



Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research

**SPOR**

Putting Patients First 

## **Overview of The Canadian Strategy on Patient Oriented Research (SPOR)**

# Canada's health research is among the best in the world

## Health subfields in which Canada ranks among the best in the world

- Canada ranks amongst the top countries in the world in terms of scientific impact of its health research
- However, we have been less successful at reaping the benefits of this research for improving health outcomes and strengthening the health care system

Sub-field	Field	Impact	Rank
General & Internal Medicine	Clinical Medicine	3.93	1
Anatomy & Morphology	Biomedical Research	2.38	1
Dermatology & Venereal Diseases	Clinical Medicine	2.24	1
Gastroenterology & Hepatology	Clinical Medicine	2.09	2
Anesthesiology	Clinical Medicine	1.87	2
Orthopedics	Clinical Medicine	1.49	2
Medical Informatics	Information & Communication Technologies	1.33	2
Urology & Nephrology	Clinical Medicine	1.67	3
Surgery	Clinical Medicine	1.49	3
Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology	Public Health & Health Services	1.39	3

Source: Council of Canadian Academies, September 2012

# Despite many successes, there are still a number of challenges relating to patient oriented research

## Canadian successes and competitive advantages include:

- Highly qualified and dedicated clinical and health services research workforce
- High-quality research environment and public health care system
- Strengths in systematic reviews
- Extensive experience in developing and working in clinical networks
- Large provincial and national administrative and clinical databases

## Despite successes and strengths, there are a number of challenges:

- Growing gaps with respect to clinical investigators (biostatisticians, health economists, clinical epidemiologists and social scientists focused on clinical research)
- Limited public sector investments for large multi-site clinical studies
- Private sector investment declining and moving elsewhere
- Lack of standardized data and technology platforms
- Limited role of patients in Patient-Oriented Research



## Health research must be better harnessed to increase both the quality and affordability of care

- Canadian research excellence is recognized globally and the country ranks amongst the top in the world in terms of scientific impact of its health research
- Yet, evidence shows that 50% of patients do not get treatments of proven effectiveness and up to 25% get care that is not needed or potentially harmful
- Incentives for health research are not focused on these problems – bringing research and decision-makers/patients together requires a change in culture and approach (push-pull innovation model)
- The challenge is to develop and apply research that will ensure a more effective use of existing health resources and the introduction of more cost-effective diagnostic and treatment strategies, so as to curb costs while offering high quality care

**Statistics suggest that hospitals that participate in clinical trials have lower mortality rates and offer better care to patients**

# Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research

- This integration of research into care is what **Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR)** is set out to achieve
- SPOR is a coalition of federal, provincial and territorial partners (patient advocates, provincial health authorities, academic health centres, charities, pharmaceutical sector, etc.) dedicated to the integration of research into care
- The objective of the Strategy is to foster evidence-informed health care by evaluating **innovative diagnostic and therapeutic approaches** and bringing them to the **point-of-care**
- Measurable results are **improved health outcomes through greater quality, accountability and accessibility of care**

