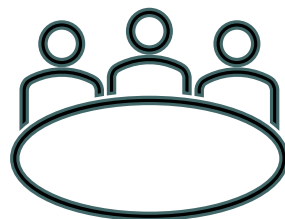


Receive advice and guidance on your research project from experienced community members and academics

CCTSI Community Engagement Consultations



Email Kaylee: Kaylee.Gordon@cuanschutz.edu for more information or to request a consult.

<https://www.cuanschutz.edu/cctsi/community/programs>



Colorado Clinical and Translational
Sciences Institute (CCTSI)

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

CCTSI Community Engagement Pilot Grants

Partnership Development Projects

- Intended for **new or potential community and academic partners**
- Dedicated to relationship building, exploration of shared areas of interest, and the development of a research project focused on T3/T4 Translational Research

Joint Pilot Projects

- Supports **established community-academic partnerships**
- Intended to fund a well-defined translational research project that may produce preliminary data for future competitive grant applications.

Cycle 19 RFA will be released in November 2026 – check our website for more details!

Email Kaylee: Kaylee.Gordon@cuanschutz.edu for more information.

CE-Pilots: <https://cctsi.cuanschutz.edu/funding/cepilot>



Colorado Clinical and Translational
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Stay updated by joining our mailing list:
https://ucdenverdata.formstack.com/forms/pact_mailing

Colorado Immersion Training Program

Applications will open in February 2027

Check the website for more information

CCTSI Colorado Immersion Training: <https://cctsi.cuanschutz.edu/community/cit>



Colorado Clinical and Translational
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ICYMI: watch previous Community Engagement Forums

[https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/accords/educational-offerings/archive/seminar-series-\(2025---2026\)](https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/accords/educational-offerings/archive/seminar-series-(2025---2026))



Colorado Clinical and Translational
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What is ACCORDS?

Adult and Child Center for Outcomes Research and Delivery Science

ACCORDS is a 'one-stop shop' for pragmatic research:

- A multi-disciplinary, collaborative research environment to catalyze innovative and impactful research
- Strong methodological cores and programs, led by national experts
- Consultations & team-building for grant proposals
- Mentorship, training & support for junior faculty
- Extensive educational offerings, both locally and nationally





ACCORDS Upcoming Events – mark your calendars!

May 20-21, 2026	Colorado Pragmatic Research in Health Conference <i>Pragmatic Research: Methods, Tools, and Technology for Rapidly Changing Contexts</i> Register now at COPRHCon.com!





How can Institutions be Accountable and Adaptable as Communities help Shape Research Agendas?

Community Engagement Showcase

Nina Wallerstein
Charment Moussata

April 24, 2026

Outline

Who We Are

History of Engage for Equity (E².) to E²PLUS

Challenges to Building Strong Community/Academic Engagement Eco-Systems

- What is ethical and effective engagement?

Overview of E²PLUS

Transformation of Academic Health Centers

Tension between Protection and Paternalism

Community Led Research Hub Opportunity

Summaries: Closing Implications for our Approach

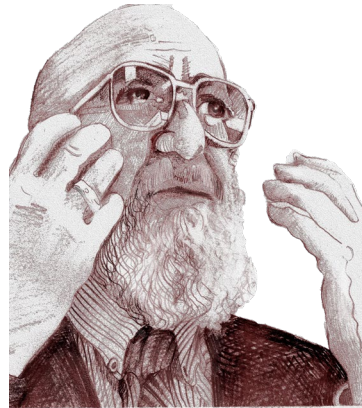
Review of E²PLUS Strategies



My Journey: Nina Wallerstein

In the academy:

- Paulo Freire as Mentor
- Empowerment Education
- Healthy Communities: New Mexico & Latin America
- CBPR Culture-Centered Tribal Intervention Research
- Research and Training in Latin America/Brazil



In my family/community:

Born in Kansas

Jewish Immigrant/Social
Justice/Middle Class/ Intellectual
Capital Privilege

Anti-War/Farmworkers/
Women's Movements



***Engage for
Equity: CBPR
Promising
Practices***

Family Listening: Culture-Centered Intergenerational Program

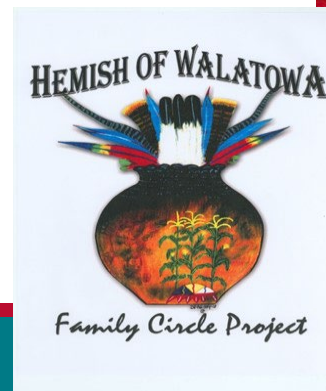
(Tribal elders, parents, children 10-12 years old)

