

TIPS FOR OUR COMMUNITY NETWORK MEMBERS

We cornered our **Community Advisory Group (CAG)** in a dark windowless office and thoroughly interrogated them to come up with some great hints and tips for new members of our community network taking on Consumer Investigator or project steering committee roles in PC4 supported research projects.



The CAG team

Please remember both the PC4 Office and our CAG are always here to help. We are so grateful for your support and the time you give to help develop cancer in primary care research. If you ever have any questions or would like a consumer buddy to support you, please don't hesitate to **contact us**.

Gold nuggets of advice



Take the time to ensure that you understand what the role involves and the time commitment before accepting a position as an Consumer Investigator or on a Steering Committee.



Sometimes a **quick Google search** about the disease or project background can be helpful to get up to speed.



The project may involve researchers and other consumers that you haven't worked with before. It's useful to know about their background, particularly if much of the contact is going to be via teleconferencing or Zoom, rather than face-to-face. **Researchers' profiles on websites of institutions they are affiliated with are good sources of information** about their research interests and experience. Similarly, get to know a little bit about affiliations and interests of other consumers working on the project.



Be organised. There will be breaks between contact with the research team and you'll need to be able to easily locate files associated with the project (e.g. meeting papers, minutes of previous meetings etc.). A good system of electronic folders, or a physical folder is essential to keep track of the project.



Consumers are equal participants in meetings and can contribute at any time. Seek clarification if something isn't clear but there is no need to feel overwhelmed by the scientific content – your role is to focus on what affects the consumer.



Don't be afraid to ask questions or for a consumer summary if something presented is very complex.



Be mindful of the confidential nature of the project. If you want to discard hard copy information, it should be put through a shredder, not placed in the recycling bin. PC4 is always happy to dispose of these for you.

