

Building Research Partnerships



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Approach May Depend On The Entity The Partnership Is With

- Research Partnerships can be formed with:
 - Other researchers
 - Communities
 - Technology transfer organizations
 - Social Service Agencies, e.g. child welfare agencies
 - Health care providers



Major Goals of Community Research Partnerships Include:

- Improving the participation of communities, especially minority communities, in research
- Building trust between researchers and communities.
- Providing a framework through which an ethical basis can be established for community-based research
- Providing mechanisms to enhance scientific and public acceptance while helping to build public trust in health research.



Attributes of Successful Partnerships

- Develop and sustain on-going working relationships
- Learn from and understand each other's cultures and contexts
- Plan for leadership transitions by garnering support and involvement of leaders while establishing peer-to-peer relationships.
- Establish clear parameters for project time frames and timelines



Attributes of Successful Partnerships

- Thorough understanding of the processes for data access, data sharing, data retention, and confidentiality
- Develop procedures for review of publications and presentations from the research
- Achieve IRB approvals in a timely manner



Community Partnerships

- Basic issues of involving the community in research must be acknowledged and addressed.
- Inclusion is the core issue for building community partnerships in research, and it requires "grassroots" involvement.
- Researchers must reach out broadly so that all pertinent experience is represented.
- By bringing together the knowledge and experience of communities and researchers, accuracy in science is enhanced.



Community Partnerships

- Through commitment to a participatory approach, communities and researchers have the opportunity to build trust through true partnership.
- By working in partnership, communities, researchers, and funding agencies can further maximize the benefits of by translating research findings into comprehensive health programs.
- Building a research relationship generally takes from two to five years, and resources must be available to support the activities and infrastructure necessary to build and sustain such partnerships.



Overcoming Distrust of Researchers

- Difficulty in recruiting minorities for research
- History demonstrates that people have been harmed when medical and public health research is planned and conducted without consideration of the human context of such work or regard for human rights.
- Trust must be built on:
 - Observed good faith in the actions of researchers, not just faith in the benefits of research
 - Decision-making power must be shared throughout the research process.



Achieving Balance In Partnerships

- Education and training mechanisms are an essential component of providing both communities and researchers with the necessary skills for a balanced partnership.
- Accountability and oversight mechanisms are necessary to:
 - ensure that mutual commitments are kept and
 - a system for corrective action is implemented when errors in judgment or overt abuses occur.



Building Successful Research Partnerships

- Recognizing the benefits of collaborative research motivates partnership development.
- Research partnerships:
 - May provide access to personnel, services, facilities, confidential information and materials and equipment that might not be otherwise available
 - Often allow for continued influence on the direction of the research
 - May promote more widespread recognition.



Promoting Interdisciplinary Relationships Early On

- Where I went to medical school (State University of New York), other health disciplines such as pharmacists, nurses, physician assistants and doctoral students took many of the same classes.
- This approach promotes mutual respect, understanding and cooperation between disciplines and reduces unhealthy competition.



Special Needs of Minorities

- Minority and poor communities lag behind the overall U.S. population on virtually all health status indicators.
- This underscores the need for continued focus on health research to identify solutions to improve health status in these communities.



Historically Black Colleges and Universities

ANALYTIC ESSAY FORUMS

Leadership Development for Health Researchers at Historically Black Colleges and Universities

**Henrie M. Treadwell, PhD, Ronald L. Braithwaite, PhD,
Kisha Braithwaite, PhD, Desiree Oliver, PhD and
Rhonda Holliday, PhD**

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The Role of the HBCU

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) can be a key to building effective research partnerships.
- HBCU's have attracted Black students from many and diverse locales and thereby prepare for partnerships by:
 - Providing mentorship models
 - Preparing students for leadership roles



The Research Career Development Program

- Research Career Development Program targeting junior faculty scholars
- Leverages unique strengths of HBCU's
- Promotes diverse leadership in research
- Advances practical understanding
- Creates insitutional bonds between HBCU's and other institutions



The Special Role of HBCU's

- A greater appreciation for the value of the role of HBCU's in reducing health disparities may be gained by examining their history and contributions to this effect.
- An examination of the roles that graduates of HBCU's play in research and service shows the wisdom of increased investment in these invaluable institutions.



History of HBCU's

- The Higher Education Act of 1965 defined HBCU's as those institutions of higher learning established before 1964 whose principal mission was and is the education of African Americans.
- Many HBCU's were founded in the 19th century during a time when segregation and widespread racial discrimination was the accepted norm.



HBCU's Outstanding Achievements

- Today, the 105 HBCU's have a distinguished record of scholarship that continues to attract students and faculty members who know first-hand the needs of and, most importantly directly reflect the communities they serve.
- Although HBCU's constitute only 3% of America's 4084 institutions of higher learning, they account for approximately 14% of all Black students and provide nearly one-fourth of undergraduate degrees awarded to Black students.



Investing In Research at HBCU's

- Although the capacity to conduct research is based largely on federal grants, in 2001 HBCU's received only \$250 million out of more than \$19 billion awarded, or only 1.3% of funds.
- Funding of R01 grants submitted by HBCU's remained roughly the same from 2001 through 2006.



