

## INTRODUCTION

### Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

- Ensures questions of greatest interest to patients are addressed.
- Incorporates comparators and outcomes important to decision-making.
- Involves collaboration with patients and caregivers throughout the research process.

### Back Pain

- Leading cause of functional limitations and disability worldwide - experienced by 25-50% of the adult population in the United States.
- Despite the **high** prevalence of back pain, formal patient organizations representing the needs of back pain patients do not exist.

### Can we collaborate to develop and sustain patient engagement for back pain research?

## BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

### CERTAIN Patient Advisory Network

- The Patient Advisory Network is designed to engage patients respecting their time and interests.
- Opportunities range from consultative (responding to project specific needs) to collaborative (working as partners on research proposals and projects).
- Diverse research activities in back pain prompted collaboration across research centers to support patient advisory group work.

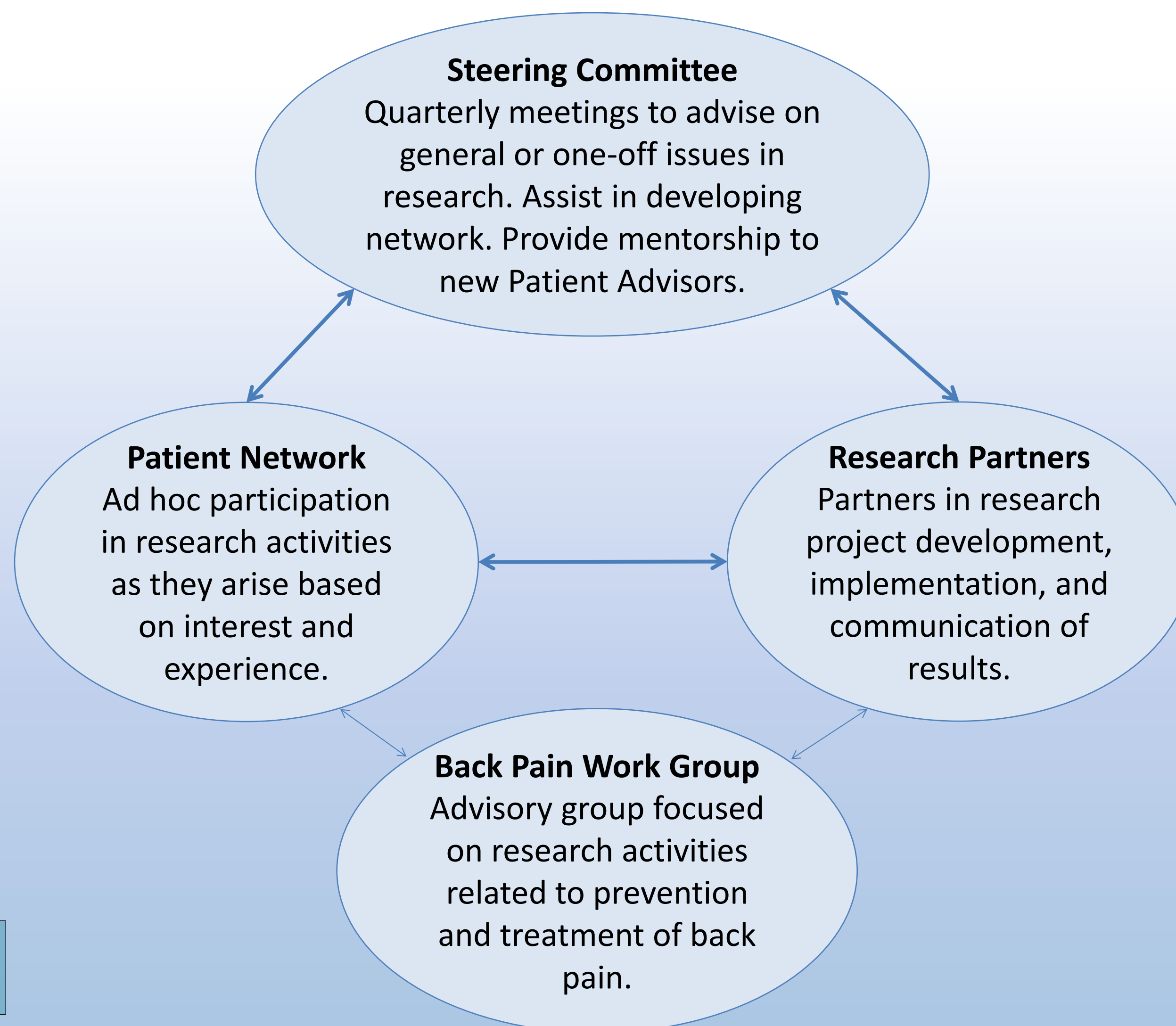


Figure 1.

CERTAIN Patient Advisory Network Framework

## INNOVATION

- Three projects sustain patient engagement for back pain research:
  - The Long Term Outcomes of Lumbar Epidural Steroid Injections for Spinal Stenosis Extended Research (LESSER)
  - The Comparative Effectiveness Research Translation Network (CERTAIN) Hub
  - The Back pain Outcomes using Longitudinal Data Extension of Research (BOLDER) Project

## INNOVATION (Cont.)

- 20 patient advisors participate in the back pain work group.
- Involvement of patient advisors in our collective work includes:
  - Input on topics and issues important for patients with back pain (LESSER/ BOLDER/ CERTAIN Hub)
  - Drafting patient-facing materials (LESSER/ BOLDER/ CERTAIN Hub)
  - Input on patient recruitment strategies (LESSER)
  - Guidance on disseminating research findings (LESSER/ BOLDER)
- Advisors are also collaborating on the development of research proposals submitted for funding.

## DISCUSSION

- We established a condition-specific advisory group for back pain drawing from patients identified through 3 funded research initiatives.
- Members of the advisory group provide valuable input on our projects drawing from their diverse experiences with back pain including:
  - Impact back pain has on day-to-day life
  - Approaches to current management of pain
  - Approaches to selecting diagnostic strategies and treatments to relieve pain and improve function
  - Areas of interest for future research development

## CALL TO ACTION

- Building infrastructure for supporting meaningful patient-researcher collaborations is critical to meet the goals of Patient-Centered Outcomes Research.
- Recognizing the resources required to sustain continued engagement there exists an opportunity for research teams to work together to support patient involvement.