

Critical social science perspectives in chronic pain: Results across multiple studies

PEPR Research Day Provisional Program

October 5th, 2026

Hart House at the University of Toronto, St. George campus

Time	Item
8:30 – 9:00	Continental Breakfast
9:00am	Welcome to the day by Fiona Webster Land acknowledgement by Vanessa Ambtman Smith Opening remarks from Hance Clarke (Canadian Pain Society), Rupaleem Bhuyan (Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research), and Norm Buckley (Chronic Pain Network)
9:45am	An overview of PEPR's relational synthesis project Kate Rice, McGill University
10:00am	PEPR project presentations (Round I) - A brokered dialogue study around the concept of participant engagement in research - Janet Parsons and Hannah Ali, University of Toronto - Weaving Indigenous Knowledge into Pain Research: Cultural Pathways to Meaningful Engagement - Vanessa Ambtman Smith, Western University
10:55am	Coffee break
11:10am	PEPR project presentations (Round II) - The social organization of patient engagement - Karime Mescouto, Western University - Interpretive synthesis of patient engagement framework - Fiona Webster, Western University
11:50am	Guided discussion with audience
12:20pm	Lunch
1:20	PEPR project presentations (Round III) - Engaging Black communities in patient engagement in chronic pain research - Anna Hood, University of Manchester - Dennis Osei-Nimo Annor, Western University - The making of patient engagement in research: a look at its history - Karime Mescouto, Western University - Situating meaningful engagement within contexts of precarity - Laura Connoy, Western University - Critical Approaches to Pain Scholarship Research Network - Fiona Webster, Western University

2:40	Coffee break
2:55	Guided discussion with audience
3:25pm	Learning about PEPR's EMPOWER Committee • EMPOWER stands for engaging marginalized power, expertise, and representation. This is a space where people with lived experience are coming together to re-imagine the engagement of communities in pain research • Desmond Williams and Emerald Asuncion, Western University
3:50	Closing remarks by Kate Rice
4:00	End of day