

Clinical Research in Primary Care: A Public Workshop

June 7, 2024

Welcome

Tara A. Schwetz, Ph.D.

NIH Deputy Director for Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives

Director of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI) in the NIH Office of the Director

Communities Advancing Research Equity for Health

“Clinical trials should reflect the diversity of Americans – because we know that delivers the best results. We are taking a big step towards ensuring communities that are historically underrepresented in clinical research are fully included and have the same access to the best available results and analysis. There has never been more potential for progress than we have today.”

- HHS Secretary, Xavier Becerra



EDITORIAL

Connecting lab, clinic, and community

Despite gains made in biomedical research, the health of the US population appears to be lagging behind. The United States spends substantially more per capita on health care than other wealthy countries, yet US life expectancy ranks low among its peers. Mortality rates have been increasing for segments of the US population, including those in rural areas, certain racial and ethnic groups, and individuals with low socioeconomic status. A whole-of-society approach is required to address such complex trends and disparities, and the biomedical research enterprise must play a key role.

To better understand relationships between the genes we inherit and the environmental and societal factors that surround us and to deliver more evidence-driven health care, researchers must be empowered into clinical care and community settings, reaching patients from all walks of life. Studies must research genetic, primary care, and community-centered and emphasize health maintenance and preventive care alongside treatment and rehabilitation in a location as convenient as possible for the patient. Communities Advancing Research Equity (CARE) for Health is a new National Institutes of Health (NIH) research network in primary care settings, which will expand beyond the existing capacity of clinical researchers to engage patients and communities that are currently not well represented in clinical research. By engaging more primary care providers serving acute communities, expanding health disparities, the CARE for Health network will address common health issues, including obesity, mental health, persistent pain, and genetic research.

Beyond their existing role as a source of studies determined by researchers, the network will offer a wider menu of studies, allowing more patients and providers more choice to participate in, and influence, those studies most relevant to their needs and the needs of their communities. Studies will place particular emphasis on evaluating new treatment and prevention approaches that are meaningful to underserved populations. The network will focus on research on disease prevention, health care implementation, and intervention development, as well as trials with multipurpose endpoints and those designed to improve the utility of care delivery. Primary care providers will receive support to advance research aims, including funding and study designs that improve research outcomes among clinical care settings.

“...the network will offer a wider menu of studies...”

and remote data collection in electronic health records. The CARE for Health network will leverage many existing resources, such as the Health Equity Research Promotion Centers, which offer services for underserved populations, and several existing NIH research initiatives and networks, including the Data Clinical & Translational Research Network Award program, which supports biomedical research capacity building in areas that have historically low levels of NIH funding.

A second initiative will establish NIH's National Library of Medicine (NLM) as a central point to coordinate data sharing and use and to advance health-related data science. Rapid growth in biomedical data, together with new artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) methods, promises to deliver transformative tools and research insights. NIH's Data Management and Sharing Policy requires that all new funding proposals include a data accessibility plan to promote data sharing. But full implementation of this policy requires new approaches and resources that cut across data from genomics across the Department of Health and Human Services. It will establish a federated architecture to allow independent research teams to deliver data in ways that reduce complexity, reduce minimal cost to access, and foster flexibility and agility in data exchange using open data standards. NLM will promote access to data from diverse populations to facilitate ethical and equitable development of AI/ML, expanding on current NIH programs such as Artificial Intelligence and Research Diversity, and Bridge to Artificial Intelligence. NLM will also enable access to advanced analytics and computational power by fostering collaboration between computational biology molecular biology, drug development, and translational, clinical, and social genomic research. Existing NIH efforts providing data access, education and resource development will expand.

These initiatives will help translate scientific discoveries into effective health care and will receive not only support from NIH but commitment from the biomedical research community, other governmental agencies, health care systems, and private citizens who participate in research.

—Monica M. Bertagnolli

Monica M. Bertagnolli is director of the National Institute of Health, National Library of Medicine.

NEWS RELEASES

Thursday, June 6, 2024

NIH launches \$30 million pilot to test feasibility of a national primary care research network

Initiative aims to improve health outcomes by integrating research in everyday primary care settings.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is investing approximately \$30 million in total over fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to pilot a national primary care research network that integrates clinical research with community-based primary care. The new initiative called **Communities Advancing Research Equity for Health – or CARE for Health** – seeks to improve access to clinical research to inform medical care, particularly for those in communities historically underrepresented in clinical research or underserved in health care. Informed by the health needs of these

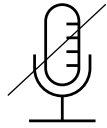


Read the announcement

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
10:00 AM	Welcome & Our Vision for Communities Advancing Research Equity (CARE) for Health
10:20 AM	Overview of Listening Sessions: <i>What We Heard</i>
10:35 AM	Panel Discussion 1: <i>Visions of Success from Providers and Patients</i>
11:15 AM	Panel Discussion 2: <i>Visions of Success from Networks and Feds</i>
11:55 AM	The Path Forward for CARE for Health
12:10 PM	Open Q&A

Housekeeping



All participants except the speakers and panelists will be **muted**



Questions are welcome using the **Q&A function** and can be submitted **anonymously**.
Questions will be answered during the panel discussions and the Open Q&A