CBPR Partnerships with three tribes since 2005

Current D & I grant with three other tribes



1. Welcoming
2. My Family
3. Tribal History
4. Tribal History
5. Tribal Way of Life
6. Tribal Vision
7. Community Challenges
8. Communication & Help Seeking
9. Recognizing/Managing Anger
10. Problem Solving
11. Positive Relationships
12. Presentation of Community Action Projects



My Journey: Charment Moussata

Four worldviews shaped how I see people, world, knowledge, and Science/Research:

- ❖ Fishing (Father -- Fisherman) — provision, responsibility, and community interdependence
- ❖ Traditional Healing (Grandfather) — care, dignity, and culturally grounded values & healing
- ❖ Ubuntu / Public Leadership (Nelson Mandela) — shared humanity, collective well-being, and moral responsibility.
- ❖ Science / Research (Prof. Thomas Silou - Congo)— evidence, inquiry, and innovation for human impact

Together, these worldviews shaped my journey:

- ❖ from Community life in Congo (Republic of)
- ❖ University research formation (Congo)
- ❖ to Scientific training and graduate study in the U.S. (University of Georgia)
- ❖ to Pharmaceutical Research & Development and Clinical Research (US)
- ❖ to Community-centered leadership through
- ❖ ***Clinical Trust Foundation*** and ***EquiBridge Health Solutions***.



E²PLUS: Strengthening CBPR/Engaged Research

18 years of research at UNM with national partners to study the Science of Engagement and its health impact

Three NIH E² Awards:

- CBPR Model
- Validated Measures to identify best partnership practices
- Surveys of 400 Partnerships
- Workshops for collective reflection/action
- But NOT ENOUGH

Two E²PLUS PCORI Awards:

- Test of E² methods and measures to transform Academic Health Centers
- Outcome: Increased leadership in community and patient engaged research

1

Stage One: 2006-2009

Develop CBPR Conceptual Model

NIMHD/NARCH/NIH U26IHS300009

2

Stage Two: 2009-2013

Test Measures and Identify Best Practices

NARCH/NIH U26IHS300293

3

Stage Three: 2015-2022

Refine and Test Measures and Develop E² Tools

NINR/NIH R01 NR 015241

4

Stage Four: E2PLUS 2021-2023

Assess Strategies to Challenge Institutional Barriers to Authentic Engagement

PCORI Eugene Washington Engagement Award #21068

5

Stage Five: E²PLUS 2024-2027

Test Strategies to Promote Patient/Community Leadership in Research

PCORI Advancing the Science of Engagement SOE-2023-33314

E²PLUS Science of Engagement

Goal: To strengthen institutional support towards and patient/community power and *leadership* in engaged research

Aims:

- To work with **Champion Teams** to transform institutional practices and policies in Academic Health Centers
- To support **Patient/Community Action Groups** (PCAGs) to strengthen research capacities within their own networks
- To learn how distinct **institutional conditions** influence change processes for stronger community engaged research

Cohort 1 (Year 1-2) 2024-2026	Cohort 1 (Year 2-3) 2025-2027
University of Kansas 	Virginia Commonwealth 
Univ. of Texas Health Sciences San Antonio 	Univ. of Arkansas Medical School 
Univ. of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus 	University of New Mexico 
Pennsylvania State University 	University of Iowa 

Challenges to Building Strong Eco-System

Tension: Different Goals of Universities and Communities

Key tensions between universities and communities:

- ❖ **Timelines** — academic timelines often do not align with community realities or urgency.
- ❖ **Priorities** — institutions may start with research aims; communities start with lived needs.
- ❖ **Power** — communities are often asked to participate, but not to co-govern or co-decide.
- ❖ **Ethics** — institutions protect individual participants; communities also need protection from extractive partnerships.
- ❖ **Trust** — communities seek long-term accountability, not one-time engagement.
- ❖ **Knowledge** — lived experience and community evidence are often undervalued compared with academic expertise.
- ❖ **Protection vs. Paternalism** — protecting the university vs. protecting the community

PACT/ E²PLUS COLLABORATION WITH ANSCHUTZ

Shared Goal: To strengthen patient/community *VOICE and LEADERSHIP* in engaged research throughout the whole ecosystem

PACT / CCTSI (2008- present)

