

The MRCT Center and Joint Task Force for Clinical Trials Competency Standards Launches a New International Initiative with CANTRAIN and EUPATI

[The Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard \(MRCT Center\)](#) and the [Joint Task Force \(JTF\) for Clinical Trial Competency](#) are pleased to announce a new international collaboration with [the CANadian Consortium of Clinical Trial TRAINing \(CANTRAIN\)](#), and [the European Patients' Academy on Therapeutic Innovation \(EUPATI\)](#).

The initiative, entitled **"Co-Creating Clinical Research Competencies to Support Effective Patient Partner Engagement Activities,"** unites a representative group of patient and caregiver partners, academic researchers and study staff, industry representatives, and others, to enhance the existing JTF Framework.

Patient partners—individuals with lived experience of a condition who contribute their perspectives to the research process—play a critical role in shaping clinical trials to be more relevant, inclusive, and impactful. Recognizing this, the working group is focused on:

- Defining a set of competencies to maximize patient partners' impact as co-leaders, advisors, and reviewers of clinical research.
- Ensuring that all individuals involved in clinical research—across sponsors, sites, and other stakeholders—develop the competencies needed to engage effectively with patient partners.

By strengthening the skills and knowledge of both patient partners and clinical research professionals, this initiative seeks to foster more meaningful collaboration in clinical trials.

We look forward to sharing updates over the course of the next year and the outcomes of this collaboration in 2026. For more information, please contact mrct@bwh.harvard.edu

More about:

The Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard (MRCT Center)

The MRCT Center is a research and policy center dedicated to improving the integrity, safety, and rigor of global clinical research. It functions as an independent convener to bring together stakeholders from industry, academia, advocacy groups, nonprofit organizations, and regulatory agencies to define emerging issues in the conduct and oversight of clinical trials and to create and implement ethical, actionable, and practical solution. We engage patients and participants throughout all stages of our work. MRCT Center efforts have resulted in the implementation of improved clinical

research practices, greater transparency, clearer communication, increased representation, and improved safety for research participants.

The Joint Task Force for Clinical Trial Competency Framework (JTF)

The JTF is a Core Competency Framework for clinical research professionals that defines the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for conducting safe, ethical, and high-quality clinical research. Since its publication in 2014, the JTF Framework has been enhanced to define the competencies at the Basic, Skilled and Advanced Levels and is offered in multiple translations. The JTF Framework has been utilized to define professional roles and performance evaluations, to define education and training requirements, certification criteria, and continuing professional development needs, and to facilitate regulatory compliance and quality improvement of the clinical research process.

The CANadian Consortium of Clinical Trial TRAINing (CANTRAIN)

The CANadian Consortium of Clinical Trial TRAINing platform (CANTRAIN), a CIHR funded national training platform, is dedicated to transforming how Canadians are prepared to develop, conduct, engage in, and benefit from clinical trials. CANTRAIN aims to enhance clinical trial competency through an efficient training environment that delivers cutting-edge, inclusive educational curricula tailored for students, clinical research professionals, trialists, and patient and community partners.

Patient engagement is at the core of CANTRAIN's approach. We are leveraging patient engagement by embedding patient engagement throughout our training curriculum and co-developing the training curriculum with patient and community partners, to ensure evidence-based training that leads to better-prepared professionals and improved patient care.

The European Patients' Academy on Therapeutic Innovation (EUPATI)

Stichting EUPATI Foundation, the [European Patients' Academy on Therapeutic Innovation \(EUPATI\)](#), is a public-private and multi-stakeholder partnership bringing together patient organisations, academia and pharmaceutical industry. EUPATI was developed and implemented as a flagship project of the European Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) in 2012 and is today established as an independent non-profit Foundation. EUPATI has already trained over 415 patient experts on medicines research and development (R&D), including clinical trials, regulatory affairs and health technology assessment via its Patient Expert Training Programme and provides training and education to thousands of learners via its open-access [EUPATI Open Classroom](#). Additionally, EUPATI offers and maintains an online [Toolbox on medicines R&D](#), provides patient engagement training to researchers via its [Learning Lab](#), coordinates a network of 24 EUPATI National Platforms in Europe and beyond, and maintains the [EUPATIconnect](#) platform to facilitate collaboration between expert patients and researchers.