The Workshop will be **recorded**

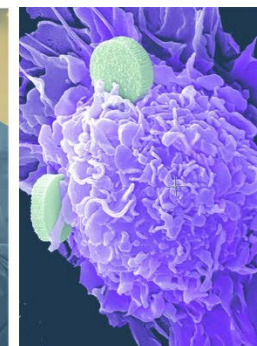
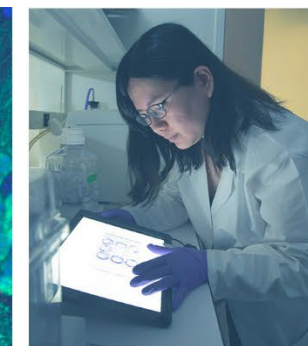
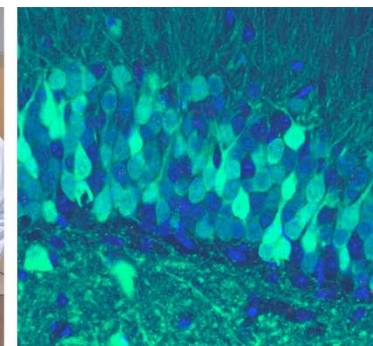
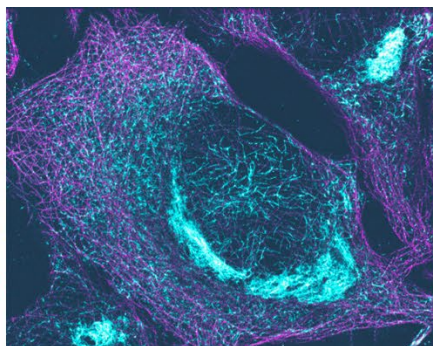
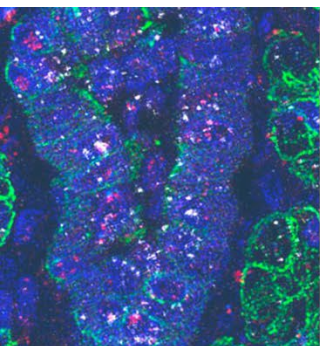


The Workshop recording and slides will be **posted on the [CARE for Health website](#)**



Our Vision for Communities Advancing Research Equity (CARE) for Health™

Clinical Research in Primary Care: A Public Workshop
June 7, 2024



Monica M. Bertagnoli, MD
Director, National Institutes of Health



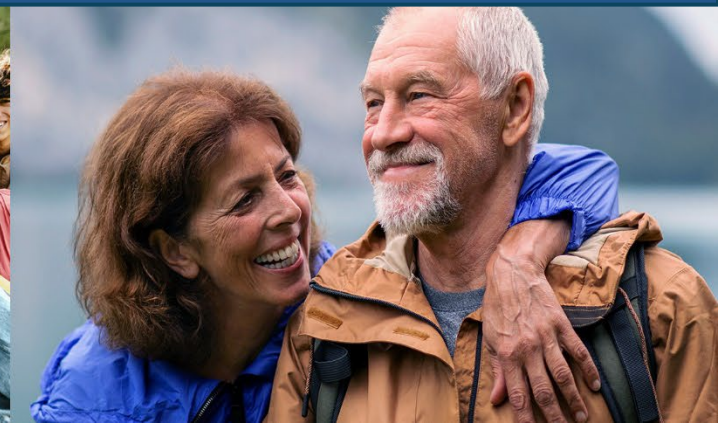
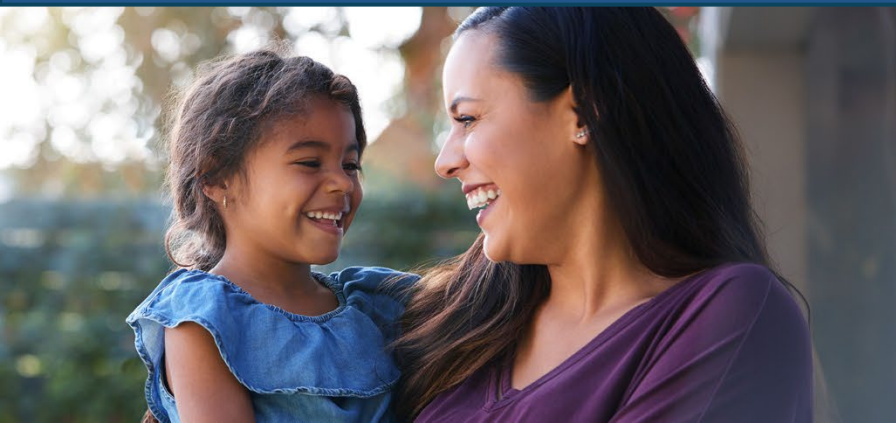


Our work is not finished when we deliver scientific discoveries, our work is finished when all people are living long and healthy lives.



