The Research Advocacy Network (RAN) has identified three points along the research continuum where advocates can make a difference by bringing the patient perspective to the research process. RAN has accomplished a number of initiatives that correspond to these three points on the research continuum.

### Study Design
- **Knowledge Management**
  - RAN is developing training for advocates in academic organizations, including topics such as:
    - Collaboration with the National Cancer Research Network (NCRN) and the National Cancer Institute.
    - Educational tools for improving communication with researchers.

- **Research Conduct**
  - St. Louis Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Affiliate Program
    - Developed an educational model for attracting and training research advocates.
    - Conducted a pilot program to understand the barriers to using advocates as community members.

- **Results Reported**
  - Fast Facts: What It Means To Me
    - Developed a fact sheet that explained the role of patient advocates in research.

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### Materials and Methods
- RAN developed educational tools to increase awareness and understanding of medical research and advocacy activities.
- Developed an online course to improve communication with researchers.
- Conducted a focus group with patient advocates to understand their role in the research process.

### Discussion
- Advocates can make a difference in patient-focused research by bringing their perspectives and experiences to the process.
- Collaborations with researchers and other stakeholders are essential for improving patient-focused research.