2017 Community Engagement Research Pilot Grant
Information Session
August 17, 2016
Community Engagement Research Mission Statement

The mission of SYNERGY’s Community Engagement Research is to build relationships between local communities and researchers in an equitable partnership to develop and nurture community-engaged research.

This partnership will address community health priorities, leverage Dartmouth scientific research strengths, and use results to improve the health of the communities in which we live.
Overview

• What is Translational Research?
• What is Community Engagement Research?
• Community Engagement in Translational Research
  – Why is it important?
  – Incorporating into traditional research
  – Why are partnerships important?
• Community Engagement Research – Case Study
• The SYNERGY RFA Criteria
• Q & A
What Is Translational Research?

*Translation* is the process of turning observations in the laboratory and clinic into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public - from diagnostics and therapeutics to medical procedures and behavioral changes.

*National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences 2014*
What is translational research?

CLINICAL TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH SPECTRUM

T0.5
TRANSLATION TO NATURAL ANIMAL MODELS
PREECLINICAL INSIGHTS

T1
TRANSLATION TO HUMANS
CLINICAL INSIGHTS

T2
TRANSLATION TO PATIENTS
IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

T3
TRANSLATION TO PRACTICE
IMPLICATIONS FOR POPULATION HEALTH

T4
TRANSLATION TO POPULATION

Examples
cctsi.ucdenver.edu
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

• 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.
What is Community Engagement 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 Research

- A framework or approach for conducting research
- May be used with both qualitative and quantitative methods.
- Recognizes and builds on community strengths
- Characterized by principles that guide research
- Requires partnership development

“Community engagement requires participation of community members in projects that address their issues. Meaningful community participation extends beyond physical involvement to include generation of ideas, contributions to decision making, and sharing of responsibility.” (CDC, 2010)
However, 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
Gradations of partnership and collaboration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outreach</th>
<th>Consult</th>
<th>Involve</th>
<th>Collaborate</th>
<th>Shared Leadership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Some Community Involvement</strong></td>
<td><strong>More Community Involvement</strong></td>
<td><strong>Better Community Involvement</strong></td>
<td><strong>Community Involvement</strong></td>
<td><strong>Strong Bidirectional Relationship</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication flows from one to the other, to inform</td>
<td>Communication flows to the community and then back, answer seeking</td>
<td>Communication flows both ways, participatory form of communication</td>
<td>Communication flow is bidirectional</td>
<td>Final decision making is at community level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides community with information.</td>
<td>Gets information or feedback from the community.</td>
<td>Involves more participation with community on issues.</td>
<td>Forms partnerships with community on each aspect of project from development to solution.</td>
<td>Entities have formed strong partnership structures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entities coexist.</td>
<td>Entities share information.</td>
<td>Entities cooperate with each other.</td>
<td>Entities form bidirectional communication channels.</td>
<td>Outcomes: Broader health outcomes affecting broader community.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference: Modified by the authors from the International Association for Public Participation.

Community-engaged research continuum

There is a big difference between research performed...

ON populations/communities

IN populations/communities

WITH populations/communities

Nina Wallerstein, DrPHNM CARES Health Disparities Center, 2011
Why is Community Engagement in Translational Research Important?
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.”

Community-engaged research makes 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.”

Incorporating the Community-engagement approach into Traditional Research
Problem Identification

- Community members may approach researchers with a community specific problem
  OR
- Researches may approach a community with a research proposal (the norm)
Research Idea Development

Researcher may handle but study will be enhanced by Community contribution of:

- Research questions
- Ideas on recruitment
- Advice on logistics
- Suggestions on other collaborating organizations
- Advice on how to tailor for the community context

This helps build Trust

Duke Center for Community Research
Intervention Development

Involve community partners as project staff or advisors.

Helps with:

- Recruitment and retention
- Community buy-in
- Help tailor the intervention and data collections process
- Advise on problems
- Promote study in the community
- Collect community’s responses
Collect and Analyze Data

Community partners can be hired to:

- Administer questionnaires
- Log participation
- Read measurements
- Make observations
- Provide community insight into data
Report and Disseminate Results

Traditional research
- Results published in peer-reviewed academic journals
- Community may be unaware of results / conclusions

Community-engagement research
- Community partners help identify appropriate venues to disseminate results (public meetings, radio, local paper, etc.)
- Community partners assist in review of article draft
- Community partners considered as co-authors
Why Researcher Community Partnerships in Community Engagement Translational Research?
# Partners share complementary assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Resources</th>
<th>Researcher Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Knowledge of community</td>
<td>• Knowledge of research methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Access to study population</td>
<td>• Access to institutional resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Trust of community</td>
<td>• Ability to analyze data/evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Program management &amp; fund-raising expertise</td>
<td>• Grant writing and evaluation expertise</td>
</tr>
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Meharry-Vanderbilt MV-CERC
Partners grow new skills together

