



Ontario Brain Institute Foundation (OBIF) & Ontario SPOR Support Unit (OSSU): Patient Partner Travel Award

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

Q: What is the Patient Partner Travel Award? A: This award helps patient, youth, and family advisors attend conferences and scientific meetings to share the work of Integrated Discovery Programs (IDPs). It aims to reduce financial barriers and ensure patient voices are part of important research events.

Q: How much funding is available? A: Each IDP can nominate up to 2 advisors with a total limit of \$2,000 CAD per year.

Q: Who is eligible to apply? A: You must be a member of an IDP Advisory Committee. The five IDPs are: CALM, CAN-BIND, CP-NET, POND Network, and TRANSCENDENT.

Event Requirements

Q: What types of events are covered? A: Conferences and research or scientific meetings in North America. Your IDP should also be attending to share their work and activities.

Q: When do events need to take place? A: Event must be held by March 31, 2026.

Q: What role do I need to have at the conference? A: You should have a clear role such as co-presenting, attending network meetings, or co-developing conference-related products. Your IDP will coordinate with you to confirm your specific role.

Expenses and Coverage

Q: What expenses are covered? A: Eligible expenses include conference registration fees, transportation (flights, trains, or mileage if driving), accommodation (including the night before the conference starts), daily meal allowance, and caregiving expenses (\$50/day). It can also include travel costs for a parent or support person who is accompanying you.

Q: Are there limits on how I can spend on expenses? A: Yes, all expense must follow the Ontario Brain Institute's expense claim policy. We also ask that you select the most cost-effective (i.e. cheapest) options for flights and hotels that meet your travel needs. Click [here](#) for full policy.

Application Process

Q: How do I apply? A: You don't apply directly. Your IDP nominates you for the award. Once nominated, your IDP will send you the application form link to complete:

<https://form.jotform.com/251424034683251> <https://form.jotform.com/251424034683251>

Q: How long does it take to get a decision? A: OBI will let you know within 3 weeks after you apply.



After the Event

Q: What do I need to do after attending? A: You will have 30 days after the event ends to write a short reflection or story about your experience (up to 500 words). This can be done with your IDP and include what you learned, important conversations, or the impact of participating.

Q: Is there anything else I can share? A: Yes! If you'd like, you can share photos or materials from the event. We can then share them with OBI partners.

What If Plans Change

Q: What happens if I receive the award funds but can't attend? A: Plans sometimes change. If you're unable to attend, contact Caroline Bennett-AbuAyyash immediately at so we can figure out next steps- her contact information is below.

If you haven't spent any money on the conference:

- Return the full award amount so we can offer it to someone else

If you've already paid for some things:

- Send copies of receipts for all non-refundable costs (e.g. conference registration)
- Return any unused award money

Contact Information

Q: Who can I contact with questions? A: Caroline Bennett-AbuAyyash by email: cabuayyash@braininstitute.ca or phone: 647-261-2457

About the Partnership

Q: Who sponsors this award? A: This award is a partnership between the OBI Foundation and Ontario SPOR Support Unit to support meaningful patient engagement in research.

Q: Why is patient participation important? A: Patient, youth, and family expertise are essential to impactful research. Your participation enriches discussions, increases public engagement with research, and helps health professionals better understand patient perspectives.

Important links

Click [here](#) for description of the Patient Partner Travel Award

Click [here](#) for infographic about the Patient Partner Travel Award, including steps and dates

Click [here](#) for the online application form to the Patient Partner Travel Award

Click [here](#) for OBI Policy for Travel Meals and Related Expenses