

423. Building multi-cultural and multi-health system partnership to conduct health research

Purpose: The purpose of this roundtable is to describe the process of building a coalition of diverse healthcare system and service providers, racial and ethnic community leaders, patient advocates, and scientific researchers to address the issues of providing access to mammography for low-income, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual women in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, California using a Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) process. **Methods:** A regional consortium of community health centers, a non-profit cancer prevention research and service organization, and a research university formed a Community Academic Partnership Leadership Committee to engage community participation in identifying issues of greatest importance, study design, proposal submission, and other CBPR stages. We strategically invited representatives of community health centers, county hospital systems, community organizations, ethnic communities, survivor and patient advocates, county government officials, funding agencies, and academic to a series of community organizing meetings. The purposes of these meetings are for these representatives to build trust and to work collaboratively as equal partners to develop a cancer control research plan using a CBPR approach. **Results:** During the first year of development, our CBPR approach resulted in a 20-member community-academic partnership; the election of community chair and co-chair; the defining of community; the development of joint work plan to guide decisions-making and operations; the development of a research and operational structure subcommittees; the election of subcommittee chairs; the identification of recommended research goals, topic and questions; and a CBPR workshop. **Conclusions:** With time, patience, and motivation, engaging community in CBPR can benefit research initiatives in cancer control. The process is time consuming, but results in a committed and engaged partnership that integrates mutual benefits for all partners.