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New Studies Presented at NHC Science of Patient Engagement Summit Show Pathway to Improving Patient Access & Empowerment

(Arlington, VA) More than two dozen expert studies presented at the 2026 National Health Council [Science of Patient Engagement Summit](#) (Summit) feature compelling research and innovative programs that break down barriers to health care access and expand patient engagement.

“Consistent improvement and constant innovation are essential when it comes to patient engagement,” said Randy Rutta, Chief Executive Officer of the [National Health Council](#). “That is why our Summit places a premium on new ideas and ways of doing things that improve the quality of life — and outcomes — for those living with chronic diseases and disabilities. The research and programs presented at this conference are invaluable to developing next generation solutions for better patient engagement.”

Summit attendees presented 29 poster abstracts at the Summit, including:

- Researchers at Touro College of Osteopathic Medical School presented a comparative study of health care in the U.S. and Hong Kong, China, that shows streamlining access to primary care facilities and doctors, and reducing administrative barriers can increase patient use and timeliness of health care.
- A report from NHC member, the Patient Empowerment Network, showed its new patient education program for cancer patients, ACTIVATED, helped 90% of patients feel more confident and empowered to speak up when they have questions about their care; 90% gained knowledge and confidence to play a more active role in treatment decisions; and 85% increased their understanding of their condition.

The posters presented at the Summit were chosen from 33 submissions. Research and projects submitted were required to be initiatives or projects related to patient-centered research, policy, or engagement completed in the last two years.

About the National Health Council

The National Health Council (NHC) brings diverse organizations together to forge consensus and drive patient-centered health policy. The NHC promotes increased access to affordable, high-value, equitable, and sustainable health care. Made up of nearly 200 national health-related organizations and businesses, the NHC's core membership includes the nation's leading patient organizations. Other members include health-related associations and nonprofit organizations including the provider, research, and family caregiver communities; and businesses representing biopharmaceuticals, devices, diagnostics, generic drugs, and payers. Learn more at: <https://www.nationalhealthcouncil.org>