

PaCER Kidney Health Interns: January 2019

The filter winter edition



The Patient and Community Engagement Research ([PaCER](#)) program, is part of the [O'Brien Institute for Public Health](#) at the [University of Calgary](#), and in partnership with [Alberta Health Services](#) through the [Strategic Clinical Networks™](#), is committed to transforming the role of patients in health care and health culture through engagement research. This means building new partnerships and roles for patients. PaCERs are

patient researchers, citizens with a variety of health conditions trained in qualitative health research, who are creating a new collective research voice *with patients, by patients and for patients*. Their mission is to change the role of patients in their health & health care, and to bring patient insight to the search for sustainable & effective health care.

2019 PaCER Kidney Health Student Interns



PaCER Kidney Health Student Interns Photo Caption (Left to right) - Manuel Escoto, Sherry Vera, Nancy Verdin (Mentor), Sabiha Zaman, Chris Carriere, Abir Aboutaha

Manuel Escoto is a current kidney transplant recipient (11 years), who was diagnosed with end-stage renal failure at age 19. He is currently employed with the Kidney Foundation of Canada. Manuel's interest in the PaCER program stems from what he felt was missing in current health care delivery models. *"The patient's voice has traditionally been absent in the policies and process impacting one's health journey... previous*



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models have not successfully conveyed a holistic picture of the patient's journey. As such, there remains a gap in truly understanding patient needs throughout all clinical areas." Through it all "a patient's voice must be at the forefront of their care."

Sherry Vera is current employee at AHS, working in Quality Healthcare Improvement since 2013. Sherry has always had a keen interest in *"the process of investigating and listening to a patient's point of view on their experience of their healthcare journey."* She believes that *"the patient's voice is integral in improving quality and patient safety in healthcare and in changing the culture in healthcare from doing things to patients, to doing things with patients."*

Nancy Verdin retired in 2016 after being an Orthopedic Occupational Therapist for 30 years. In April 2017 she joined the Kidney Health SCN and started to realize her dream of actively participating in changing healthcare through adopting a more people-centered philosophy in her work as a patient advisor and PaCER. *"I have lived with kidney failure for 31 years. I have experienced PD (manually, the cyclor was only for pediatric patients at that time) when I started, kidney transplant, in-center and home hemodialysis."* Nancy brings her lived experiences to her new roles.

Sabiha Zaman is a lifelong learner, and educator with interests in health research, innovation and technology. She heard about a PaCER opportunity through Twitter and upon reflection she considered that *"having gone through both positive and negative experiences in the Canadian Health care system, I am interested in learning about what factors makes a good or a bad outcome."* Through the PaCER program she would *"like to gain experience in research with direct benefits to patients and the health care providers."*

Chris Carriere is a Métis Registered Dietitian working with the Métis Nation of Alberta. His passions are health research, chronic disease prevention, Indigenous health policy, and patient advocacy. He believes strongly that *"engaging with patients, clients, and communities is paramount to building trusting relationships."* He believes that *"completing the PaCER Internship program will provide him with the necessary tools to better engage with Métis communities, while allowing for a greater narrative research component to future projects."* Through the program he hopes to build on his *"passion for patient advocacy and health rights"* which he feels the PaCER Internship would allow him to expand upon during his daily practice.

Abir Aboutaha is a patient research partner and a full member of the Orthopedic Oncology Research Group. Her interest in the PaCER program originated from her interest in engaging more as a research partner in various research studies that would build upon her skills to be a clinical, or patient, researcher. The PaCER program represented an opportunity for her to apply and build upon her skills and passion for research and patients.

