

Integrating Patients' and Families' Voices, Choices and Representation in the Classroom: The Impact of Mohawk College's Patient Partnership Initiative

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Patient Partnership

Bringing the voices and choices of patients and caregivers into the classroom.

As part of Mohawk's ongoing commitment to prioritize patient and family-centered care in education, the School of Health has taken a significant leap with the launch of its Patient Partnership Program, inviting patients and caregivers **to play an active role in fostering a culture that acknowledges, values, and supports family caregivers as integral partners.**

Our Mission:

To cultivate a supportive environment where patients and caregivers feel empowered to share their stories, insights, and suggestions for improving healthcare education.



Visit mohawkcollege.ca/Patient-Partnership

Engaging with Patients & Caregivers

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Lunch & Learn sessions delivered since 2023 engaging 5 patient speakers from the community & St. Joseph's Healthcare

100+

Mohawk students & faculty attended across both sessions with representation from MRI, DCS, CVT, and PharmTech programs

98%

Of students found the event to be impactful towards enhancing their understanding of healthcare experiences from patient perspectives

The Purpose

- Bridge the gap between theory & practice by sharing lived experience
- Enhance empathy & deepen understanding of patient challenges
- Foster meaningful dialogue between students, faculty and community

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The stories that the patients shared about their experiences were very eye-opening and made it clear that our jobs need to put patients first. Patients are very vulnerable and we, as healthcare professionals need to make them feel comfortable when caring for them.

-Mohawk College Student, Anonymous

I cannot express how meaningful it is to me as a patient to be invited to speak with the healthcare professionals of tomorrow and share my perspective and experiences. It is a wonderful way to further enhance the partnership between healthcare professionals and patients, to ensure that the students understand the importance of patient voice and to develop a patient-centred approach to their practice right from the beginning.

-Sahar Monzavi-Bacon, Patient Partner

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Outcomes & Survey Feedback

Where students saw the most value in the Lunch & Learn events

50% Hearing first-hand stories & experiences

33% Learning best practices for difficult situations

17% Engaging in open Q&A discussions with patients

Key Learnings:

- Importance of integrating patient/caregiver voice into curriculum
- Value of personal reflection & engaging learners at every level
- Desire for more flexible and inclusive engagement opportunities

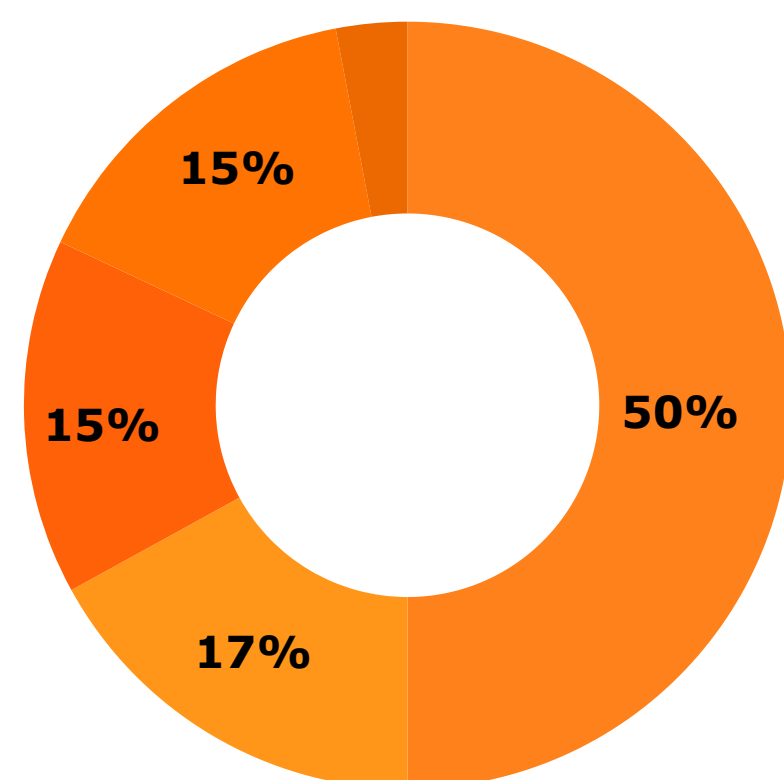


CONCLUSIONS

Shaping the Future of Health Education

Participants expressed deep appreciation for the chance to learn directly from patients, and feedback reflects a notable enhancement in their understanding of the importance of integrating patient perspectives into practice. Many attendees have requested additional opportunities to engage with patients and caregivers throughout the semester, highlighting the value of these interactions in their educational experience.

Where students want to see more real patient engagement



50%

Guest speakers + Q&A periods

17%

One-on-one interviews

15%

Resource to be in contact with

15%

Pre-recorded videos with in-person or virtual Q&A

3%

Role-playing with a patient partner

Next Steps:

- Expand opportunities for collaboration & integration
- Improve feedback mechanisms
- Increase patient and family advisory roles