Reviewer’s report
Title: Patient involvement in cardiovascular research: a qualitative impact evaluation
Version: 1 Date: 10 Apr 2019
Reviewer: Laurie Proulx

Reviewer's report:

This is a very novel area of research and will add to the body of knowledge relating to the evaluation of the effectiveness of patient engagement in research processes. I really love that the research was driven by a patient organization in partnership with the research community. We don't see enough of this.

In terms of clarifications, I would suggest improving the introduction of section 3. I had a difficult time following this because of the language used in the introduction. I see that it is a continuation of the reporting of findings but is broken down by major theme / subject area, however this is not evident.

I would suggest including - in the discussion section - what implications this research could have for funding agencies (whether government or non-profit organizations) who are looking to engage patient partners as grant reviewers or patient partners in research. There is a lack of good information on what patient partners can bring to the table and your article highlights these areas well.

Also, potentially as part of the discussion, it may be helpful to identify the barriers to engage patients as part of this process. Were there any identified as part of this research? Example: volunteer nature, time commitment, compensation, the make up / composition of patient partners, etc.

Although not necessarily important to the article itself, I really hope that there is the intention and funding dedicated to communicate the research findings to a broader audience than academic journals. Like I said, there are implications for funding agencies, NGO's, patient organizations - and not just in cardiology, but other disease areas - who would be highly interested in learning more about this project.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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