



Patient Partner Onboarding



 ARCHIMEDES
The Eureka moment for healthcare

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Welcome

Welcome, and thank you for your interest in becoming a patient partner with the Advanced Research Collaboration for Health Integration, MEDical Exploration, and data Synthesis (ARCHIMEDES). The Patient Partner Council of ARCHIMEDES is a dedicated community of individuals with lived experience of diverse health conditions who are committed to helping the ARCHIMEDES team improve our ability to use and share health data to improve the health of Canadians. Patient partners on our team have various opportunities to contribute their time and perspectives to ARCHIMEDES' activities and projects.

What is ARCHIMEDES?

ARCHIMEDES is a health data platform designed to support research that improves patient health. It is a partnership across three institutions: the University of Ottawa, McGill University, and the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, which brings together data, tools, and expertise to help researchers ask better questions and create meaningful impact for patients. The platform is built collaboratively by researchers, data specialists, and patient partners.

Patients are involved as partners in the development of ARCHIMEDES. They share lived experiences, ask questions, and work with the team to identify where their perspectives can add the most value. The types of activities and projects are flexible and shaped collaboratively over time.

The Team

ARCHIMEDES is supported by a collaborative team of 20+ members, including project co-chairs, Drs. Kelly Cobey and Jodi Edwards, and a Patient Engagement Lead. The project co-chairs guide the overall direction of the platform, while the Patient Engagement Lead supports patient partners throughout their involvement and helps ensure patient voices are meaningfully incorporated into projects.



Pictured is the ARCHIMEDES team based out of the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, including co-chairs, Drs. Jodi Edwards and Kelly Cobey.

What is Patient Engagement to Us?

Patient engagement to us is working and collaborating with patients, caregivers, and people with lived experience as active partners, or co-developers, in projects. Participation as a patient partner is voluntary, flexible, and based on mutual respect. There is no expectation to have scientific, medical, or technical training. The role of a patient partner is to bring their unique lived experience and perspective to help improve the work and outcomes of the project.

What Being a Patient Partner Involves

Patient partners can support ARCHIMEDES in many ways, depending on their interests, availability, and comfort level. This may include sharing perspectives, providing feedback, participating in discussions or meetings, or collaborating with the team on specific projects. Below are a few ways they can get involved:

- Act as a patient partner advisor within ARCHIMEDES, sharing insights, supporting patient-centered initiatives, or serving as an ambassador at external events.
- Stay informed on ARCHIMEDES research and participate in key meetings (Patient Partner Café and Joint Liaison).
- Collaborate with project teams to integrate patient perspectives and review materials (e.g., communications, plain-language summaries, consent forms).
- Engage in learning opportunities and represent patient perspectives at ARCHIMEDES or health data events.



Mike Yeates (left) and Laurie Proulx (right), patient partners with ARCHIMEDES, speaking at the Canadian Health Data Platform Summit, Oct. 7, 2025.

Terms of Reference

For projects that involve patient partners, a short Terms of Reference document is used to support shared understanding and clear communication. This document is developed collaboratively and outlines the purpose of the project, anticipated timelines, roles and expectations for everyone involved, meeting plans, and information about compensation. Its goal is to ensure transparency, clarity, and a positive experience for all participants.

Compensation

Patient partners are compensated in appreciation of the time and effort they contribute to ARCHIMEDES projects. Compensation is typically provided for work on specific projects or activities. When applicable, compensation is provided as an honorarium at a standard hourly rate of \$40. Patient partners may choose to decline financial compensation if they wish and may also be recognized through acknowledgements or co-authorship on collaborative outputs, depending on their level of involvement.

Time Commitment

Time commitment for patient partners is flexible. Participation may involve occasional meetings, emails, or feedback requests, and is usually a couple hours per month. Patient partners can adjust their level of involvement as they please, they also may choose to step back from the project at any time.

Communication

Patient partners may meet more or less frequently depending on the project they are supporting. Any materials and meeting agendas are shared one week prior to the meeting. Any other important information is communicated as quickly as possible. Patient partners are encouraged to share any specific needs or preferences to create a meaningful and supportive environment.

Patient Partner Café

The Patient Partner Café is a hybrid, bi-monthly (every two months) gathering for all ARCHIMEDES patient partners. It is a relaxed space where patient partners are invited to connect with each other, hear general updates about ARCHIMEDES, and learn about different projects on the team. These sessions are informal discussions about ongoing work, reflections from patient partners who have been involved in specific projects, and opportunities to learn more about the health data ecosystem.

The Café is designed to build community and create a welcoming space for patient partners.



Getting Started

As soon as a patient partner joins the ARCHIMEDES Patient Partner Council, they will be provided with an onboarding package including more information about the project they are supporting, and upcoming activities. A main point of contact will be available to provide support and answer any questions.

**Interested in learning more about
ARCHIMEDES or joining the Patient
Partner Council?**

**Please reach out to us at
ARCHIMEDES@ottawaheart.ca**

Visit us online



archimedesdata.ca