HBCU's Special Concerns

- Such a low level of funding constrains the ability of HBCU's to nurture future researchers, despite the widespread acknowledgement of the importance of reducing health disparities and promoting diversity in the workplace.
- At the undergraduate level, programs such as the National Institute of General Medical Sciences Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program illustrate the benefits of investing in HBCU's while encouraging them to form relationships with other institutions.



Developing Research Partnerships Between Universities and Agencies

- Agencies and researchers need to:
 - Develop a common agenda
 - Mutually understand each other's language
 - Mutually understand each other's priorities
 - Develop committed working relationships
 - Develop guidelines to facilitate working together
 - Understand the vision of each other's leaders.



University-Community Collaborations

- There are challenges to both the community and the university in building a bridge between “the town and the gown”
 - Identify the appropriate research and community partners,
 - Mobilize resources,
 - Sustain long-term effectiveness, and
 - Strive to ensure return on investments of time, energy, and resources.



Building Interdisciplinary / Intersectoral Research Partnerships for Community-Based Mental Health Research with Older Minority Adults

- Schensul J.J., Julie Robison J., Reyes C., Radda K., Gaztambide S., Disch W..
American Journal of Community Psychology.
Published online: 15 August 2006
- Community-based research often brings investigators from different disciplinary backgrounds together with community representatives to conduct research on topics of mutual concern.



Building Interdisciplinary / Intersectoral Research Partnerships for Community-Based Mental Health Research with Older Minority Adults

- This information came from a case example aimed at illustrating an interdisciplinary / intersectoral study of depression and barriers to mental health care among older adults
- From this, several factors central to implementing a successful research partnership were gleaned.



Building Interdisciplinary / Intersectoral Research Partnerships for Community-Based Mental Health Research with Older Minority Adults

- The factors that could potentially facilitate or challenge interdisciplinary/intersectoral research were found to include:
 - Achieving commonality of purpose in study design and research and referral approaches;
 - Ensuring the ability to develop, field-test and implement psychometrically rigorous and culturally and qualitatively appropriate instruments;



Building Interdisciplinary / Intersectoral Research Partnerships for Community-Based Mental Health Research with Older Minority Adults

- Building effective management structures for interdisciplinary/intersectoral research partnerships; and
- Identifying, training and supporting qualified researchers to carry out a mental health study with older ethnically diverse adults.



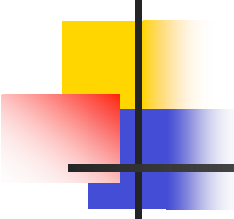
Building Research Capacity: The Role of Partnerships

- Gordon WA, Brown M: Building research capacity: The role of partnerships. Am J Phys Med Rehabil 2005;84:999-1004.
- Partnerships build capacity to the extent that they improve the skills, knowledge and resources of the focal investigator or investigating entity.
- A major goal of capacity building through partnerships is to maximize the potential of research to effect desired changes in targeted systems.



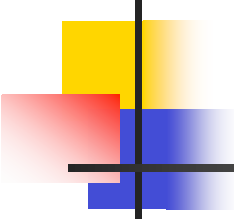
Building Research Capacity: The Role of Partnerships

- The selection and framing of research questions is key, so investigators or research organizations must create connections that will enable them to identify and address matters of importance to relevant stakeholders.
- Messages must be tailored so as to be clearly "heard" by each respective target audience, including clinicians, other researchers, administrators and/or impacted people and their family members).



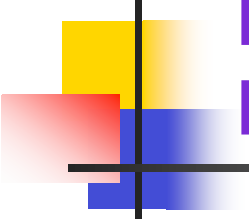
Eight Years of Building Community Partnerships and Trust: The UCLA Family Medicine Community-Based Participatory Research Experience.

- Moreno, Gerardo MD, MSHS; Rodriguez, Michael A. MD, MPH; Lopez, Glenn A. MD, MPH; Bholat, Michelle A. MD, MPH; Dowling, Patrick T. MD, MPH *Academic Medicine*. 84(10):1426-1433, October 2009.
- Addressing health disparities among immigrant families and minority populations in large urban communities, the UCLA Department of Family Medicine (DFM) played a leadership role in the development of family medicine training and community-based participatory research (CBPR).



Eight Years of Building Community Partnerships and Trust: The UCLA Family Medicine Community-Based Participatory Research Experience.

- The authors describe the eight-year (2000-2008) process of building sustainable community partnerships and trust between the UCLA DFM and the Sun Valley community.
- Establishing a long-term relationship and trust was found to be a prerequisite to successfully initiate CBPR activities
- Their eight-year experience in the Sun Valley community underscores how academic-community research partnerships can result in benefits of great value to both communities and academic departments.



Eight Years of Building Community Partnerships and Trust: The UCLA Family Medicine Community-Based Participatory Research Experience.

- Key factors in the success of this effort:
 - Having clear and concrete community benefits,
 - Supporting an academic-community champion,
 - political advocacy,
 - partnership with diverse organizations,
 - long-term academic commitment, and
 - medical student involvement.



