CCI and Basic Science Research Forum Brief

In November 2024, the WAHTN CCIProgram hosted the CCI in Basic Science Research Forum, bringing together researchers, consumers, academics, and funders to explore what consumer and community involvement (CCI) looks like in basic science research across Western Australia.

The CCIProgram focuses on helping researchers understand how to involve the lived experience voice in various research stages, including prioritisation, ideation, co-design, implementation, and translation. A common question we often receive is, "I understand why involvement is important, but what does CCI look like in my research project?"

To turn theory into practice, we hosted an event specifically for those working in basic science research—also known as discovery, fundamental, or benchtop research. We chose the term Basic Science Research to align with the WA Future Health Research Innovation Fund and the National Health and Medical Research Council's research classifications.

The Forum aimed to:

- Showcase what best-practice CCI looks like.
- Demonstrate how involvement can and is being implemented in a basic science setting.
- Provide tips for effective involvement.
- Offer ways to connect with your community.

The event showcased three basic science research projects, where researcher-consumer teams copresented on the CCI methods used in their projects. Teams included:

- Dr Thomas Iosifidis and Rael Rivers – The Kids Wal-yan Respiratory Research Centre.
- Assoc/Prof Yu Suk Choi and Susan Hayes, UWA multidisciplinary 'Cell Mechanobiology' Lab.
- Kelly Beer and Geoff Corcoran, Murdoch University Myositis Discovery Program.

They discussed how CCI impacted their work and shared key insights and tips. After the presentations, attendees participated in a panel discussion with the presenters, asking questions about the projects. This interactive session helped everyone gain a deeper understanding of the importance of building strong relationships, fostering communication within the team, and respecting the expertise of those with lived experience.

To conclude the event, all attendees were 'matched' based on their lived experience or research interests to engage in further discussions about current or potential research projects. Researchers had the opportunity to share an A3 poster of their project, using a template provided by the CCIProgram, to inform consumers about their work. The activity sparked passionate interactions and preliminary expressions of interest and following the event, the CCIProgram linked researchers with individuals who had relevant lived experiences to learn more about the projects.

The Forum was a resounding success in raising awareness about CCI in basic science research and will serve as a model for future events in 2025, focusing on Clinical Medicine, Health Services, and Public Health/Implementation Science. We were also thrilled to showcase four exceptional research projects where the involvement of people with lived experience is valued, encouraged, and embedded at every stage of the research process.