**BCHIMPS Includes Patients:**

BCHIMPS believes in the Patients’ Included mission and vision and charter.

In the spring of 2018, we embarked on a shift in our Society’s approach to event planning and participation, to include patients in all aspects of the Spring and Fall Symposia. We strongly believe that this will strengthen the conversations at our events, and help us as professionals to be better at our daily work. It will help us to create better outcomes, better health care delivery systems, and more relevant information management and technology solutions for the patients we serve.

The Spring 2018 Symposium, on March 2nd, 2018, is the first event where we have included patients in the design and planning. We have also sponsored patients to participate in the day as full delegates, and by introducing speakers and participating in Q&A sessions.

For the fall Symposium on September 28th, 2018, and ongoing beyond that, we will be positioning the BCHIMPS events to include patients and carers as speakers, as part of panel discussions, and to offer deeper opportunities for patients to partner in designing and delivering the Symposia content. We are realigning our budget and sponsorship opportunities to increase the number of Scholarships we can provide to cover travel and registration costs, to make it easy for more patients and patient carers to fully participate in event design and the day itself. We are also soliciting sponsorship to support virtual participation, and the availability of conference session recordings and materials through our website.

How are we meeting the Charter Commitments of the Patient’s Included Organization?

* 1. *Patients or caregivers with experience relevant to the conference’s central theme actively participate in the design and planning of the event, including the selection of themes, topics and speakers.*

Support staff from Fraser Health Authority’s Patient Advisory Council, and the BC Patient Safety and Quality Council – which supports BC’s [Patient Voices Network](https://patientvoicesbc.ca/) -- have facilitated the engagement and recruitment of patient advisors to assist with event planning and delivery. For future events, BCHIMPS will broaden the level engagement to include other health authorities’ and organizations’ patient networks. The generous and gracious support we have received from these health system partner organizations has ensured we have been able to target the engagement of patients and carers with specific interest and experience in the BCHIMPS event themes and issues.

1. *Patients or caregivers with experience of the issues addressed by the event participate in its delivery, and appear in its physical audience.*

Patients and carers have been invited through BC’s [Patient Voices Network](https://patientvoicesbc.ca/), and with the assistance of staff and the Patient Advisory Council at Fraser Health Authority. This has ensured we have been able to target the engagement of patients and carers with specific interest and experience in the BCHIMPS event themes and issues. For future events, BCHIMPS will broaden the level engagement to include other health authorities’ and organizations’ patient networks.

1. *Travel and accommodation expenses for patients or carers participating in the advertised programme are paid in full, in advance. Scholarships are provided by the conference organisers to allow patients or carers affected by the relevant issues to attend as delegates.*

For the Spring 2018 event, travel and accommodation costs and full event registration expenses are covered for the patient advisors involved in our event planning and delivery of the day. Up to three (3) Scholarships are being awarded to patient and carer participants to cover the costs of travel, accommodation at the event venue, and full participation in the registered event and associated social activities. We are actively soliciting industry sponsors for future events, in order to be able to increase the number of Scholarships awarded.

1. *The disability requirements of participants are accommodated. All applicable sessions, breakouts, ancillary meetings, and other programme elements are open to patient delegates.*

The event venue ([Sutton Place Hotel](https://www.suttonplace.com/hotels/sutton-place-hotel-vancouver-van), Vancouver) is fully accessible. All sessions, breakouts, networking, and social activities associated with the event are open to patient and carer delegates.

1. *Access for virtual participants is facilitated, with free streaming video provided online wherever possible.*

Throughout the event day, we will maintain live updates from multiple Twitter accounts using the hashtag #BCHIMPS. This will ensure the feed is easy to follow. All recordings, slides, videos, and other information regarding the conference will be posted on the www.bchimps.org website and will be available to the public.

We maintain that we are committed to adhering to the letter and intent of the criteria set forth in the Patients Included Charter.  
  
For any questions or concerns, please contact: [rosemary@bchimps.org](mailto:rosemary@bchimps.org), Board of Director, BCHIMPS.