



OCS
OHTN COHORT STUDY

Call for Members - OHTN Cohort Study Governance Committee

Established in 1996, the Ontario HIV Treatment Network Cohort Study (OCS) is the largest community-governed HIV cohort in Ontario and one of the largest in North America. It represents a diverse group of Ontarians living with HIV, including men and women of different ages, sexual orientations and ethnicities. For over two decades, the OCS has produced research evidence to support cutting-edge initiatives that have advanced HIV care and improved the quality of life of people living with HIV.

In order to ensure that the study is community-driven, the OCS is led by a Governance Committee comprised of a majority of people living with HIV, as well as other stakeholders engaged in research, clinical care, community-based programming and service delivery.

What Does the Governance Committee Do?

When researchers apply to use data gathered by the OCS, the Governance Committee evaluates each project proposal for its relevance to the community and the ethics of the intended data use. This committee performs a critical role for the study: ensuring that both the needs and anonymity of OCS participants are respected, while also confirming that the research coming from the OCS is beneficial and relevant. The OCS Governance Committee meets quarterly via teleconference, with one in-person meeting held during the year.

Interested in Joining the OCS Governance Committee?

The OCS is committed to diversity, inclusion and equitable representation of members of racialized communities, individuals of diverse sexual orientations and gender identifications, persons with disabilities, diverse locations in Ontario (rural and remote, urban, etc.), as well as individuals living with and affected by HIV. The committee specifically recruits people who represent the priority populations for HIV prevention in Ontario. These groups include: Gay, Bisexual and other Men who have sex with Men; African, Caribbean, and Black People, People who use drugs; Indigenous People; and Cis and Trans Women who face systemic and social inequities associated with HIV transmission.

The ideal candidate will have:

- a passion for improving the quality of life of people living with HIV
- an understanding of the importance of research in providing evidence to drive change
- the ability to weigh the risks and benefits of research
- an understanding of the importance of confidentiality and privacy for people living with HIV
- an understanding of the issues affecting people living with HIV
- a commitment to promoting the work of the study and sharing information and knowledge

We encourage applicants to describe the contributions and lived experience they would bring to the Governance Committee in a short bio. All information provided by applicants will be kept confidential. If you are interested, please submit a short bio to ocs@ohtn.on.ca

Many thanks,
Adrian Betts, Martin McIntosh & the OCS Governance Committee.

For more info, go to www.ohtncohortstudy.ca