Supporting University-Community Research Collaborations

When researchers and communities collaborate, they unlock a unique potential for truly meaningful discoveries. While these groups recognize the value in working together, they often don't know where to start.

The Community Engagement to Advance Research and Community Health (CEARCH) team can be that starting point, laying the groundwork for effective, long-lasting partnerships. A function of the University of Minnesota’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), CEARCH supports CTSI's goal of advancing research that adds real value to the lives of Minnesotans.

Whether you’re a University of Minnesota researcher or a community advocate with an idea, we can help you make those initial connections and support you through the stages of your research partnership, from study design and funding, to implementation and dissemination of results.

Simply put, we provide the infrastructure for groups to work together to address health issues in ways that are truly relevant to their community.

Find your team

A physician notices a troubling patient trend. An investigator with a particular interest is looking to get a study off the ground. A community-based organization sees the same health issue getting in the way of its constituents' success. How do they connect?

Our job is to help these entities find one another and form a team around their shared interest. We do more than just make the introduction: we help facilitate an ongoing, mutually beneficial relationship based on trust and respect.

Consult with experts

We offer consultations at no charge, including:

- Feedback on strategies, proposals, and protocols
- Insight from experts in your topic area
- Guidance on finding a research partner, getting the partnership off to a good start, working with specific populations, overcoming hurdles, seeking funding, and more
- Access to university and national population-based datasets to augment research studies or answer research questions in a given geographic area

ctsi.umn.edu
Tap into resources

CTSI’s website, ctsi.umn.edu, houses a variety of free resources for community-University research teams, including:

- Best practices for effective research relationships
- Guidance for disseminating research
- Training materials and analysis tools
- Guiding principles and checklists for research partnerships
- Examples of previously funded community-University projects

We also partner with other University groups to hold a Community Research Institute that trains community groups in research methodology, empowering them to be more involved in health research or conduct their own studies.

Get funded

Even the most meaningful studies can struggle with securing the necessary funds. To ensure this important work is supported, CTSI offers grants for community-University partnerships that address important Minnesota health issues:

- **Community Health Collaborative Grants**, awarded annually to stimulate new research in the area of community and population health
- **Driven to Discover Community Health Research Grants**, awarded annually to support research conducted in the U of M’s Driven to Discover Research Building at the Minnesota State Fair
- **Community Research Van**, awarded on a continuous basis to research teams conducting health studies out in the community
- **Dissemination Awards**, annually awarded to research teams so they can apply research to the real world to ultimately improve human health

Make it matter

Too often, the valuable insights gleaned from studies don’t reach the people who could benefit most. When researchers partner with key stakeholders, disseminating knowledge becomes a more automatic and intentional part of the process. We offer support to help teams put their research to work, such as through one-on-one consultations and community engagement events.

Contact

For more information about how CTSI’s CSEARCH team can help you, please visit ctsi.umn.edu or contact:

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