- Advancing trust-based, reciprocal, and community-responsive partnerships
- Bringing community priorities, lived experience, and ethical concerns into institutional conversations
- Helping build stronger infrastructure for community-engaged research

Charment Moussata (2022- present)

- PACT Council Member and E2PLUS Community Champion
- Three-year term -- renewable

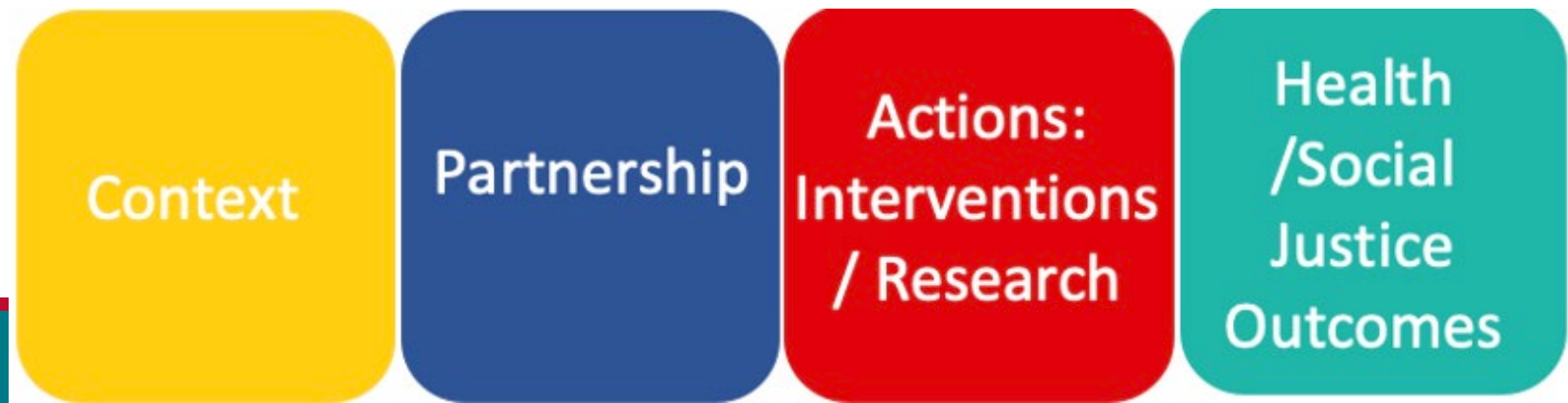
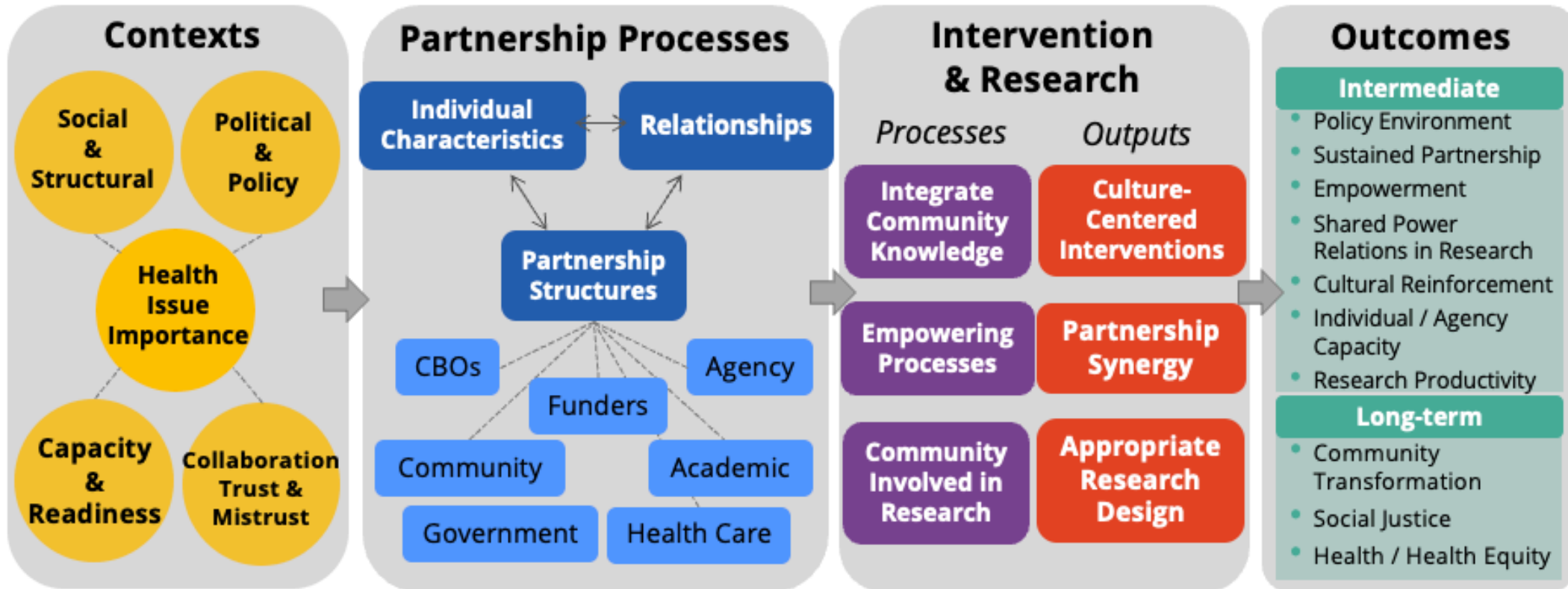
E2 PLUS (2024-2027)