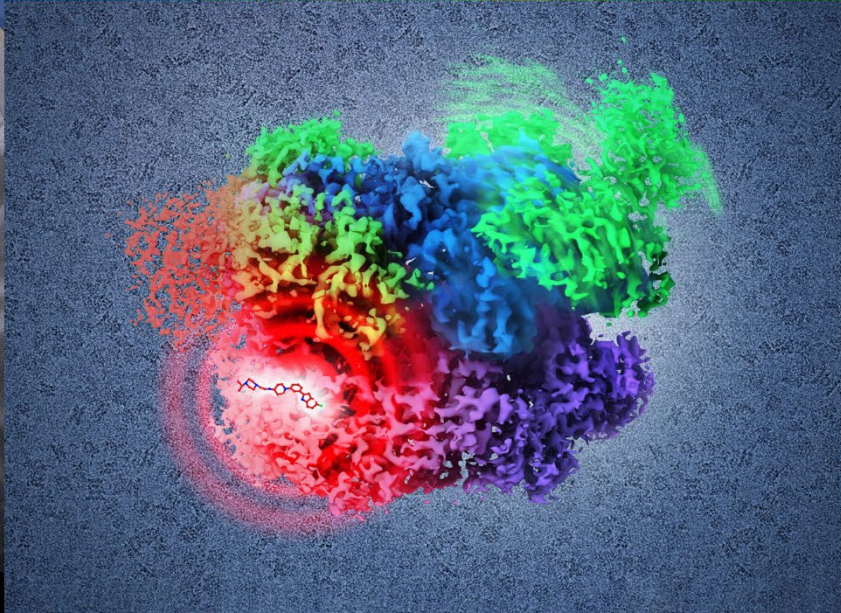
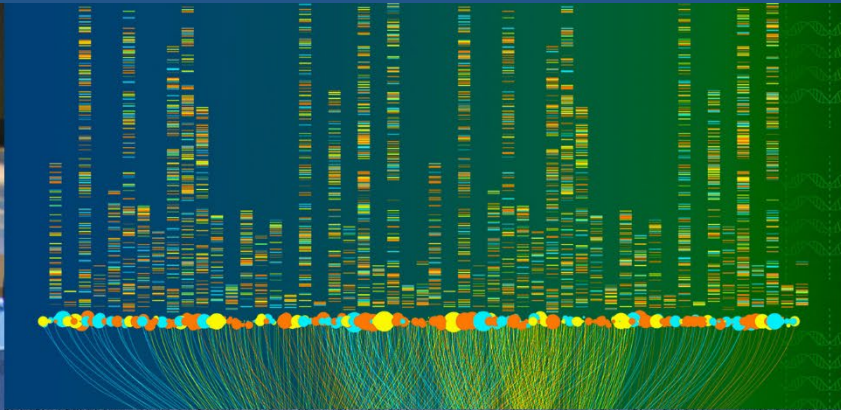


NIH research encompasses the laboratory, the clinic, and the community.





Progress is accelerated when advanced scientific methods, such as new data analytics, are applied to data that includes everyone, and when new discoveries are rapidly and equitably adopted in clinical care.

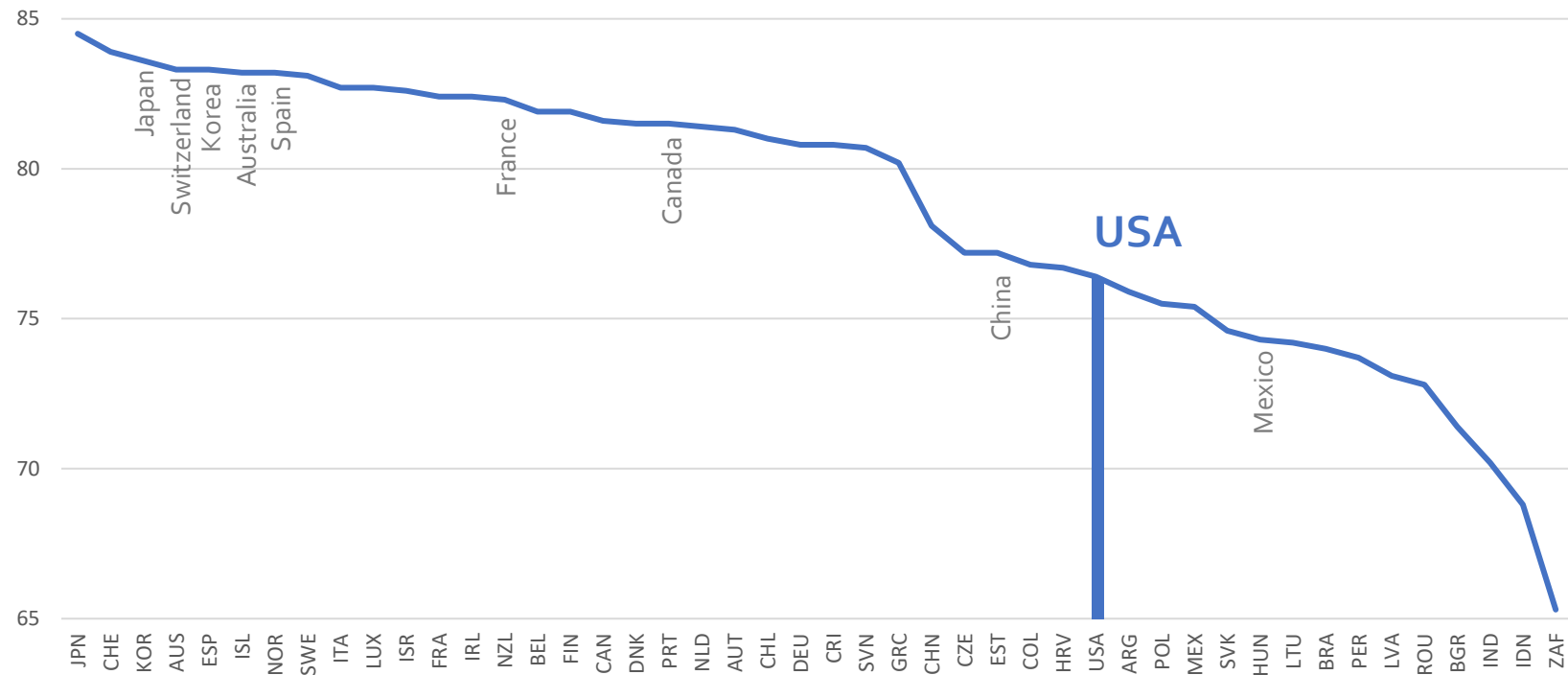




Disturbing trends in the health of the U.S. population

U.S. life expectancy ranks low among peers

2021 Life Expectancy Throughout World³



Concerning U.S. life expectancy trends:

- Declined 2014–2017¹
- Dropped significantly—2.4 years—between 2019 and 2021²
- Increased in 2022 by 1.1 years; gain does not make up for pandemic losses.²

(1) National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2021. *High and Rising Mortality Rates Among Working-Age Adults*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25976>.

