

Boston University Clinical and Translational Science Institute

Community Engagement

Goal: Improve community health by engaging community members and patients as partners in research, not just participants.

Build CE Skills and Capacity

Connecting Community to Research (CCR)

2-hour training that introduces community members to the basics of community engaged research (CEnR). A quarterly newsletter helps trainees stay informed of potential partnerships in research and highlights active research projects. The CCR toolkit allows other researchers to do their own CCR trainings, anywhere across the country (<https://is.gd/CCRToolkit>).

Communicating to Engage Workshops

Inspired by the methods of the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, our communication workshops use improv theater techniques to help trainees learn how to communicate their science using plain language. Typically, workshops train researchers and community stakeholders together in order to foster potential partnerships.

Foster Partnerships

Advisory Groups

Our efforts are informed by a Patient Advisory Group of cancer survivors as well as an ad hoc Community Advisory Board of CE professionals. The CE team also provides assistance to researchers and stakeholders who are interested in creating their own advisory boards.

Practice-Based Research Network

The *Boston Health Equity Research Network* is a developing PBRN between the Boston HealthNet community health centers and BMC practices. The network facilitates communication and partnership development between researchers and practices.

Pilot Grants

Our CE Pilot Review Committee consists of CE researchers and stakeholders. Pilot grants typically include community engaged research methods and support new or developing partnerships.

Disseminate Information and Best Practices

Science Cafés & Dissemination

The CE program supports researchers in explaining or presenting the results of their work to community stakeholders through Science Cafés and other informal, conversational events. Returning results to communities is an essential part of building trust.

Consultations

Our Community Engagement team serves as a source of information and advice on a number of community engaged research best practices as well as referrals to other CTSI services.

For more information, please email us at ccr@bmc.org.