

# Patients, Clinicians and Researchers Working Together to Improve Cardiovascular Health: A Qualitative Study of Barriers and Priorities for Patient-Oriented Research

Santana et al. (2020)  
<https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2019-031187>

## For which topic were research priorities identified?

cardiovascular health

## In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

North America - Canada

## Why was it conducted at all?

Cardiovascular (CV) disease is a leading cause of death of men and women in Canada and is associated with significant morbidity, disability and hospitalisations. The past three decades have seen the introduction and application of many therapies for the prevention and treatment of CV disease. However, the experiences and outcomes from the patients' perspective with CV disease remain to be optimised. POR offers new promise to increase the relevance of research and ultimately improve CV health and care to patients. This opportunity to gain an understanding of what matters to patients and to learn how patients' priorities align with clinician-researchers in CV care could result in research and outcomes that are more relevant to both patients and clinicians.

## What was the objective?

to identify priorities for cardiovascular health research that are important to patients and clinician-researchers

## What was the outcome?

a list of 10 research topics

## How long did the research prioritization take?

2 days

## Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

workshop

## How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: workshop: participants were grouped in tables to discuss and document on flipchart papers potential barriers and facilitators to conducting POR and to identify what CV research priorities mattered most to them, dotmocracy was then used to narrow down the list to 10 priorities, then patients and clinician-researchers worked together to co-create short presentations focusing on importance, relevance and feasibility of chosen priorities, top 10 priorities were then presented back to group for members to check

## Which stakeholders took part?

Patients, clinicians, researchers. 23 participants: patients and family caregivers (n=12) and clinician-researchers (n=11): 7 clinicians (physicians and nurses with specialties in cv care, endocrinology, nephrology and internal medicine), 4 health services researchers.

## How were stakeholders recruited?

Recruitment flyers were shared with healthcare providers, clinic managers at outpatient clinics and tertiary healthcare centres in Alberta, and the patient engagement team at the provincial SPOR SUPPORT Unit. Patients who expressed interest in attending the workshop were then contacted. Clinicians and researchers from the Person to Population Cardiovascular Research Collaborative at the Libin Institute were invited to participate.

## Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.