Roles and Skills for Patient Partners in Research

As a patient partner on a health research team, you may ask yourself, 'What can I contribute'? The answer is, more than you may think! We all bring transferable skills to the table that are usually broader than any given role within a team. They relate more to leadership, communication, critical thinking, analysis, and organizational abilities, strengths and experiences. These are skills that can be transferred and utilized in a variety of different ways as a patient partner.

- Facilitating meetings or discussions
- Leading activities
- Setting goals and priorities
- Manage people, delegate tasks, direct, oversee or motivate
- Note taking
- Learning by listening
- Solving problems in a cooperative way
- Business writing
- Editing documents/reports
- Sharing personal stories in a public venue

- Sharing personal stories through written communication
- Teaching, training, or mentoring
- Interviewing others
- Event planning
- Researching information
- Graphic design
- Web design
- Sharing and promoting on social media
- Creative Thinking
- Interpersonal Skills

Role for Patient Partner	Complimentary Skills	I have experience		I am interested	
		yes	no	yes	no
Research Process, Step 1: Identifying and Prioritizing Research Question					
1. Consult on research topics and collaborate to develop priorities	✓ Participating in group discussions ✓ Active listening ✓ Setting goals and priorities ✓ Creative thinking ✓ Researching information				
Research Process, Step 2: Study Design					
1. Inform study design, clarify the research question and affirm its importance	✓ Participating in group discussions ✓ Setting goals and priorities				
2. Ensure the methods selected are appropriate for patients	✓ Participating in group discussions ✓ Learning by listening				
3. Co-develop patient recruitment strategy	✓ Interviewing others ✓ Sharing and promoting materials ✓ Teaching, training, or mentoring				
4. Review and comment on proposed questionnaires and data collection methods	✓ Business writing ✓ Editing documents/reports				
Research Process, Step 3: Development of Grant Proposal to Fund Project					
1. Ensure the research and methods proposed are ethical	✓ Learning by listening ✓ Participating in group discussions ✓ Researching information				
2. Identify areas where patients and the public could be involved	✓ Managing people and delegating tasks ✓ Creative thinking				
3. Define outcome measures	✓ Researching information				
4. Advise on the appropriateness of the lay summary	✓ Taking notes, editing documents/reports				
5. Identify costs of involvement, expenses	✓ Participating in group discussions				
Research Process, Step 4: (pre) Study Preparation & Administration					
1. Assist with writing patient agreement and consent forms	✓ Communication ✓ Writing, editing documents/reports				

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2. Review ethics and operational approval applications prior to submission	✓ Communication ✓ Writing, editing documents/reports ✓ Learning by listening					
3. Aid in designing the detailed protocol	✓ Communication ✓ Writing, editing documents/reports					
4. Develop research updates that are patient friendly	✓ Communication ✓ Writing, editing documents/reports					
6. Become a co-applicant	✓ Participating in group discussions ✓ Writing, editing documents/reports					
Research Process, Step 5: Data Collection						
1. Draft and revise study materials and protocols	✓ Writing, editing business documents/reports ✓ Graphic design					
2. Assist with the recruitment of study participants	✓ Leading meetings, discussions or activities ✓ Teaching, training, or mentoring ✓ Interviewing ✓ Interpersonal Skills					
3. Assist with conducting interviews and surveys	✓ Leading meetings, discussions or activities ✓ Interviewing ✓ Interpersonal Skills					
Research Process, Step 6: Analyzing and Interpreting Data						
1. Assist the research team in developing themes from data	✓ Analyzing and problem solving ✓ Active listening ✓ Creative thinking					
2. Consult with research team on interpretation of data	✓ Analyzing and problem solving ✓ Actively listening ✓ Participating in group discussions ✓ Active listening ✓					
3. Develop more approachable methods to help interpret the data	✓ Evaluating and solving problems cooperatively					
Research Process, Step 7: Dissemination of Results (of what to whom?)						
1. Advise on ways to disseminate results	✓ Teaching, training, or mentoring ✓ Sharing and promoting materials					
2. Author/co-author manuscripts, newsletters and other appropriate information outlets	✓ Writing, editing documents/reports ✓ Communications					

3. Jointly present the findings with researchers	✓ Leading meetings or discussions ✓ Teaching, training, or mentoring ✓ Public Speaking				
4. Help distribute results within informal network	✓ Sharing and promoting materials ✓ Leading activities				
5. Produce summaries of findings	✓ Graphic design ✓ Business writing				
Research Process, Step 9:Implementation (Knowledge to Action)					
1. Increase the likelihood that results of research are implemented, by adding validity to the findings	✓ Setting goals and priorities ✓ Creative / Strategic thinking				
2. Develop patient information for new services/interventions within hospitals, clinics, etc.	✓ Graphic/web design ✓ Sharing and promoting materials ✓ Leading activities				
Research Process, Step 10:Monitoring and Evaluation					
1. Continue involvement with the study to maintain focus and address issues as they arise	✓ Solving problems cooperatively				
2. Collaborate with researchers to evaluate the research process	✓ Leading meetings or discussions ✓ Solving problems cooperatively				
3. Reflect on roles, responsibilities and lessons learned	✓ Participating in discussions ✓ Actively listening				

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