(2) Arias E, Kochanek KD, Xu JQ, Tejada-Vera B. Provisional life expectancy estimates for 2022. Vital Statistics Rapid Release; no 31. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. November 2023. <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:133703>.

(3) Chart data: OECD (2024), Life expectancy at birth (indicator). DOI: 10.1787/27e0fc9d-en (Accessed on 10 January 2024)

A woman with glasses and a lab coat is shown in profile, looking towards the left. The background is a blue-tinted collage of scientific data visualizations, including a large circular chart with concentric rings and numerical labels (170, 190, 200, 210, 130, 140, 150, 120, 110, 100, 090, 080, 070, 060, 050, 040) and a bar chart on the left side. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and data-driven.

What Should NIH Do?

Connect research to primary care



Preparations for Launch

- Listening sessions
 - Patients
 - Community Groups
 - Primary Care Providers
 - Hospital Systems
 - Research Networks
 - Federal Agencies



Communities Advancing Research Equity for Health

CARE for Health™

Integrate
research into
the clinical care
environment

Engender trust in
science by
addressing
community needs

Achieve longitudinal collection of clinical
data to address health across the lifespan

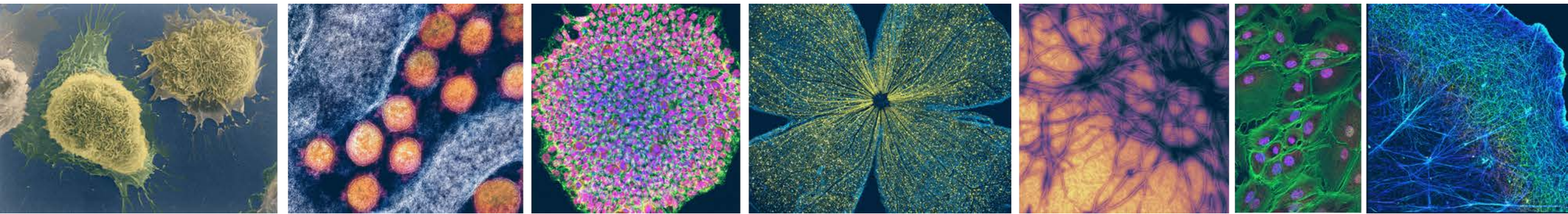
Conduct research addressing
issues important to diverse
communities, particularly
those underrepresented in
biomedical research

Reduce burden on providers
using innovative data
collection methods

Increase
adherence to
evidence-
based care

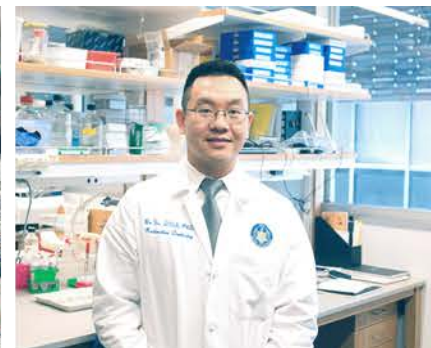
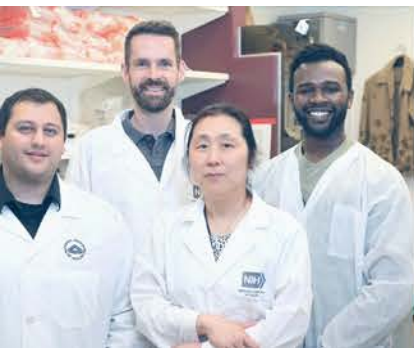
Improve
efficiency
of care
delivery





NIH

Turning Discovery Into Health



Overview of Listening Sessions: What We Heard

Joni Rutter, Ph.D.

Director, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

We Hosted 4 Listening Sessions in Spring 2024



Listening Session 1: Early, Sustained Engagement of Patients and Community Organizations



Listening Session 2: Clinical Research Network Capabilities



Listening Session 3: Needs of Providers and Healthcare Systems for Research Participation



Listening Session 4: Clinical Research Innovations to Reduce Site and Provider Burden

The listening sessions engaged **78** unique participants with perspectives from:

- Research Networks
- Hospital Systems
- Primary Care Providers and Organizations
- Patient and Community Organizations
- Federal Agencies

What We Heard



**Bridging Gaps
and Building
Connections**



**Accounting for
Provider Needs
in Research
Integration**



**Balancing
Financial
Implications of
Research
Involvement**

For more details on the Listening Sessions, please review the executive summary posted on the CARE for Health website



Bridging Gaps and Building Connection

Building Sustainable and Effective Partnerships



Transition from episodic to continuous engagement



Build and maintain capacity through mentorship, administrative support, and sustained staffing



Maintain ongoing relationships (including financially) with local community partners

Demonstrating Trustworthiness Through Balanced and Bi-directional Partnerships



Co-develop and shape the research agenda



Trust and consistency stem from a deep-seated physical community presence



Active observation to understand and meet community needs

Understanding the Diverse Needs of Communities



There is no “one size fits all”; adapt research engagement approaches



Raise provider and researcher cultural competency and enhance community literacy



Implement decentralized research studies to increase participation

Accounting for Provider Needs in Research Integration

Aligning Practice Needs and Research Structures



Establish relationships with entire clinical team and stakeholders



Enhance information access to relevant clinical trials for patients



Communication and flexible research designs address misalignment between pace of research and pace of care

Considering the Workload of Health Care Providers



Account for the clinical team's routine operations



Provide research support and resources for administrative tasks

Reducing Burden with Innovative Study Design and Technology



Novel research allow exploration of questions and interventions relevant to patient care



Artificial Intelligence, common data models, and data tokenization can simplify research process



Consultation with providers should inform how technology is integrated into research

Balancing Financial Implications of Research Involvement

Addressing Financial Sustainability



Ensure funding is adaptable to meet care and local needs



Consider revenue impact on providers and explore ways to provide financial remuneration for time spent on research

Valuing Patient and Community Contributions



Patient and communities should be included in the decision-making process, to effectively co-create



Existing funding structures pose challenges to compensate community organizations



Individuals and community organizations deserve equitable compensation

Panel Discussion: Visions of Success from Providers and Patients

Moderated By: Felicia Qashu, Ph.D.