Strategies:

Champion Team
Patient/Community Action Group
(PCAG)
Data as Advocacy
Working Groups

How we Work Together in E²PLUS? CBPR Model

Adapted from Wallerstein et al, 2008 & Wallerstein et al, 2018: <https://cpr.unm.edu/research-projects/cbpr-project/cbpr-model.html>



Assessing Meaningful Community Engagement: National Academy of Medicine

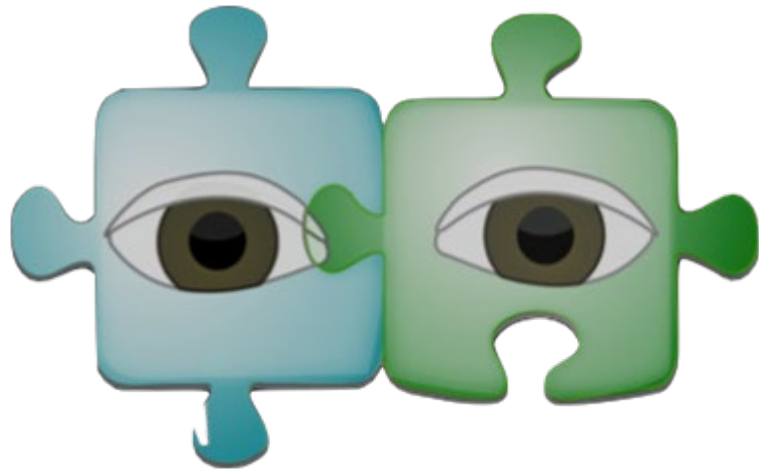


<https://doi.org/10.31478/202202c>

How We Work Together in E²PLUS

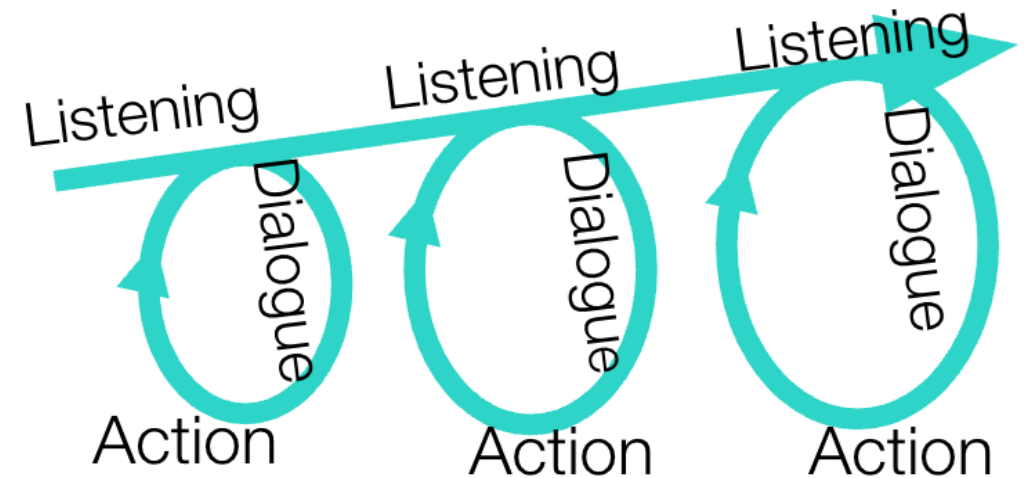
Community evidence/knowledge

*Etuaptmumk - Two-Eyed Seeing:
Community Ways of Knowing*



Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall of Eskasoni First Nation, Nova Scotia,

**Collective Reflection/Action Praxis:
Paulo Freire**



To be a good educator (researcher) "means above all to have faith in people; to believe in the possibility that they can create and change things."

