

Joanna Robaczewska, Poland

"I believe that patient engagement will lead to patient empowerment and will remain one of the major driving forces for transformational change in health care including prevention, diagnosis and treatment."

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I joined EUPATI following my passion for medical research. For the moment mental health remains major concern for my scientific and advocacy work. The number of people who experience psychosocial challenges is increasing which is also reflected by growing burden of mental disorders, nevertheless available solutions are limited and people experiencing mental problems usually are left with their medical and human needs unmet, very often because these needs are not understood by those who do not have real life experience of mental problem. Therefore engaging patient advocates in the area of mental health is one of the prerequisites for changing unfavourable status quo. I found EUPATI to be a great platform for sharing knowledge that is needed in order to engage actively in development of therapeutic innovation as a patient representative.

I believe that the foundation of valuable medical innovation lies in core human values such as trust, care, courage, respect and honesty which will drive collaborative efforts of individuals and organizations committed to improve health care. These values were shared by my fellow students in EUPATI course. The course gave me an opportunity to meet experienced patient advocates, living their legacy, helping fellow patients and their families, giving the hope and fighting for better solutions for real medical problems and needs. EUPATI

was a real inspiration and practical lesson for the future work as a patient advocate.

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