Program Leader, Office of Strategic Coordination

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Common Fund

Visions of Success from Providers and Patient Organizations



Dr. Sally Hodder

Mountaineer Health Initiative



Dr. Fornessa Randal

*Asian Health Coalition;
Pennsylvania State College of
Medicine's Center for Advancing
Health Equity in Rural and
Underserved Communities*



Dr. Meagan Stabler

*Northern New England CO-
OP Practice & Community
Based Research Network*



Mr. Silas Buchanan

Our Healthy Community

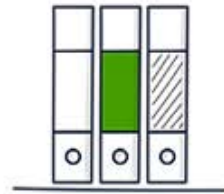
Community-first looks like this.



Community-vetted materials and campaigns



Equitable partnerships with the healthcare industry



Educational content

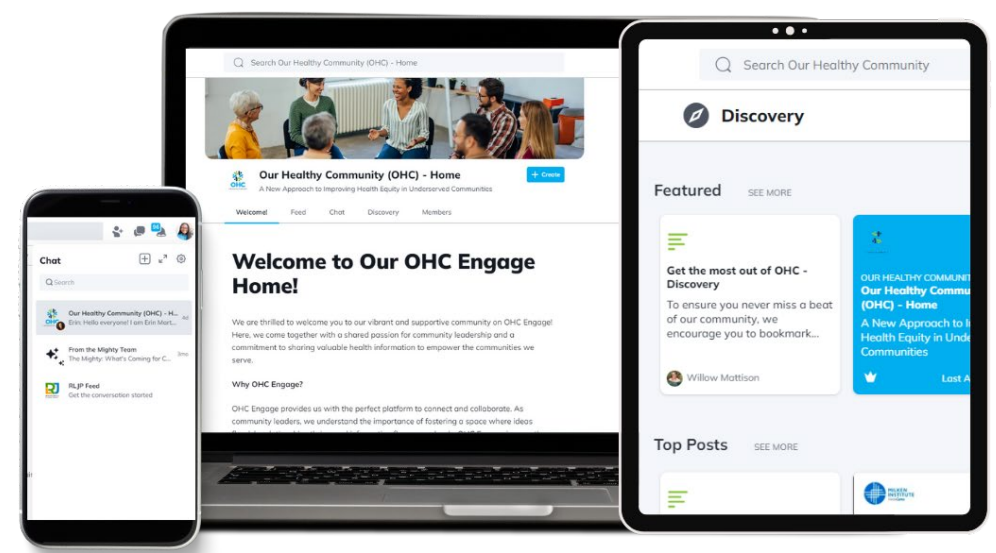


Co-developed resources

ENGAGE

Powered by  OHC

In OHCEngage, we bring community organizations together to share resources, address health disparities, converse with healthcare stakeholders, and foster dialogue and collaboration.



Connect and collaborate with others, sharing successes along the way



Join regional groups, with events and programming in your own backyard



Connect with organizations for research, collaboration, and innovation



Welcome to Cohort 1

Curious about who's in your cohort?

- Ana Colic, sasavanaa@gmail.com
- Mercedes Doss, mercedesdoss@yahoo.com
- Erin Marten, emarten@solacehealth.org
- Shrividya Readamill, shrividya110@gmail.com
- Rhondala Jackson-Bizuneh, rjbizuneh@birthingbeautiful.org
- Mary Louise Tatum, mtatum1@kent.edu

Faculty Partner: Rachel Dudley, PhD, rachel.dudley@utoledo.edu

BRACE Navigator: Carey Gibbons, gibbons@neoch.org

Please ensure you've sent your completed vendor form to receive your stipend to Zina Hempstead (zxh@case.edu). Need a copy? Please see below.



Supplier-Form-2021.pdf



Scan to join us on **ENGAGE**

Powered by  **OHC**



Silas Buchanan, Founder & CEO
Our Healthy Community
sbuchanan@ourhealthycommunity.com

Integrating Clinical Research in Primary Care Settings

Dr. Fornessa T Randal, EdD, MCRP
Director, CAHE-RUC
Executive Director, Asian Health Coalition
PI, All of Us Research Program, NCEP

Primary Care and The Community

Deliver the Right Care and the Right Time
(New Mexico)

Address issues of a “Whole Person” not a “study participant”
(Illinois)

Provider Cultural Competency to drive Better Health
(Pennsylvania)

Pathways to Research through Multisector
Collaboration
(California)