Paulo Freire, 1970

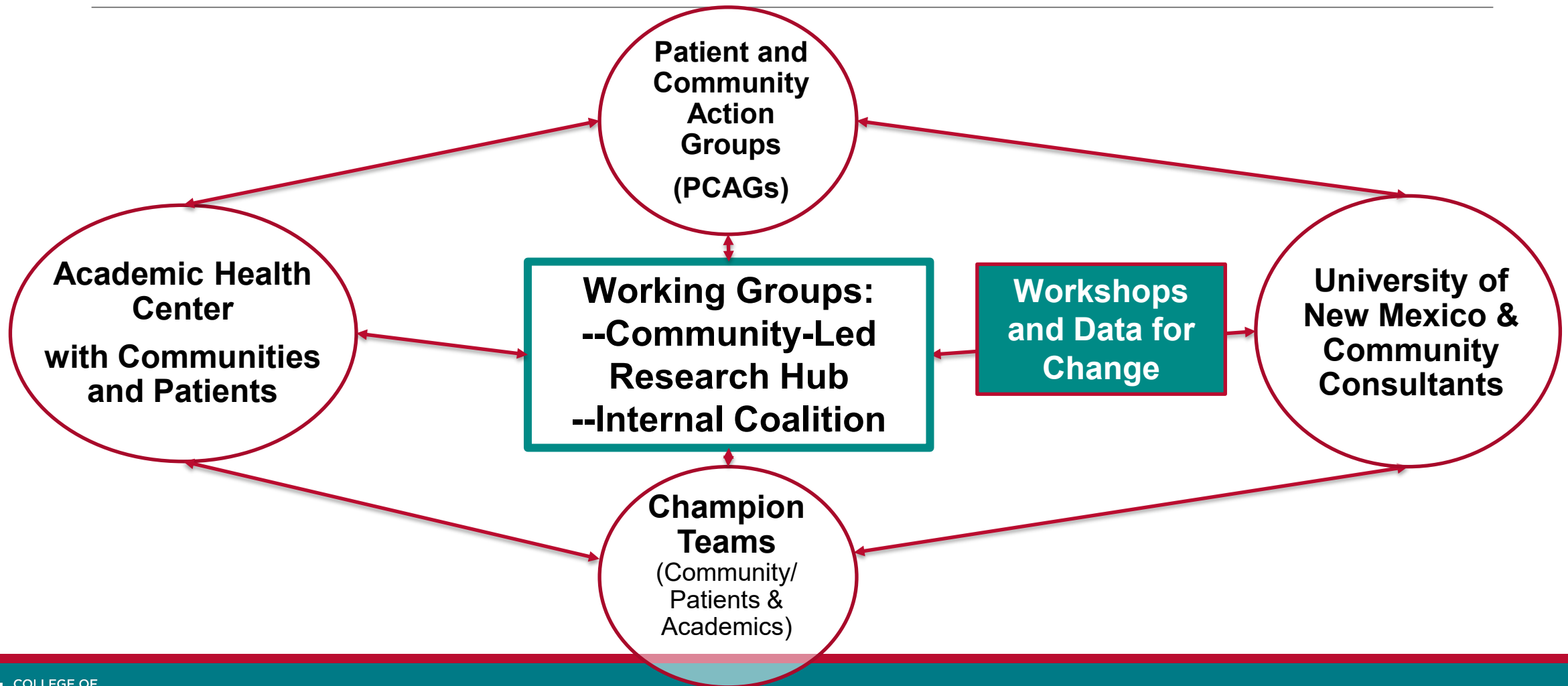
Context

Partnership

**Actions:
Interventions
/ Research**

**Health
/Social
Justice
Outcomes**

E2PLUS Co-Creation of Knowledge and Action



Workshop One-- River of Life



Data Sharing: Action Briefs

Mixed Methods Data Synopsis for Champion Team/PCAGs

E²PLUS CU ANSCHUTZ

Champion Team ACTION BRIEF

The E²PLUS project, in collaboration with CU Anschutz Champion Team, seeks to explore which factors help or hinder effective research collaboration among patients, communities, and researchers at CU Anschutz. This Action Brief summarizes early findings from the Institutional Multi-Sector Survey (IMSS) survey and from Champion Team dialogues, which highlighted action strategies to improve community engagement and drive institutional change.

