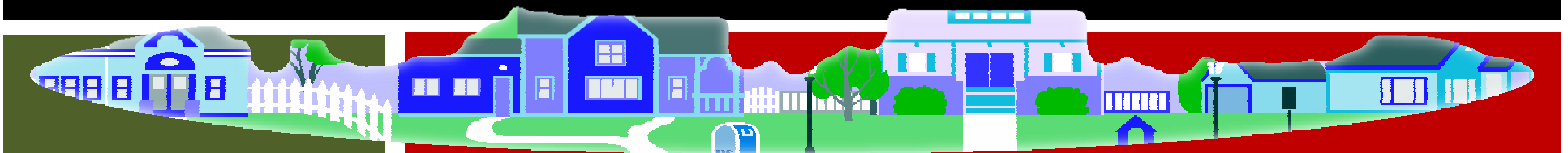


Balancing Community and Academic Needs

Engaging Community in Collaborative Research: Respect, Equity and Partnership

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Conclusions

- We come to the table with **competing agendas** and needs
- Community engagement is a conscious process requiring the same skills as any fulfilling **relationship**
- To develop *mutually* satisfying research partnerships, we must first focus on the **non-research aspects** of relationships
- Satisfaction includes attention to **“equity”** which must be redefined for every relationship
- To be respectful, we must address symptoms of **Savior Syndrome**



This is a Hearing Test

“This researcher came to our church last Sunday talking about this study she was doing at the university. She told us all about how she had worked in ‘comparable’ communities with similar ‘demographics’. She was testing the ‘adaptability’ and ‘validity’ of her model under different conditions. When she started talking about recruiting subjects from the target communities, I just tuned her out . I think she was talking about my neighbors on my block. She said her piece and she was out of there quicker than I could wave at her.”

They sent this sister to present the project to us but it was clear she had issues with some of the things we had questions about too. She promised to get back to us with the answers but I figured I need to be talking to whoever she was getting the answers from

This is a Hearing Test



“ They told me that they wanted a letter of support from our organization for a project that would improve the health of my community. Then they told me what the needs were and this project would “empower” the community to address the needs they had identified in their assessment. Then they gave me the letter that they had written for me so I would not have to bother. I surely felt empowered when I told them No.”

“Here comes another group. New study. New promise. Same outcome. So I just asked just as polite as you please....can you tell me what happened to the last 5 researchers and their projects.”

This is a Hearing Test

Thank You for allowing me to address your group today. I am Dr. Whatever from the University of Somewhere. I am conducting a randomized clinical trial to determine the efficacy and long-term benefit of a ace-inhibitor drug that I believe will significantly improve cardiovascular function in patients who have a history of hypertension that has been resistant to other pharmaceutical agents. This study will also examine individual risk factors and risk-reduction responses to a diagnosis of severe hypertension.



This is a Hearing Test

I am requesting your support of this study because your organization has ready access to the target population that will most benefit from the study's findings. Our recruitment strategies include outreach to at risk subjects who reside in a geographically defined area. This will allow us to use existing secondary data as a baseline. For example, we will use BRFSS data and information from the CDPH Community Health Inventory for Chicago Community areas.



This is a Hearing Test

I am using a multi-method, quasi-experimental design that includes three phases. This will allow me to collect both qualitative and quantitative data. First, subjects will be randomly assigned to a treatment or control group. Both groups will participate in a self-administered survey to assess their awareness of personal risks. The survey tool has been evaluated for validity and reliability with a comparable reference group. It consist of 50 items, including both closed and open-ended questions. Narrative responses will be examined for recurring themes which will be used to develop new questions is a future study.



This is a Hearing Test

To examine the effect of the study drug, all participants will participate in an informational session where information will be provided about treatment of hypertension. After full disclosure of risk and benefits, of their participation, subjects be asked if they want to participate and their informed consent will be obtained.

.....and the story goes on.



Check Point

What are your impressions?

On the Other Hand



“I understand that you want to do your study at our church. I can’t speak for everybody so why don’t you come to our church on first Sunday. Get there early so people can see and meet you. Some folks get suspicious of people who just pop in and out. No, I can’t give you the exact time you can give your announcement. Sometimes the House is filled with the spirit and we just let it rise until we are ready to move on. Just come and enjoy the service. It will tell you something about the people you want to reach.”

TAKE AWAY MESSAGES



Characteristics of CBPR



- Starts with a conversation and attention to relationships
- Seeks and uses local wisdom to understand health problems and pose solutions
- Involves community members in the design of interventions that are intended to benefit *them*
- Engages community members in the processes *and* products of research.
- Respects the rhythm and character of the cultural context in which the research will occur
- Involves community members in the making sure what is learned is used

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For Additional information, please visit the HCC pages of the
UIC Great Cities Website (enter from UIC home page)