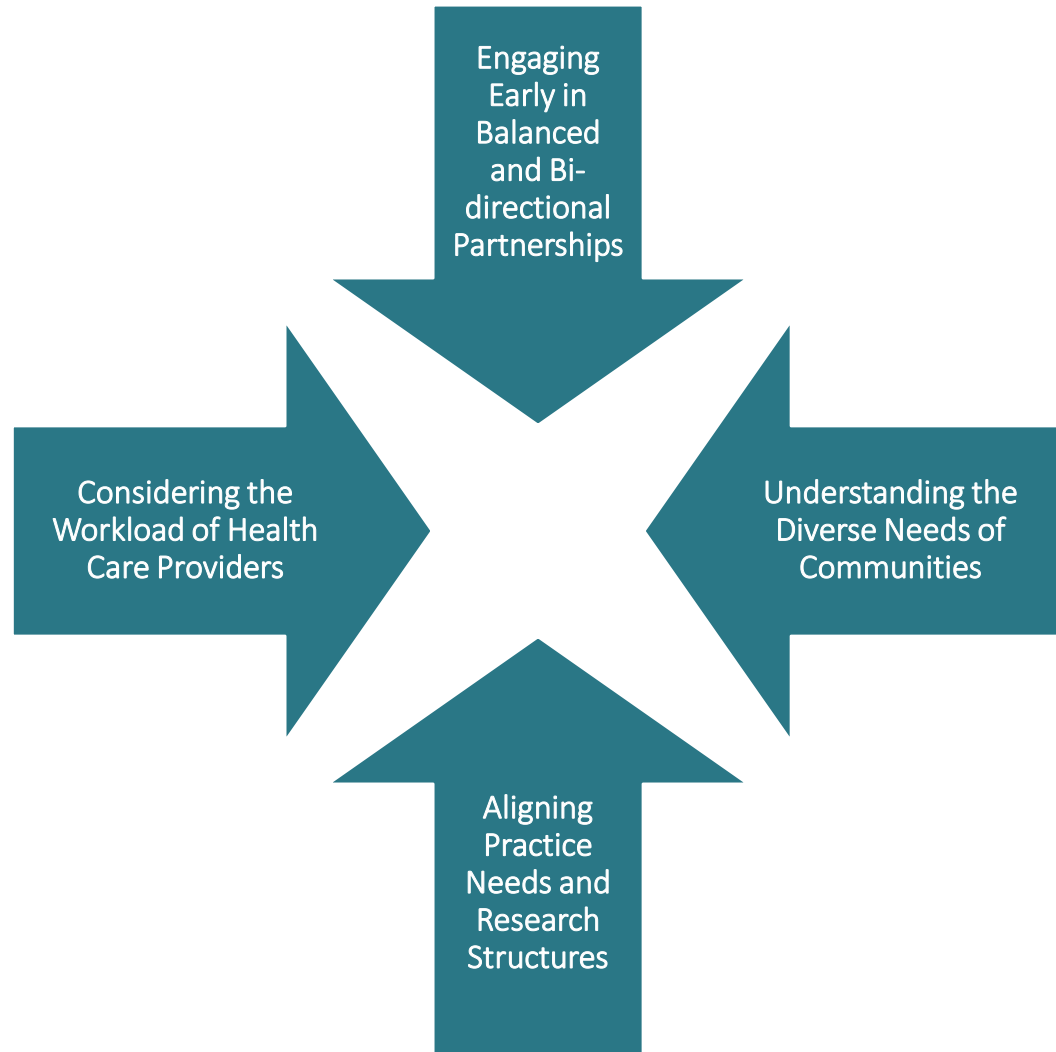


Seifert, B., Volckaert, A. E., Flaherty, E., & Pepin, R. L. Bridging the gap between primary care and community-based organizations to address complex care needs of older adults. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 72, S21-S25. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.18670>

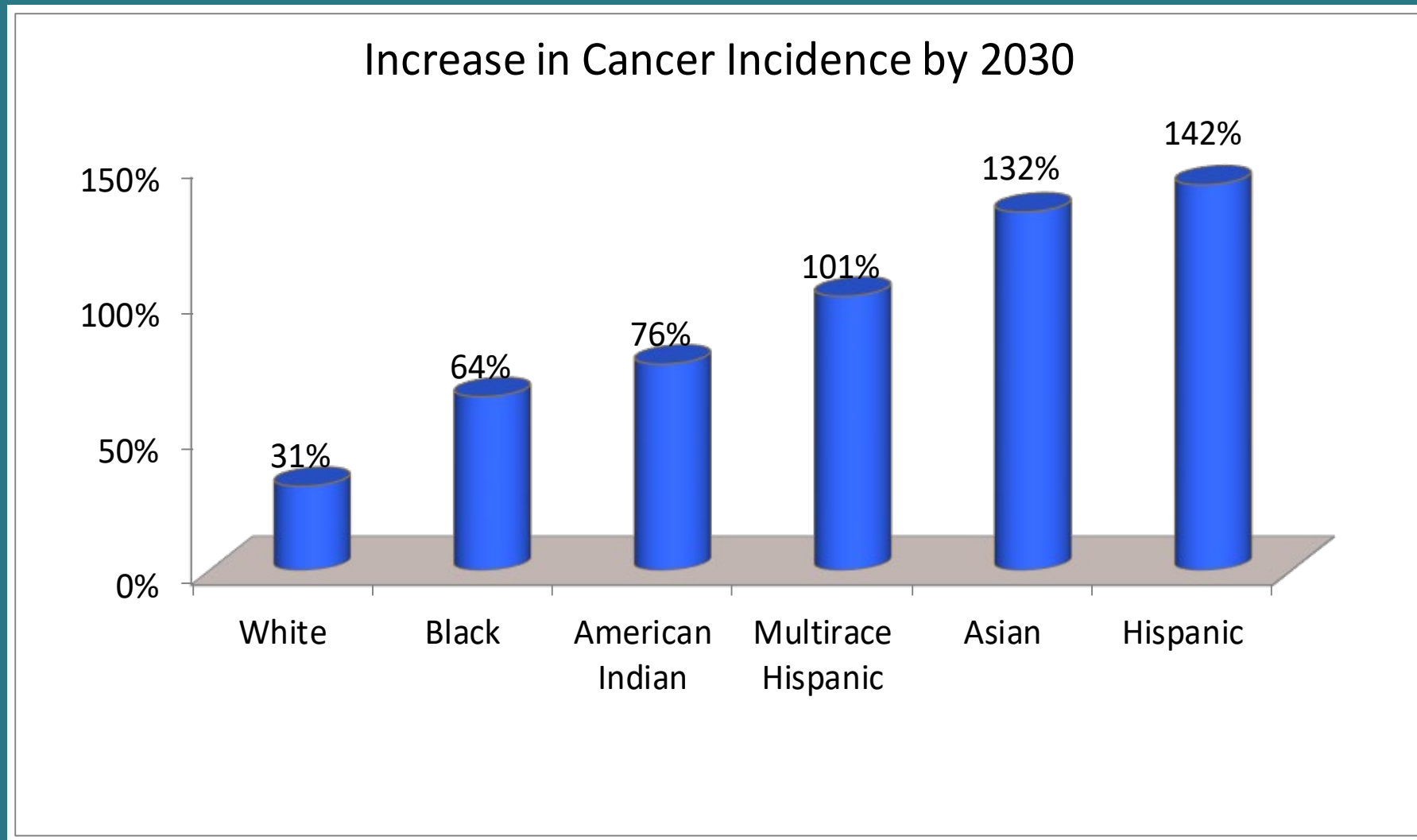
Murnik, M., Randal, F., Guevara, M., Skipper, B., & Kaufman, A. (2006). Web-based primary care referral program associated with reduced emergency department utilization. *FAMILY MEDICINE-KANSAS CITY-*, 38(3), 185