Building Partnerships Between Indigenous Communities and Universities: Lessons Learned in HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse Prevention Research.

- Baldwin, Julie A PhD; Johnson, Jeannette L PhD; Benally, Christine C BA American Journal of Public Health. 99 Suppl 1:S77-S82, April 2009.
- Many HIV/AIDS and substance abuse prevention studies in American Indian and Alaska Native populations have been directed by academic researchers with little community input.
- Cites the benefits of changing the research paradigm to a community-based participatory model.
- The lessons learned illustrate that the research process should be a cyclical one including continual involvement by community members.



Building Partnerships Between Indigenous Communities and Universities: Lessons Learned in HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse Prevention Research.

- Steps which can enhance the long-term capacity of the community to conduct HIV/AIDS and substance abuse prevention research include:
 - Building and sustaining collaborative relationships,
 - Planning the program together,
 - Implementing and evaluating the program in culturally acceptable ways, and
 - Disseminating research findings from a tribal perspective.



Building and Maintaining Trust in a Community-Based Participatory Research Partnership.

- Christopher, S; Watts, V; Young, S; McCormick A. American Journal of Public Health. 98(8):1398-1406, August 2008.
- Even though intervention research is vital to eliminating health disparities, many groups with health disparities have had negative research experiences.
- Given the historically checkered past of medical research among minorities, there is an understandable distrust of researchers and the research process among many of those in greatest need.



Building and Maintaining Trust in a Community- Based Participatory Research Partnership.

- Community-based participatory research (CBPR) approaches are attempts to reverse this pattern by creating a foundation of trust between community members and researchers.
- Two levels of trust building and trust maintenance were addressed:
 - Between university and community partners and
 - Between the initial project team and the larger community.



Response to “Building research capacity: The role of partnerships”: Communication holds the key to productive collaboration.

- Iezzoni LI: Am J Phys Med Rehabil 2005;84:1005–1008.
- “Collaborations between persons with widely divergent life and professional backgrounds are challenging, and partners must open themselves to altering strongly held views.”
- “In my commentary, I argue that communication, when credible to all stakeholders, holds the key to successful partnerships between persons with disabilities and researchers.”



Response to “Building research capacity: The role of partnerships”: Communication holds the key to productive collaboration.

- A major communication challenge may occur in the process of setting realistic expectations and goals for all parties concerned.
- Researchers must manage expectations without appearing too discouraging or too directive and without dampening creativity and enthusiasm for the project.
- Some persons may may have wildly unrealistic expectations about clinical or project outcomes, and may even expect miraculous cures



Response to “Building research capacity: The role of partnerships”: Communication holds the key to productive collaboration.

- Collaborators must reach a consensus of what constitutes either the “success” of a project or “evidence” that new interventions are effective.
- Different stakeholders may not hold the same views of what constitutes credible evidence or a successful outcome.
- Sometimes stakeholders focus on different effects. For example, scientists might want to track radiographic or biochemical lab results of disease, whereas persons with the actual ailment might be much more concerned with functional or quality-of-life outcomes.



Consumer-driven health care: Building partnerships in research.

Shea, Beverley; Santesso, Nancy Qualman, Ann; Heiberg, Turid; Leong, Amye; Judd, Maria; Robinson, Vivian; Wells, George; Tugwell, Peter. The Cochrane Musculoskeletal Consumer Group Health Expectations. 8(4):352-359, December 2005.

- Over the past forty years, there has been widespread interest in increasing the involvement of patients and the public in health care.
- Strategies to effectively foster consumer participation include 'enabling wide participation', and this includes consumers.



Consumer-driven health care: Building partnerships in research.

- The Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group (CMSG) is a collaboration that has been working to increase consumer participation since its inception in 1993.
- Emphasis in knowledge translation is on interactions or partnerships between researchers and users to facilitate the use of relevant research in decision making.
- The CMSG has built a network of consumer members who guide research priorities, peer review systematic reviews and also promote and facilitate consumer-appropriate knowledge dissemination.



Building collaborative partnerships to improve community-based HIV prevention research: The University-CBO Collaborative partnership (UCCP) model.

- Harper G.W., Salina D.D. Journal of Prevention and Intervention in the Community. 19(1)(pp 1-20), 2000. Date of Publication: 2000.
- A perspective has evolved from empowerment literature.
- Developing collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs) is based on the community psychology perspective of forming reciprocal, nonexploitative partnerships with community members.



Building collaborative partnerships to improve community-based HIV prevention research: The University-CBO Collaborative partnership (UCCP) model.

- A six stage model is presented from the beginning stages of developing collaborations with AIDS related CBOs:
 - Selecting a potential CBO partner;
 - Developing a reciprocal relationship;
 - Deciding on a research question;
 - Conducting the research/evaluation;
 - Analyzing and interpreting the data; and
 - Dissemination.



Building collaborative partnerships to improve community-based HIV prevention research: The University-CBO Collaborative partnership (UCCP) model.

- Barriers to effective collaboration were found to include:
 - Having different goals,
 - Relationships that are not perceived as mutually beneficial,
 - Unfamiliarity with cultural norms, and
 - Power differentials between university based researchers and CBO staff and community members.