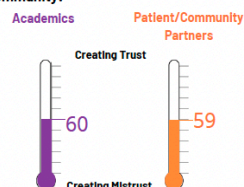
PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

The IMSS Survey gathered feedback from community members, patients, researchers, and leaders about how CU Anschutz's supports patient and community involvement in research, builds trust, and shapes its policies and practices. The Champion Team helped recruit faculty, staff, and patient/community partners to complete the survey. Check out the table to the side for a breakdown of the 65 people who responded.

PATIENTS/COMMUNITY		ACADEMICS	
CAB Member	4	Top Leaders	2
CBO/Organization	7	Faculty/Researchers	22
Community Partner	15	Other Staff	10
Practitioner or Clinician	3	Research Assistant	2
TOTAL	29	TOTAL	36

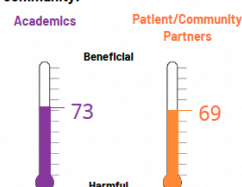
The IMSS survey asked respondents to reflect on how well CU Anschutz fosters trust and benefits the community through its research. While average scores were similar between academics and community members, their experiences differed in some areas.

The extent to which the research partnership with CU Anschutz has fostered trust within the community:



“All the [academic] performance metrics in my department are 100% [not aligned] with the [community engagement] work I do.”

The extent to which the research relationship with CU Anschutz has provided meaningful benefits to the community:



“You go into the community with the credibility of the institution, but you [still] have to establish that [trust].”

E²PLUS

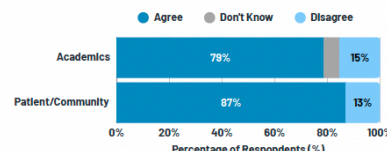
A National Study of Community and Academic Partnerships

HRRC #24-360

E²PLUS CU ANSCHUTZ CHAMPION TEAM ACTION BRIEF

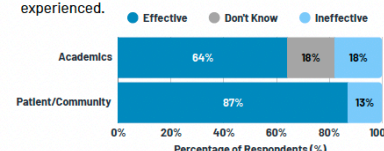
SENSE OF IMPACT

Most academics and patient or community members believe they can collaborate with others to influence policies and practices that amplify community voices in engaged research.



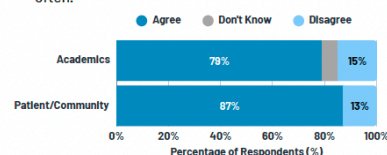
TRAINING EFFORTS IN AHC

Most academic and patient/community stakeholders believe that CU Anschutz identifies and supports research champions within the institution who have expertise in community-engaged research, helping to build connections and mentor those who are less experienced.

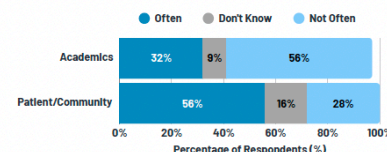


INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES & PRACTICES

Patients are more likely than academics to report that the CU Anschutz supports researchers in aligning with community needs. A notable number of respondents in both groups, however, indicated uncertainty or felt that this support is not provided often.



Patients are more likely than academics to report that CU Anschutz ensures that its top leaders are accountable for serving the community.



“The priority is set from the top level. It's being bound to funders. That prevents us from actually bringing research up from the community.”

Where do we go from here?

We can look to the Action Strategies informed by IMSS survey results and Champion Team dialogues, outlined on the next page, as a foundation for consideration of next steps.

E²PLUS

A National Study of Community and Academic Partnerships

HRRC #24-360

E²PLUS

Grupo de acción de pacientes y comunidad

Este 'Boletín de Acción' es un resumen de las conversaciones que hemos tenido como Grupo de Acción de Pacientes y Comunidad (PCAG, por sus siglas en inglés). Destaca las acciones y estrategias que hemos propuesto hasta ahora para fortalecer la participación comunitaria en la investigación institucional.