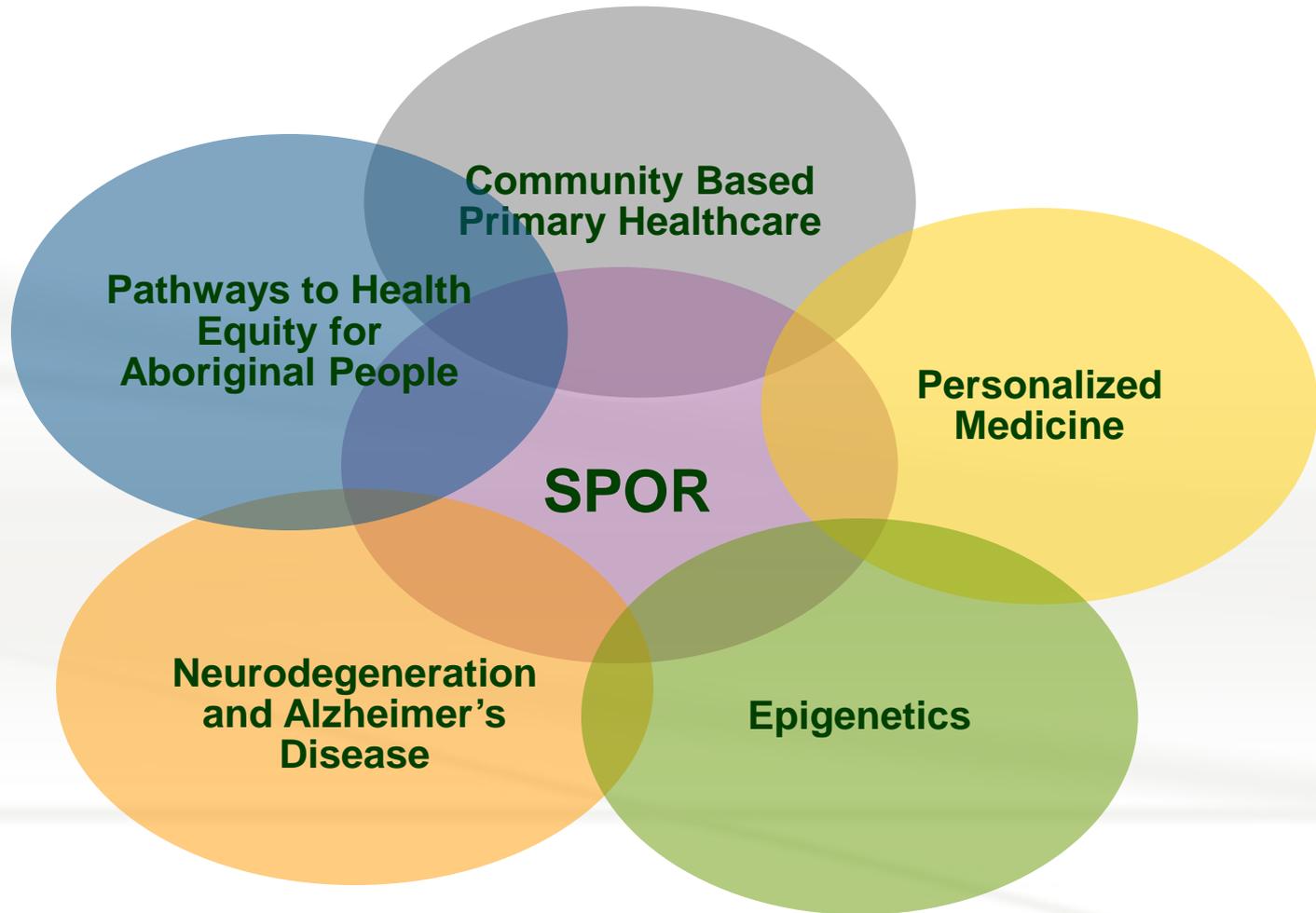
**Patient-oriented research aims to ensure that the right patient receives the right clinical intervention at the right time**

*“By putting patients first, we are making sure that research will have a greater impact on treatments and services provided in clinics, hospitals and doctors' offices throughout Canada, better integration of research evidence and clinical practice means improved health outcomes and a better health-care system in Canada.”*



Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health Canadian  
Medical Association's Annual Meeting  
St. John's, Newfoundland  
August 22, 2011

# SPOR remains the backbone of our strategic investments



- **Improved health for Canadians** by ensuring that the best research evidence moves into practice, enhancing the health care experience for patients and improving health outcomes for Canadians
- **Economic benefits** by optimizing spending on health care systems, reinvesting resources where the evidence shows that these can have greatest impact, and attracting private investments in evaluative research
- **Driving innovation** in patient-centred care in areas like e-health, implementation science and clinical practice
- **Reversing the decline** in private sector clinical research: the number of clinical trial applications submitted to Health Canada has been steadily declining since 2007 from 776 to only 537 in 2011
- **Linking provinces and territories** by providing jurisdictions with opportunities to learn from each other, translating best practices in patient-centred care across Canada, and benefitting all Canadians

