

**AMEE (An International Association for Medical Education) 2017 Conference  
Helsinki, Finland, 26 to 30 August 2017**

**Title:** Patients in Education: creating a community of patients to engage with the university

**Theme:** Patients as educators

**Presenters:**

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**Proposal**

**Background**

Learning from patients and caregivers helps students integrate knowledge, makes it practical, and fosters commitment to improving care. Creating an infrastructure to support and sustain patients as active institutional collaborators (teachers, assessors, curriculum developers and educational decision-makers) is necessary to ensure true partnership between university and community.

**Summary of work**

We describe development of Patients in Education (PIE), an organization that engages with the university to enrich the education of students through inclusion of the patient's voice. We aim to move beyond individual patients invited into the classroom to an independent organization able to partner with the university.

**Summary of results**

Since January 2016, PIE has: developed a vision, mission, guiding principles and identity; instituted a process for meeting requests for patient involvement in teaching and curriculum

development, and for a patient / community advisory committee; engaged community organizations in joining PIE; developed a communications strategy and website.

### **Discussion**

We have identified critical factors that have contributed to success so far. These include: a history of patient involvement at our university; an international conference that inspired a core group to meet to further advance patient involvement; and early successes in fulfilling requests from the university.

### **Conclusions**

This collaboration represents an innovative approach to partnership between the university and a developing independent community-based organization. The foundation is a mutual desire for excellence in training for the next generation of health professionals, co-created with patients for an enduring appreciation and career commitment to the patient experience.

### **Take-home messages**

'Patients in Education' is an independent patient organization, developed to expand patient partnerships with the university to enrich and strengthen the education of health professional students. We describe its evolution, lessons learned and key factors for success during the first 18 months.