

## Honouring the Voices Behind CSPA's Mission

*At the Canadian Skin Patient Alliance (CSPA), volunteers are the foundation of everything we do. Their passion, lived experience, and dedication fuel our mission to build a more inclusive, accessible, and supportive future for people living with skin, hair, and nail conditions. This National Volunteer Week, we are proud to honour the outstanding individuals who help bring our vision to life.*

*Volunteering with CSPA is more than lending time—it is about creating real, lasting change. Our volunteers offer diverse perspectives, professional expertise, and heartfelt commitment. Whether by developing patient education resources, shaping advocacy initiatives, leading organizational strategy, or sharing personal experiences to raise awareness, every contribution helps empower patients across Canada.*

*Among these incredible volunteers is Natalie Kermany, an MD Candidate at Dalhousie University. She uses her lived experience with vitiligo to raise awareness and foster community. Through speaking engagements, research collaboration, and advocacy efforts, she contributes to amplifying patient voices and strengthening national initiatives.*

*Kimia Ameri, a UBC medical student with lived experience as a skin patient, brings both personal insight and academic commitment to her advocacy. Her work supports awareness, education, and stigma reduction while reinforcing the importance of compassionate, patient-centred care.*

*Behind the scenes, Arrani Thambimuthu plays a crucial role in CSPA's advocacy and accessibility. Arrani is a medical student at the University of Montréal, and focuses on making dermatologic knowledge more accessible. Through educational initiatives and patient-centered survey development, Arrani supports health literacy and amplifies the mental health impacts of skin conditions within the patient community.*

*Elsa Awad, a medical student at McGill University, contributes to translating and developing educational materials and reports that elevate patient experiences and barriers to care. Her work helps ensure that patient perspectives are meaningfully represented in advocacy and policy discussions.*

*Finally, Katya Peri brings a powerful dual perspective as both a patient and future physician at McGill University. Her work focuses on bridging the gap between clinical knowledge and lived experience, helping patients feel understood, empowered, and less alone in their journeys.*

*At CSPA, volunteering is not a side project—it is central to who we are. Volunteers help us identify gaps, challenge inequities, and offer support where it is needed most. Their work not only strengthens our organization but also transforms the broader healthcare landscape, creating ripples of change that benefit patients from coast to coast.*

*This National Volunteer Week, we extend our deepest gratitude to each and every volunteer who has shared their time, skills, and hearts with us. Your leadership, compassion, and commitment inspire us every day. Together, we are building a future where every patient feels supported, respected, and empowered in their skin.*

*Thank you for being the heart of the CSPA community!*