# ***SPOR - Critical elements to enhance integration of research and care***



***Patient-Oriented Research and Knowledge Translation Networks***



***Support for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials (SUPPORT) Units***



***Training and development***



***Improving the environment for clinical research***



***Patient /Consumer involvement and engagement***



## ***Patient-Oriented Research and Knowledge Translation Networks***

- SPOR Networks are a collaboration of patients, health professionals, decision makers, health researchers and their partners from across Canada
- The primary objective of SPOR Networks is to generate evidence and innovations that advance practice and policy changes leading to transformative and measurable improvements in:
  - patient health
  - health care, and
  - efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery
- Network participants will work cooperatively to undertake a range of activities to achieve this objective, including:
  - establishing priorities and developing a nation-wide agenda of outcomes-oriented research
  - developing and implementing evidence-informed practices, policies, services, products and programs to improve patient outcomes, access to care and quality, efficiency and effectiveness of health care
  - accelerating the translation of new knowledge into clinical applications, practice and policy, and
  - strengthening the capacity to conduct patient-oriented research through training and mentoring initiatives.



## ***Patient-Oriented Research and Knowledge Translation Networks***

- All Networks will be awarded through a call for applications and a competitive peer review process, but it is expected that there will be both **targeted and open calls**.
- To date, the SPOR National Steering Committee has identified the need for networks targeted to two areas:
  1. The first SPOR network area was announced in October 2012, and is focused in the area of **youth and adolescent mental health**. The launch timeline for the application process is early 2013.
  2. A second SPOR network in the area of ***community-based primary health care*** (CBPHC) is currently under development.
- Targeted networks will respond to urgent Provincial/Territorial and patient needs that are not currently being addressed through existing capacity.
- The SPOR National Steering Committee has launched an **Expression of Interest** process to gather information on existing network capacity in Canada that could align with the SPOR network objectives and help with planning for both additional targeted and open calls.
- Funding for each network is up to \$25 million over 5 years though matched funding (50% CIHR and 50% Partners)



# *Support for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials (SUPPORT) Units*

- SUPPORT Units are provincial and/or regional centres created to provide the necessary and often highly specialized expertise to those engaged in patient-oriented research.
- Six core functions for the SUPPORT Units have been identified:



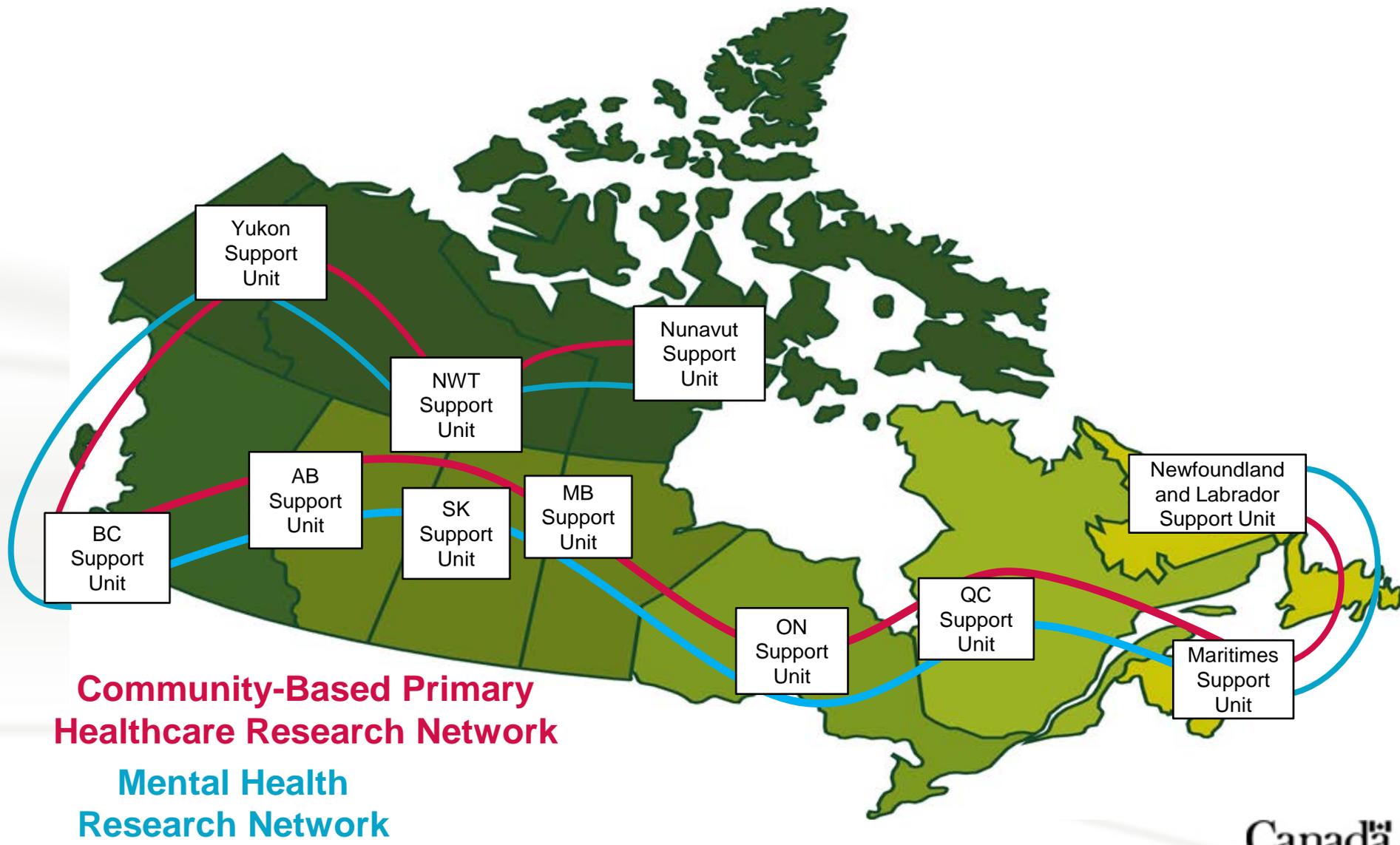
**SUPPORT unit functions will be scoped and tailored based on the needs and aspirations of each jurisdiction. CIHR and jurisdictions are working together to develop a shared vision.**



## *Support for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials (SUPPORT) Units*

- The objectives of a SUPPORT Unit are to:
  - Identify the needs of patients and knowledge users and facilitate research that addresses these needs
  - Provide a critical mass of highly specialized and multidisciplinary methodological expertise in patient-oriented research and its application
  - Assist decision makers and investigators to identify and design relevant research studies, conduct biostatistical analyses, manage data, provide and teach project management skills and ensure studies meet all relevant regulatory standards
  - Advance methods and training in comparative effectiveness research and develop the next generation of methodologists
  - Provide timely access to linked data and integrate existing or new databases
- SUPPORT Unit leads in jurisdictions across the country are currently developing business plans. Multi-sectoral representatives from the regions attended a strengthening and development workshop in January 2013 to learn from each other and advance their business plans.

