



## Barriers to Engagement in Research & Ways to Overcome Them

### What We Learned From PFACs About Barriers to Engagement in Research:

In 2015, [Planetree International](http://www.planetree.org) received a Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI; [www.pcori.org](http://www.pcori.org)) to support our understanding of how Patient-Family Advisory Councils (PFACs) engage in research; (read more here: <http://bit.ly/ztQLUaT>). Between January 2016 and July 2016, we conducted focus groups, also known as group interviews, with 21 PFACs around the country in a variety of settings, such as hospitals, rehabilitation centers, out-patient surgery centers, and behavioral health communities. Below is a summary of PFAC responses to questions about barriers to engaging in research with suggestions for ways to overcome them. THANK YOU to all participating PFACs for your time & ideas!

**We Asked:** What challenges or barriers might limit you or your PFAC’s ability to engage in research?

Challenges & Barriers:	Ways to Overcome Them:
<i>We have <b>limited access</b> to published research. Journal subscriptions are limited to professionals, organizations, and institutions. When we can access research articles, there is a purchasing or rental cost to read the full text that is difficult for consumers to pay.</i>	<i>Our hospital <b>gives PFAC members institutional email addresses</b> so that we can access library resources, such as journal subscriptions.</i>
<i>Research is hard for the average person to read. It is full of <b>jargon and complex statistics</b>.</i>	Some funders, like <a href="http://www.pcori.org">PCORI</a> , require <b>consumer-friendly summaries</b> from researchers. Also, some journals, like the Journal of American College of Radiology (JACR) translate important research information into consumer-friendly explanations through their Twitter account ( <a href="https://twitter.com/JACR">@JACR</a> ).
<i>As a PFAC member, I don’t have additional <b>time</b> to participate in the council <u>and</u> research. We are un-paid volunteers.</i>	Our research department includes <b>compensation</b> in their research project budget for PFAC members who participate in research.