you are interested in hearing more about this project and how you can participate.

2.The OurCare project, in partnership with the Canadian Medical Association, is conducting a national research survey to better understand people’s experiences with primary care and identify areas for improvement.

They want to hear from as many people as possible across Canada, including our Family Leaders.

Please visit ourcare.ca/survey to take the survey. It’s confidential and only takes 10–15 minutes to complete. The OurCare project is led by Dr. Tara Kiran, a family physician and researcher committed to building a more equitable and responsive primary care system.

Thanks so much for considering this request, and for all you do to champion patient voices!

\*\* 1. Better Impact

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CHEO has recently launched Better Impact, a new platform for managing volunteers. This is the same system used by our sister site, Holland Bloorview, and it offers many exciting features to support and streamline volunteer engagement.

The Family Leader Program at the RI will be integrated into Better Impact by September 2025. Stay tuned for more details as we prepare for the transition!

\*\* McMaster Family Engagement in Research (FER) Course

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Ontario Child Health Support Unit will be sponsoring 1 family leader this year. Please reach out of you are interested in joining for the fall term!

Applications for the Fall 2025 & Winter 2026 Family Engagement in Research Course Are Open!

Are you a researcher, clinician, student, or person with lived and living experience/family member interested in child health research and want to learn more about how to engage in meaningful research partnerships? Don’t miss your chance to join the Family Engagement in Research (FER) Course, offered by CanChild McMaster University.

Fall 2025 Session: 10 weeks | September 15 to November 23, 2025

Winter 2026 Session: 10 weeks | January 19 to March 29, 2026

Why Join the FER Course?

Learn how to build meaningful partnerships between families and researchers.

Collaborate on a project and receive hands-on engagement practice.

Grow your skills and confidence in family engagement.

 Learn more: INT FER 101 - Fall 2025/Winter 2026

How to Apply: Applications are now open and close June 30, 2025! Spots are limited, so apply soon to secure your place.

Apply today: https://redcap.link/FERCourse\_F25W26

Connect With Us:

Questions? Reach out to Sam at fer@mcmaster.ca

Ontario Child Health Support Unit will be sponsoring the cost for one of our family leaders. Please reach out (mailto:kcourtney@cheo.on.ca?subject=FER%20COURSE&body=Hi%20Kim%2C%20%0AI%20am%20interested%20in%20taking%20the%20FER%20course%2C%20and%20the%20sponsored%20spot%20for%20the%20Fall%20Cohort.) if you are interested in the Fall Cohort.

\*\* Congratulations Sofia!

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We’re thrilled to share that Family Leader Sofia has been accepted into medical school—congratulations, Sofia! We can’t wait to welcome her back to Ottawa. Starting this September, Sofia will also be joining our PFAC as one of our young adult advisors. We’re so excited to have her insight and lived experience helping to shape the work ahead.

\*\* A Resource Worth Sharing

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Parents Mady and Emilio have been long-time members and dedicated supporters of the Family Leader Program. Mady is currently one of our inaugural family advisors on basic science—a role that’s helping to shape how researchers engage with families early in the discovery process.

We’re also excited to share a fantastic resource written by Emilio: How to Read a Scientific paper in Biomedical Sciences (https://ruor.uottawa.ca/items/13e01907-b0fb-4815-83b8-2e3f447127fa?\_gl=1\*56af54\*\_gcl\_au\*OTg5MTUyMzgwLjE3NDc1NzQ2NDk)

It's a valuable tool for anyone looking to better understand research papers and get more involved in science-based advocacy and collaboration.

The RI PFAC Term is now complete!

Our warm thanks to all the members of our RI PFAC for an incredible year of gathering, sharing, and thoughtful consultation. Your insights continue to shape research at the RI in meaningful ways.

We’re so grateful for your time, voice, and ongoing commitment to family and youth engagement in research!

Not pictured: Ian, Taila, Hana, Suzanne & Neha

\*\* As Per Usual

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https://asperusual.substack.com/p/s3e25-oneperspective

As Per Usual Podcast is a fabulous podcast that highlights the practical elements of partnering. Be sure to tune it, our family leader Angie will be part of the next episode!

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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