



Michael Smith  
**Health  
 Research BC**  
 BC SUPPORT UNIT

**We champion people's lived experience in health research to help answer questions that matter to patients.**

The BC SUPPORT Unit is part of Health Research BC. Advancing patient-oriented research is a key part of Health Research BC's efforts to catalyze change for a stronger health research system.

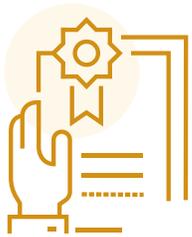
The BC SUPPORT Unit is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of BC. We're part of the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research, a national initiative led by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

## WE PARTNER

RESEARCHERS  
 WITH PATIENTS

In 2021-22, research teams we supported were awarded over

**\$5.2 million**



Over six years, **133** scientific articles were published from research we support



of these have **patient partners** as co-authors



We are supporting **16** clinicians to meaningfully engage patient, public, and community partners as part of the **Health Professional-Investigator** competition

## WE MOVE

EVIDENCE DEVELOPED  
 WITH PATIENTS INTO PRACTICE



...Engaging patients is critical in modern medicine. This patient, public, partnership review and response step is undoubtedly an essential step where researchers need to look into their proposals to ensure their research is meaningful, patient-care-orientated, and ethical. Thank you!



QUOTE FROM AN APPLICANT TO THE 2022 HP-I AWARD



“

Often, as scientists, we get wrapped up in the lab or behind the computer and begin to forget what we're working toward. But connecting with patients helps bring us back to reality and gives the work meaning. We're not just looking at biomarkers, we're connecting to a real person.

”

**Dr. Sandy Shultz**

professor, department of nursing, health and human services, Vancouver Island University

# WE MAKE

HEALTH DATA  
EASIER TO ACCESS

The **Health Data Platform** helps researchers, governments and health authorities better understand how people use BC's health system.

Through a partnership between the Ministry of Health, the BC SUPPORT Unit and other health organizations, **teams can now access province-wide data in one secure location.**



Using the **Health Data Platform**, researchers analyzed **5,937** calls to 8-1-1 who were seen by virtual physicians.



Researchers showed that virtual physicians provide care that is comparable to in-person visits.



This means 8-1-1 referrals to virtual physicians reduce emergency department use.



Patients still receive the care they need.

