

Community Engagement Core

The Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) was awarded to the **Center for Clinical and Translational Research and Training (CCTST)** of the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the Cincinnati Veteran's Administration on April 1, 2009. The goals of the CTSA Community Engagement Core are to improve relationships between academic researchers and community members; to engage community physicians in research and translation of evidence-based practice; and to train researchers in community-engaged research, and educate community members in order to build capacity and an understanding of the benefits and risks of research involvement. The Community Engagement Core of the CTSA seeks to broaden and strengthen collaborations between the Academic Health Center (AHC) and the community to produce research initiated with, supported by, carried out through, and benefiting the community. The Community Engagement Core utilizes several strategies to connect researchers and community including:

1. The **Community Partner Council (CPC) of the CTSA was established in 2009**. The CPC is an entity made up of community members, neighborhood activists and AHC members who facilitate connections through developing a much-needed collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach to health promotion, prevention and intervention. The CPC is working to advance educational, research and clinical improvement initiatives that foster bi-directional relationships between neighborhoods, researchers and clinicians to improve health. The primary goal of the CPC is to build collaborative relationships between the academic health centers and communities in order to develop community-responsive approaches to health promotion and clinical care.
2. The Community Engagement Core is rapidly expanding both a pediatric and a family medicine **Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN)** - Networks of community providers engaged in grassroots research in partnership with the AHC. Providers practice in a variety of settings across Greater Cincinnati, including underserved neighborhoods. For additional details and a video of the March 13, 2010 PBRN Symposium *Practice Based Research in Cincinnati: New Directions, New Collaborations*, visit the CCTST website (<http://cctst.uc.edu/>).
3. Through the Community Engagement Core, a number of **Education and Training Initiatives** are being implemented, including:
 - o Didactic and online training in community-based participatory research (CBPR) for AHC investigators, medical students and residents, graduate students, and community members.
 - o Expansion of existing Quality Improvement training at CCHMC, across the AHC, and into the community.
 - o Implementation of the *Community Leaders Institute* to build organizational and community capacity that strengthens collaborative health research and outcomes.

Additional information about the Community Engagement Core can be found on the University of Cincinnati's CCTST website: <http://cctst.uc.edu/>