# Overview: Support Units and SPOR Networks





There is a need to grow Canada's capacity to **attract, train and mentor** health care professionals and patient-oriented researchers, as well as to create sustainable career paths in patient-oriented research

The capacity building component for SPOR will be achieved by:

- A SPOR Training Strategy with elements to enhance training and career support for research across the full spectrum of patient-oriented research.
- Training, mentoring and career support are important components of SPOR Networks and SUPPORT Units

**Training Advisory Committee report expected to be developed by  
Fall of 2013**



**The Clinical Trials Summit** , September 2011 identified other activities to improve the environment for conducting clinical trials:

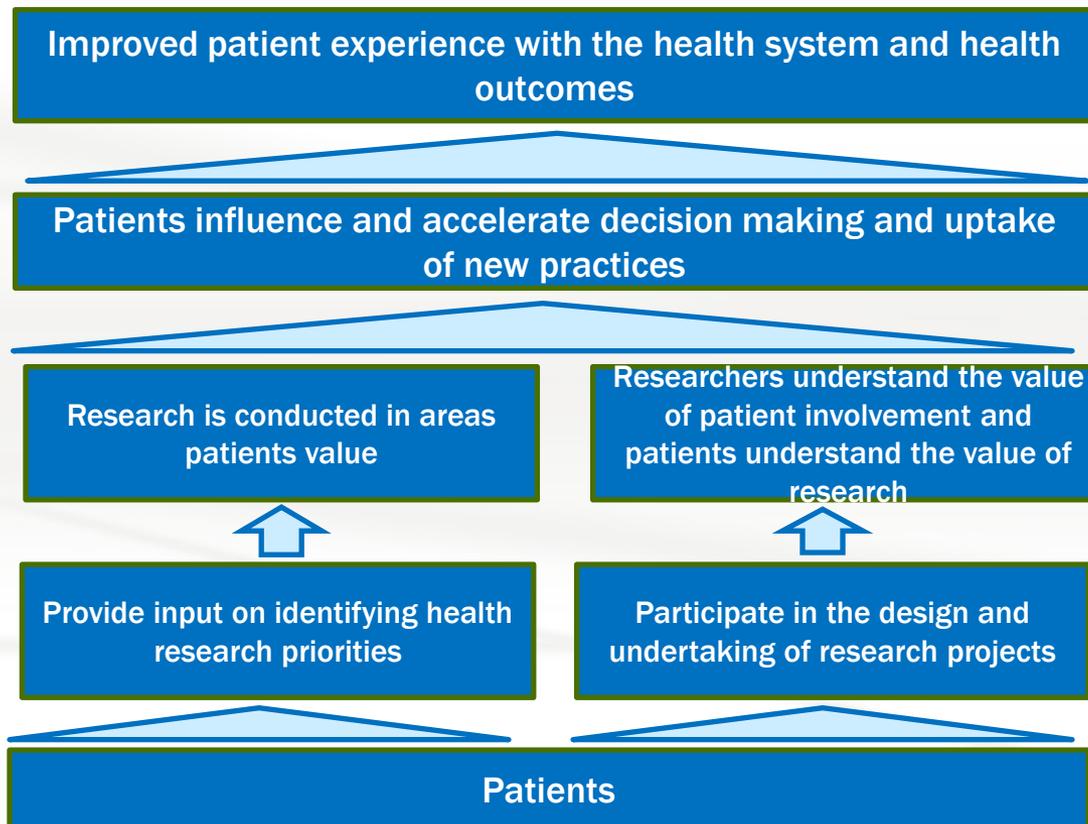
- **Streamline ethics review** for multicentre trials by developing common Ethics Review Boards with reciprocal arrangements based on common culture and approaches across the provinces and regions that involves national leadership in order to assure coherence and reciprocity. Report of the SPOR Ethics Advisory Group expected end of January 2013.
- Support the development of a **national template for contracts** and inter-institutional agreements in collaboration with **ACAHO and Rx&D**. The pilot is completed and next steps underway.