**Community must learn**
- To translate community concerns into research questions
- To work with terms and protocols of research practice
- To value evidence-based strategies
- To share decision-making
- To measure effectiveness by improvements in community capacity & health

**Researcher must learn**
- To share findings and translate them into policies & programs that improve community
- To communicate with community audiences in non-scientific terms
- To value the kinds of projects considered useful in the community
- To share decision-making
- To measure effectiveness by improvements in community capacity & health

Meharry-Vanderbilt MV-CERC
Successful partners...

...learn to collaborate by developing processes to enable them to reach goals that cannot be achieved as efficiently or effectively by acting alone.

- Jointly develop a set of common goals and directions.
- Share responsibility & resources for reaching these goals
- Monitor progress & make adjustments when needed
- Keep focused on common mission-> improving health of community
But partnerships can flounder if they...

- Under estimate the time that collaboration takes
- Have difficulty sharing leadership
- Leave key players out (by mistake or on purpose)
- Lack shared visions or common goals
- Lack agreed upon ground rules
- Have unequal motivation for collaborating
- Are unable to work constructively with conflict
- Are unable to adapt to changing partner priorities
Partnership Development
Best Practices
Checklist for Maintaining the Partnership

- ✓ Shared vision and set of goals
- ✓ Clearly identified aims
- ✓ Clear purpose
- ✓ Measurable plan
- ✓ Clear roles and responsibilities
- ✓ Identified skills and competencies
- ✓ Clear reporting process
- ✓ Clear decision making processes
- ✓ Performance management decisions
Checklist for Maintaining the Partnership

✓ Commitment to joint investments/resources
✓ Communication strategy
✓ Ground rules for partnership work that include the reconciliation of different organizational cultures and ways of working
✓ Time commitment
✓ Process to bring in new members
Benefits of Community Partnerships in 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.

Community Engagement Research
Real-Time

What does it look like?
Community Engagement Real-Time Lessons from Our Partnership

Sara Kobylenski, MSW
The Haven

Elizabeth Carpenter-Song, PhD
Psychiatry and The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice
Embrace risk
Learn a new language
Suspend assumptions and cultivate curiosity and humility
Recognize and respect each other’s priorities and constraints
Become embedded and make a commitment
Thank you

We gratefully acknowledge our funding sources:

- Columbia University Homelessness Prevention Scholars (2009-10)
- Claire Garber Goodman Fund for the Anthropological Study of Human Culture (2010-2013)
- AHRQ Career Development Award (1K12HS021695-01) (2013-15)
- Synergy Community Engagement Pilot (2016-17)
- PCORI Pipeline-to-Proposal (2016-17)
Thank you

We are also grateful to mentors and team members:

- Mentors: Sue Barrow, Bob Drake, Joanne Nicholson, Steve Bartels

- Research Assistants: Kaite Yang, Mia Winthrop, Ida Griesemer, John Torrey

Contact us

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Community Engagement Pilot Grant & LOI
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.
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 strong 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 focusing on established community needs (Community Health Assessments; Regional Health Improvement Plans) and engaging community stakeholders.

✓ Research in subpopulations with distinct characteristics e.g. pediatric or geriatric populations, pregnant women, people with particular disabilities, “hard-to-reach” groups that are often impacted by health disparities

✓ 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, Dartmouth CO-OP Project, Norris Cotton Cancer Center.

✓ Applications that are interdisciplinary

✓ Applications with matched funding
Important Dates

- Letter of intent due: October 12, 2016
- Notification of Invitation to submit full application: October 31, 2016
- Application due: January 2, 2017
- Awards Announced: by February 15, 2017
- Start Date: May 1, 2017

Questions: Community.pilots@Dartmouth.edu
Questions

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

Austin C. Engaging Community Perspectives in all Phases of the Research Process (2014) National Conference on Engaging Patients, Families and Communities in all Phases of Translations Research to Improve Health. NCATS

McDonald MA. Practicing Community-engaged Research (2008), Duke Center for Community Research http://dtmi.duke.edu/dccr/community-linked-research/


University of Colorado CCTSI, Let’s Get Started (2016) cctsi.ucdenver.edu

Helpful Reading Material


https://accelerate.ucsf.edu/files/CE/manual_for_researchers_agencies.pdf

https://accelerate.ucsf.edu/files/CE/manual_for_researchers_clinicians.pdf
Other slides