Randal, F. T., Lozano, P., Qi, S., Maene, C., Shah, S., Mo, Y., Ratsimbazafy, F., Boerwinkle, E., Cicek, M., & Clark, C. R. (2023). Achieving a Representative Sample of Asian Americans in Biomedical Research Through Community-Based Approaches: Comparing Demographic Data in the All of Us Research Program With the American Community Survey. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 34(1), 59-67.

Building Sustainable & Effective Clinical Research Partnerships



Clinical Integration reduces disease burden: Who is most at risk?



Panel Discussion: Visions of Success from Networks and Federal Agencies

Moderated By: Tara Schwetz, Ph.D.

Visions of Success from Networks and Federal Agencies



Dr. Adrian Hernandez
*Duke Clinical Research
Institute*



Dr. Melinda Davis
*Oregon Rural Practice-based
Research Network*



Dr. Jannette Dupuy
*Health Resources and Services
Administration (HRSA)*



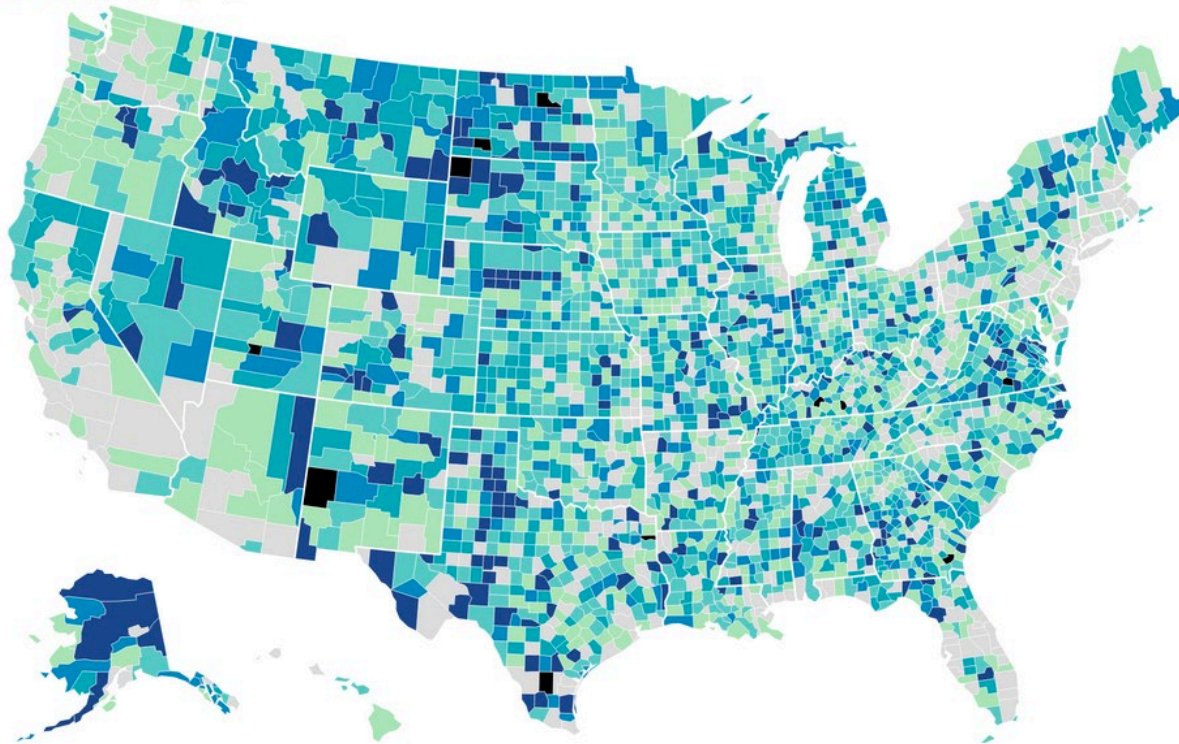
Dr. Aimee Eden
*Agency for Healthcare Research
& Quality (AHRQ)*