“[R]econozcan que el desarrollo de capacidades es una inversión clave. Así que, se contrata a investigadores comunitarios, y se contrata a personas de la misma comunidad, se les compensa de manera justa, se les asignan roles de liderazgo. La investigación se convierte en una herramienta para la autodeterminación, no solo en una evaluación externa. Se proporciona capacitación y mentoría continua, y se refuerzan los métodos de investigación, recolección de datos, análisis y difusión”

NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Colectivamente, últimamente hemos observado muchos desafíos en la investigación en nuestras comunidades. La inestabilidad nacional actual está generando estrés mental para muchas personas y comunidades. Pero creemos en el poder de la acción colectiva para unir a las personas por el bien común. Este es el momento para que las organizaciones comunitarias lideren los esfuerzos de investigación y apoyen a las instituciones académicas. Tenemos la oportunidad de construir y fortalecer coaliciones que trabajen hacia metas compartidas.

CU ANSCHUTZ

BOLETÍN DE ACCIÓN

NUESTRA VISIÓN

“Nuestra organización... empezando a liderar nuestra propia investigación.”



Imágenes de la manifestación "Manos Fuera" ("Hands Off") en Denver, Colorado el 5 de abril de 2025. Crédito: Michael Emery Hecker

Este PCAG reúne a defensores comunitarios experimentados, socios académicos y líderes organizacionales para discutir el panorama en constante evolución de la investigación participativa comunitaria (CBPR, por sus siglas en inglés) en el contexto actual de EE. UU. Como grupo, hemos compartido nuestras reflexiones personales y profesionales sobre cómo las dinámicas políticas cambiantes, las presiones institucionales y las necesidades de la comunidad están reconfigurando nuestro trabajo.

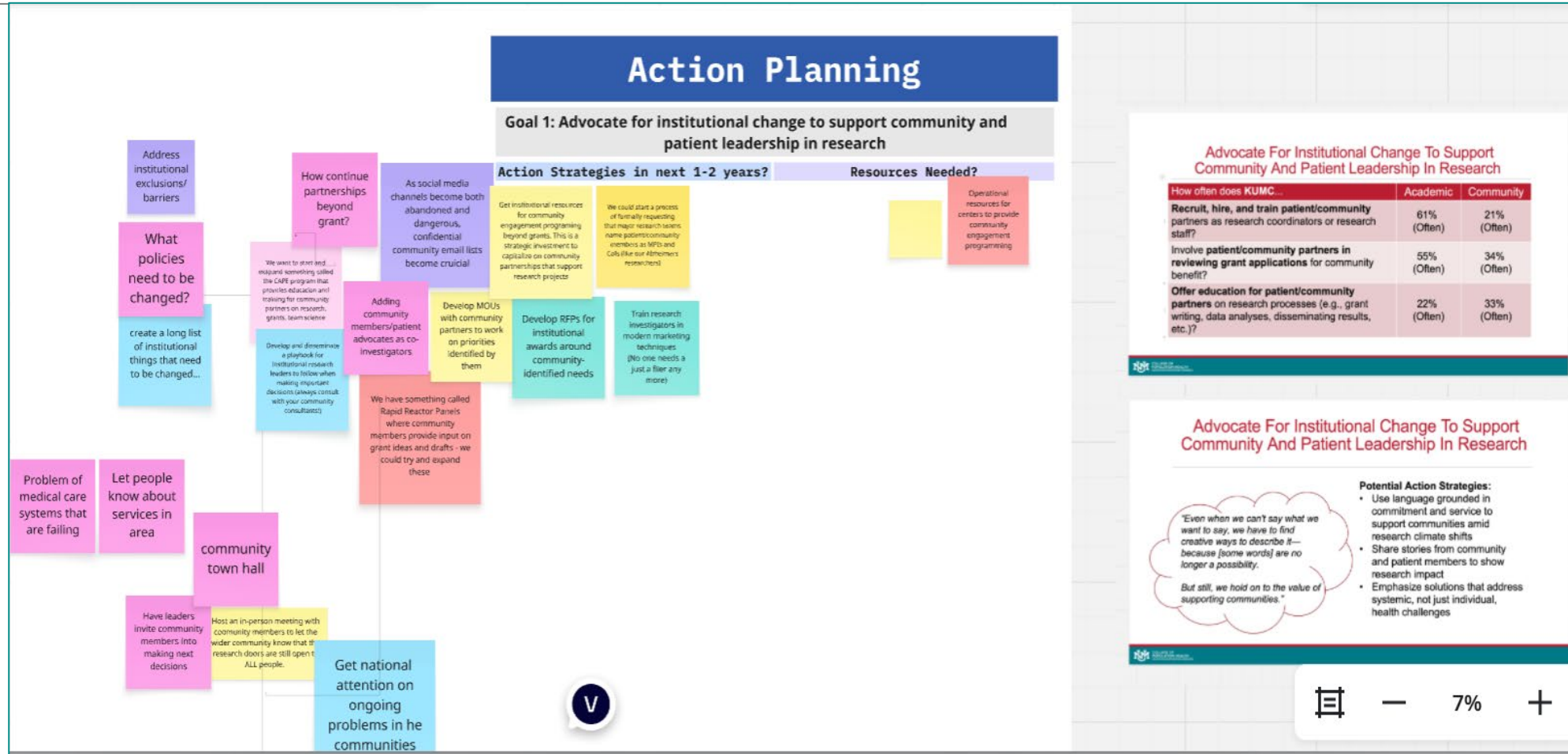
A medida que seguimos adelante, esperamos crear espacios para que las comunidades lideren la investigación, trabajando de cerca con los académicos para formar y fortalecer nuestra capacidad. Es nuestro momento para abogar por cambios en las políticas sobre quién controla la investigación, de dónde proviene los fondos y cómo se devuelve la información a la comunidad de manera significativa.