**A response to the Clinical Trials Summit Recommendations was released by ACAHO, RX&D and CIHR was released in December 2012.**

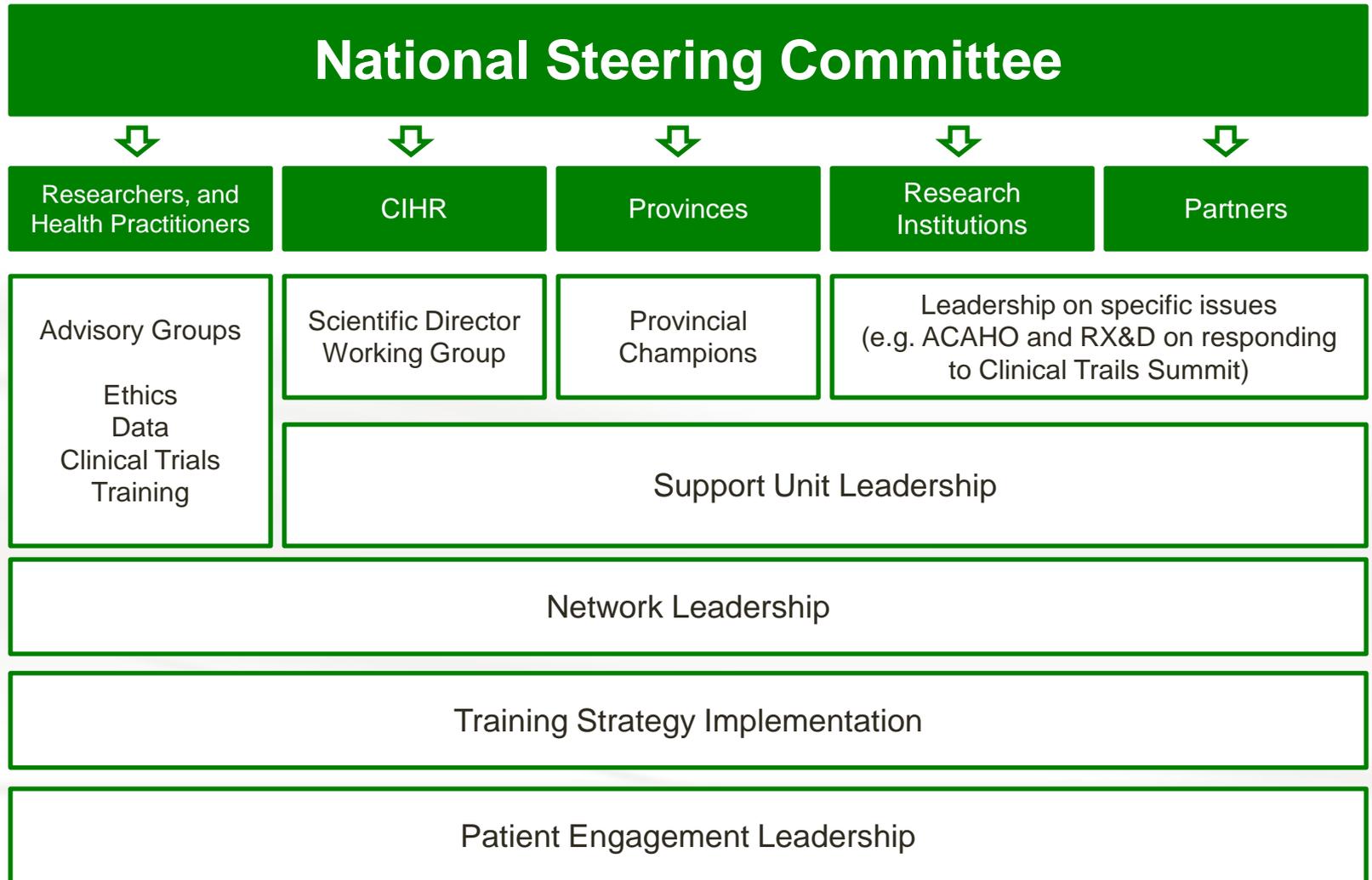


# Patient / Consumer Involvement and Engagement

- The SPOR National Steering Committee has made a commitment to making patient engagement/involvement an integral part of the Strategy on Patient Oriented Research
- The approach includes a number of different mechanisms to involve patients in decision making and embed them into the research process



# SPOR is a National Initiative with involvement from Researchers, Research Institutions, Provinces and Other Key Partners



For more information, visit our website:

<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/41204.html>

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