Community Engagement Research Core

Community Engagement Pilot Grant Information Session
February 3, 2016

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Overview

• Why Community-based Translational Research?
• What is Community-based Translational Research?
• Why is Community Engagement Important? (and what it is)
• The SYNERGY RFA: Process and Criteria
• Q & A
Why Community Engaged Translational Research?
It takes 17 years to turn 14 per cent of original research to the benefit of patient care

From Kirsh and Aron (2009)
This is Not a New Problem: The Case of Scurvy

1593 - Sir Richard Hawkins recommends treatment for scurvy: "That which I have seen most fruitfull for this sicknesse, is sower [sour] oranges and lemmons."

1601 - Lancaster shows lemon juice supplement eliminates scurvy among sailors (non-randomized controlled trial)

1747 - Lind shows that citrus juice supplement eliminates scurvy

1795 - (194 years after Level 2 evidence) British Navy implements citrus juice supplement

From Kirsh and Aron (2009).
Making Research Relevant

• “We seek a more evidence-based public health practice, but too much of our evidence comes from artificially controlled research that does not fit the realities of practice.”

• “If we want more evidence-based practice, we need more practice-based evidence.”

What Is Community-based Translational Research?
T1-T4 Translational Research

• From the bench to bedside

• To the curbside

• To the countryside
Conventional View of How T1 to T4 Research Works

• T1 seeks to move a basic discovery into a candidate health application.
• T2 assesses the value of T1 application for health practice leading to the development of evidence-based guidelines.
• T3 moves evidence-based guidelines into health practice, through delivery, dissemination, and diffusion research.
• T4 seeks to evaluate the “real world” health outcomes of a T1 application in practice or in a community setting.

What’s wrong with this picture?

Where is the end user?
Translational researcher and community systems often enter relationship with differing goals and characteristics.

**Translational Researcher**
- *Test* applicability of laboratory/preliminary research in real settings.
- *Inform* future research questions.
- *Advance* knowledge.

**Community Systems**
- *Fix* or *improve* something *here*.
- *Empower* action *here*.
- *Affordable/possible/sustainable change*.

**Characteristics**
- Idealistic
- Long-term horizon
- Knowledge-oriented
- Abstract target group
- Resources acceptable
- Negative outcome is OK
- Can leave system

**Characteristics**
- Practical
- Short-term horizon
- Action-oriented
- Concrete target group
- Resources constrained
- Negative outcome is bad
Community Engagement in Translational Research

A Fundamentally Different Approach to Research
Community Engagement

The process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the well-being of those people.

Community-engaged clinical research is consistent with ethical principals for research involving human participants, particularly marginalized populations.

“The traditional research approach has considered individuals and communities to be “subjects” or “objects” of health research. Current developments in ethics, and research methods, and an expanding recognition of what constitutes expert knowledge, justify the heightened participation of individuals and communities.”

How can translational researchers better engage community systems in research?

Translational Researcher

**Long-term relationship building**
- Communication
- Participation / Mutual Equity
- Goal-alignment
- Resources
- Celebration

Community Systems

**Researcher Strategies**

*Communication, Goal Alignment, Mutual Equity*
- Long-term commitment to community system.
- Develop regular feedback/listening system.
- Involve system when building research focus.
- Consider pilot/preliminary goals.
- Provide informed consent for systems, not just participants. Plan for confounding variables.
- Share research outcomes.

*Resources*
- Seek/contribute rapid-response capacity.
- Plan post-research application (system, controls).
- Provide resources for training and sustainability.
- Share related academic knowledge.
- Attract positive attention to system.
Potential Benefits of Participatory Research

• Results are relevant to interests, circumstances, and needs of those who would apply them
• Results are more immediately actionable in local situations for people and/or practitioners
• Generalizable findings more credible to people, practitioners and policy makers elsewhere because they were generated in partnership with people like themselves
• Helps to reframe issues from health behavior of individuals to encompass system and structural issues.

The goal of this RFA is to support community engagement research that emphasizes the community’s role in developing and translating knowledge into improvements in clinical practice, community programs, and health policy.
Funding Level

- Two to four one-year pilot projects
- Funding level of $25,000 to $50,000 each.
Eligibility of the Principal Investigator

Investigators at:

- Dartmouth College
- Thayer School of Engineering
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock (and affiliates)
- Geisel School of Medicine
- Tuck School of Business
- WRJ, Manchester & Togus Vas

The contact PI must:

- Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor (tenure track, CHS, or clinical). Senior investigators must show a history of securing external, peer-reviewed funding.
- Have a faculty appointment OR collaborating as a co-investigator with appointed faculty.
- Should the contact PI be a junior faculty member, the applicant should identify his/her research mentor(s) in the letter of intent (LOI).
- **Foster community engagement**: must have a community-based collaborator / organization that will be substantially involved in aspects of study design, execution, interpretation and dissemination.
- Have well-developed plans for a research career.
Pilot Grant Deliverables

- Completed pilot project
- Results submitted for publication
- Use data to seek external peer-reviewed funding
A Major Criteria: Is it Translational?

• Is the study question translational?
  – basic/clinical <-> community <-> population
• Is the team translational/transdisciplinary?
  – team science combining different fields
• Is the method translational?
  – implementation science, community-based participatory research, practice-based research networks, reverse translation, technology innovation
• Is the process translational?
  – community/provider partnership and engagement
Examples of community-engaged translational research

• Applying findings from basic research or clinical trials to design and implement innovative interventions in community-based settings
• Innovative applications of technology/informatics to improve health behaviors or disease management
• Applying community-engaged participatory research methods to define, design, and conduct a study
Examples of community-engaged translational research

• Application of findings from decision science or use of innovative mobile health delivery systems to provide decision support or practical implementation of shared decision making in community-based settings

• Analysis of local regional observational data using community samples to model determinants of health and develop targeted innovative interventions to address health disparities in our region.
Review criteria

✓ Is it TRANSLATIONAL?
✓ Is it Innovative?
✓ Is the approach appropriate and well designed?
✓ Is the research significant? Community impact?
✓ Is it interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary?
✓ Is there evidence of community engagement?
✓ What are the investigators qualifications?
✓ What are the mentor’s qualifications and level of commitment?
✓ Is there a high likelihood of leading to extramurally funded research?
Viewed more favorably……

✓ Applications submitted in the context of community-based infrastructure research groups at Dartmouth—e.g., Prevention Research Center at Dartmouth (PRCD), Center for Aging Research, Psychiatric Research Center, Dartmouth COOP, Norris Cotton Cancer Center.

✓ Applications that are interdisciplinary

✓ Applications focusing on established community needs and engaging community stakeholders.

✓ Applications requesting 50K or less.

✓ Applications with matched funding
Important Dates

- **Letter of intent due:** February 29, 2016
- **Notification of Invitation to submit full application:** March 9, 2016
- **Application due:** April 18, 2016
- **Awards Announced:** May 6, 2016
- **Start Date:** July 1, 2016

Questions: Community.pilots@Dartmouth.edu
Questions

https://synergy.dartmouth.edu/funding/index/