E²PLUS

A National Study of Community and Academic Partnerships

HRRC #24-360

Workshop Two for Creating Working Group: Collective Action Planning with Larger Group



Tension between Protection and Paternalism: Who is Shaping and Owning Research

Typical Thinking about Protection = Paternalism

- Protect University
- IRB: Harm / Benefit Ratio for Only Individuals
- University believes we are the only ones who should decide “who needs protection in research”

versus

Recognition of Community Knowledge and Benefit

Communities no longer seen as solely place to collect data

Lived experience no longer detached from research

Communities determine research priorities and needs

Communities see themselves as part of leadership and ownership of research effort

Community-Led Research Hub (CLRH): A North Star Goal

- ❖ Organizing process by CBO leaders over several months to develop a new coalition with principles and governance structure
- ❖ A guiding vision for stronger community-led research infrastructure to be a strong community steward of research.
- ❖ A way to make visible the tensions in community–academic partnerships.
- ❖ A frame for asking what ethical, responsive, community-shaped research could require.
- ❖ An invitation to imagine infrastructure that better reflects community ethics, knowledge, and leadership.
- ❖ A direction of travel, not yet a finalized structure.

Community-Led Research Hub (CLRH): What This North Star Points Toward

- ❖ Community stewardship and leadership.
- ❖ Shared governance and accountability.
- ❖ Trust-based, long-term partnership between academic and community eco-system.
- ❖ Trust-based, long-term partnership among community groups.
- ❖ Community-defined value and mutual benefit.
- ❖ More relevant, ethical, and responsive research.
- ❖ Many opportunities:
 - ❖ To listen to communities for their research priorities
 - ❖ To vet investigator research and assure the benefit of the research to the communities

Community-Led Research Hub (CLRH): A North Star Goal

New Coalition of Community Organizations to be the Stewards of Research

- This idea had been under discussion by community leaders in previous years
- Reinforced again with E2PLUS support in year two

Organizational structure for CLRH under development

- Recognition of the importance of PACT in support of communities
- Need to define relationship of CLRH and PACT

Summary: Closing Implications

What we hope we take away

- ❖ Communities are systems, not just participant pools
- ❖ Engagement must include shared power and accountability
- ❖ Outcomes should be defined with communities
- ❖ Ethical research must protect participants, communities, and academic-community partnerships
- ❖ Strong ecosystems require community-led infrastructure

What institutional responsiveness requires:

- ❖ seeing context
- ❖ valuing relationships
- ❖ sharing power
- ❖ measuring community-relevant outcomes
- ❖ investing in long-term partnership structures

Summary – National Environment

E2PLUS working with community-led efforts

- Seeking to confront tensions and develop ongoing working groups that strengthen the community-academic eco-system

Other sites:

Working on Mental Health and Women's Cancer Issues along the border

Developing new community coalitions across counties and populations

Developing multi-sector community forums: bringing together rural and urban

**YOU CAN'T DO
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
ON A DEADLINE...
BECAUSE TRUST
CAN'T GO ON
A GANTT CHART**

Thanks to our COPH faculty and community partners!

PCORI Engagement Award



FRED HUTCHINSON
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
CANCER CONSORTIUM



PCORI Science of Engagement Award



Medical Center



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW MEXICO



PennState
College of Medicine



New Mexico Tribal Partners



Think Tank of Community and Academic CBPR Practitioners

