

Projects and Publications

Project: DISRUPTS

Collaborators: St. Lawrence Health System

The PATIENTS Program's project, the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award: DISRUPTS, helps the research team of rural upstate New York's St. Lawrence Health System's (SLHS) Clinical and Rural Health Research Department with their ability to do Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) in the North Country area in New York state. Through another grant, we also look at best ways to teach the SLHS community ways to stop the spread of COVID-19 through education sessions.

The main goal of the DISRUPTS project is to have trainings on PCOR presented by the SLHS team. These trainings are part of a web series called "Learning Together, Leading Together: Shaping Patient-Centered Research in the North Country." Three online trainings were held in the fall of 2020, with three planned for the spring of 2021.

These two trainings were presented as part of the fall series:

- "Research Methods and Engagement Principles" talked about the three different types of research, the six critical steps in doing any research project, the engagement principles of patient-centered research, and improving the confidence of those who are taking part in a patient-centered research study.

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- "Key Considerations for Engaged Research and the Importance of PCOR and Community Involvement," talked about why community involvement is necessary to patient-centered research and how patients can get involved in research.

People who watched the webinars were caregivers, patients, healthcare providers, physicians and community members.

For the COVID-19 project, an advisory team was created and will look at the community survey responses about COVID-19 issues. People on the advisory team will also be surveyed, asking them how they want to get information and what questions they may have about the virus.

Three education sessions about COVID-19 have been held so far:

- Kylie Broughal, a Physician's Assistant in Infectious Disease presented "COVID-19: Fact versus Fiction." The session talked about factual information about the virus.
- "COVID-19 in Rural America" was presented on December 18th by Dr. Eyal Kedar of the Division of Rheumatology with SLHS presented "COVID-19 in Rural America." The session talked about how COVID-19 can be treated and how the pandemic is different in the rural North Country of New York compared to urban America.

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- **Kylie Broughal, a Physician's Assistant in Infectious Disease with SLHS presented "Vax Versus Fiction: Answering Questions and Presenting the Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines." She reviewed the different types of vaccines, vaccine safety, herd immunity, how to prepare for the vaccine and what to expect when getting the vaccine.**

Future plans for the spring PCOR education sessions include a review of current information while including any updates. For the COVID-19 project, planning is underway for sessions on topics such as the long-term effects of COVID-19, a vaccine update, and mental health concerns during the pandemic.

To see any of these webinars, please [click here](#).