

On Tuesday, April 13th, the Global Heart Hub held our Advocacy Development Programme. Our guest speaker for this event was leading advocate for patient engagement, Dave deBronkart, widely known as e-Patient Dave. Dave joined us for an inspiring discussion on ‘Patients of the Future, Patient - Clinician Partnerships.’



The banner features the Global Heart Hub logo at the top center, which includes a heart icon and the text 'Global HEART Hub' with the tagline 'The Alliance of Heart Patient Organisations'. Below the logo, the text reads 'Advocacy Development Program', 'Patients of the Future, Patient - Clinician Partnerships', and 'Guest speaker: Dave deBronkart'. On the right side, there are three circular icons: a portrait of Dave deBronkart, a megaphone, and a computer monitor displaying a bar chart.

Questions and Answers

Question 1: Dave, you have a fantastic personality which has no doubt assisted in speaking with providers. How do you recommend patients discuss what they want with providers without sounding like they are trying to “take over” their care. Many providers feel that the patient does not have their years and years of education.

Answer: *The “magic incantation”. Right, we do NOT have their years of education. This is not about patients being doctors. It’s about patients being ENGAGED and INVOLVED in their care.*

Question 2: How to overcome the fear and the reluctance of people to receive the AZ vaccine after the news about the blood

clots as vaccine's rare adverse event? Information is shared among the patients but they are vague and people are not able to contextualise what is reported in NEJM or in the EMA safety report about the reported cases, the possible explanations and why the vaccine is likely to be safe in over 60 year olds?

Answer: This is a matter of understanding science, which rarely has clear and complete and perfect answers in the early days.

Question 3: With doctor appointments often being short and rushed. Doctors are under time pressures. What can an engaged patient do to convince doctors to slow down and answers questions?

Answer: This is a real issue. It starts with the relationship you have with the doc. That discussion (the relationship) is best done outside the visit, if possible.

Question 4: Do you think that patients need to be educated to stand up and speak out to their Doctor?

Answer: Yes, of course. That's the work we're doing here.

Question 5: It seems that you consider health information on social media as useful as the one printed in journals? Can Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook save lives? Thanks for your inspiring insights.

*Answer: I never said any such thing. In fact I pointed out that the literature doesn't contain **everything**, doesn't contain **all** knowledge.*