

BC SUPPORT Unit Island Centre

Who are we?

The BC SUPPORT (Support for People & Patient-Oriented Research & Trials) Unit supports Patient-Oriented Research to answer research questions that matter to patients. The Island Centre is embedded in Island Health's Research Department and supports teams working on projects that meaningfully include people with lived experience and aim to improve healthcare.

What is Patient-Oriented Research (POR)?

- POR brings together patients, researchers, health care providers and health system decision-makers;
- Is done in partnership with patients and meaningfully engages patients as full partners;
- Answers research questions that matter to patients;
- Aims to improve health care and health outcomes for patients;
- And is part of a national initiative led by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) called the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR).



How we can help... our team provides:

- Support for patient engagement by identifying, onboarding, training, and supporting patient partners;
- Help to form multidisciplinary research teams by bringing researchers, healthcare providers and decision-makers together;
- Knowledge translation support to ensure findings reach the right audience.

For patients, it means having a say in which health topics are researched.



For researchers, it means benefiting from the perspectives and experiences of patients.



For the health care system, it means having access to the research evidence that decision-makers and health care providers need to improve care.



For more information, please reach out!

Heather Strosher, MA (she/her)
Knowledge Broker
heather.strosher@islandhealth.ca



<https://healthresearchbc.ca/bc-support-unit>