

Fostering Inclusive Research: A Training Program for Community Engagement

Engaging community members in research is essential to addressing the needs and interests of diverse populations. However, researchers often lack the training needed to engage communities in inclusive ways. Historically, marginalized communities have distrusted research due to unethical practices, exploitation, and insufficient inclusion in the research process (Quay et al., 2017; Le et al., 2017; Girolamo et al. 2023). To address these challenges, we are developing a Community Engagement Training Program for researchers. This program focuses on incorporating community voices at every stage of the research process and aims to bridge the gap between researchers and community members. The training consists of three modules and seven short videos in English.

Module 1: Current and Future Practices During Recruitment for Community-Engaged Research

- **Goal:** Understanding and addressing mistrust in marginalized communities and learning inclusive recruitment practices.
- **Examples:** Foundations of translational research and researcher-practitioner relationships. Ethical recruitment strategies for underrepresented participants.

Module 2: Accessible Science Communication

- **Goal:** Understanding how to effectively and thoughtfully communicate all aspects of the research process to participants, and facilitate community buy-in.
- **Examples:**
 - Pre-study communication: Clear and accessible consent forms.
 - Post-study communication: Sharing results with participants (hosting “data walks”).

Module 3: Building and Maintaining Community Partnerships

- **Goal:** Understanding the value of building open, trusting, and bidirectional relationships between researchers and community members. Focusing on how researchers can support and benefit communities while also gaining insights from community members that go beyond the data collected.
- **Examples:**
 - Actively seeking community input on research relevance and design.
 - Providing opportunities for participants to share feedback and stay involved over time.

During our presentation, attendees will discuss peer-reviewed implementation science articles and brainstorm ways to apply these principles in their own work. Through guided discussion, we will explore key questions such as: *Why is accessible science communication important? How can researchers use inclusive language and methods? What strategies improve community engagement?* Attendees will also watch a training video from Module 2, explore inclusive consent forms and accessible study materials, and provide feedback on our training program. Since the videos are still in development, we seek insights from a diverse group of researchers to refine them. Our goal is to foster a research culture that values participant contributions and promotes ethical, inclusive science. By attending, researchers will gain knowledge of evidence-based community engagement practices, practical strategies for applying these methods, an opportunity to give feedback on our training program, and a deeper appreciation for implementation science. We hope to inspire researchers, spark enthusiasm for community-engaged research, and encourage participants to share and apply what they learn during our session.

Logistical Needs: Access to a screen to play videos, a table for materials, and an easel with a poster board to display consent form examples.

References

- Frank, L., Morton, S. C., Guise, J. M., Jull, J., Concannon, T. W., Tugwell, P., & Multi Stakeholder Engagement (MuSE) Consortium. (2020). Engaging patients and other non-researchers in health research: defining research engagement. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 35, 307-314.
- Girolamo, T., Ghali, S., & Eigsti, I. M. (2023). A community-based approach to longitudinal language research with racially and ethnically minoritized autistic young adults: Lessons learned and new directions. *American Journal of Speech and Language Pathology*, 32(3), 977-988. https://doi.org/10.1044/2023_ajslp-22-00341
- Quay, T. A., Frimer, L., Janssen, P. A., & Lamers, Y. (2017). Barriers and facilitators to recruitment of South Asians to health research: a scoping review. *BMJ open*, 7(5), e014889.