The Problem: Covering Clinical Trial Deserts

Healthcare Deserts, County by County

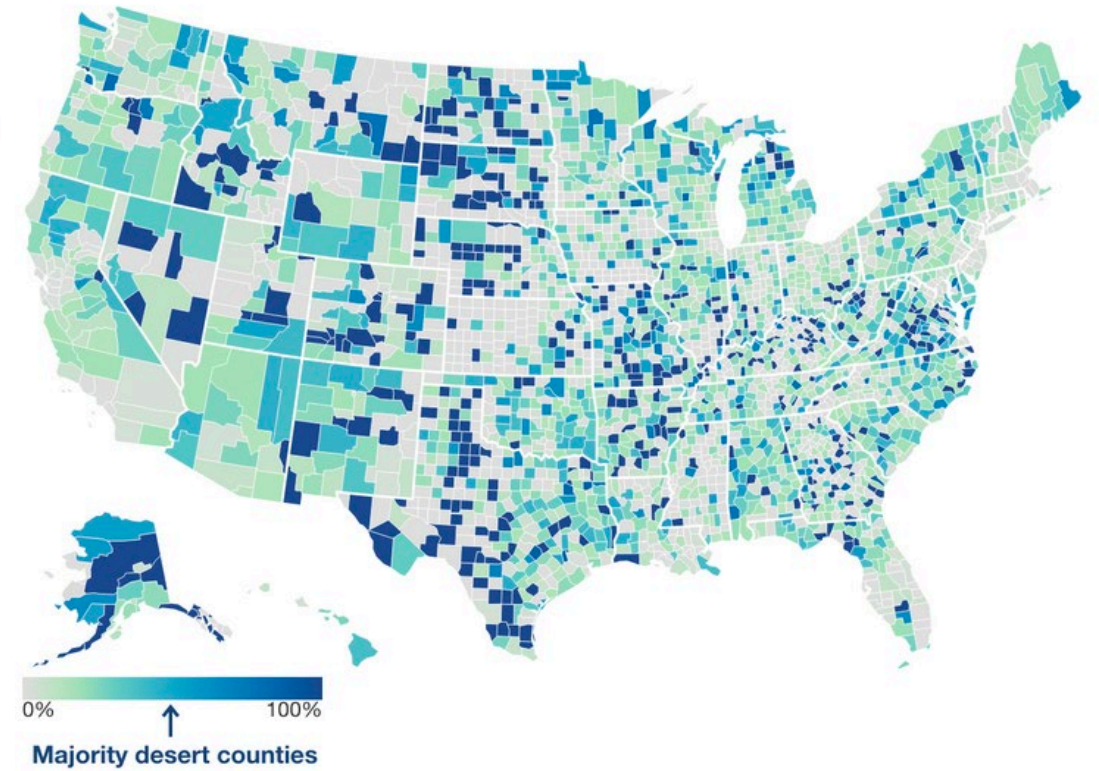
Counties where most people lack adequate access to pharmacies, primary care providers, hospitals, hospital beds, trauma centers, and/or low-cost health centers.

Number of healthcare deserts



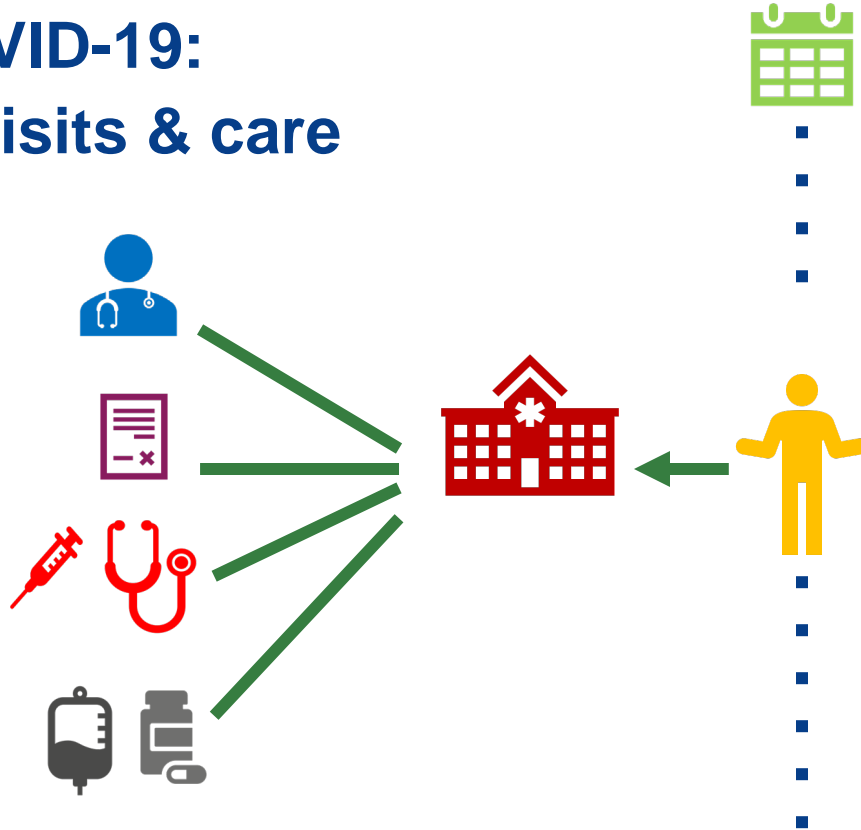
Population Living in a Hospital Desert

Percent of county's population living over 30 minutes from the closest hospital.

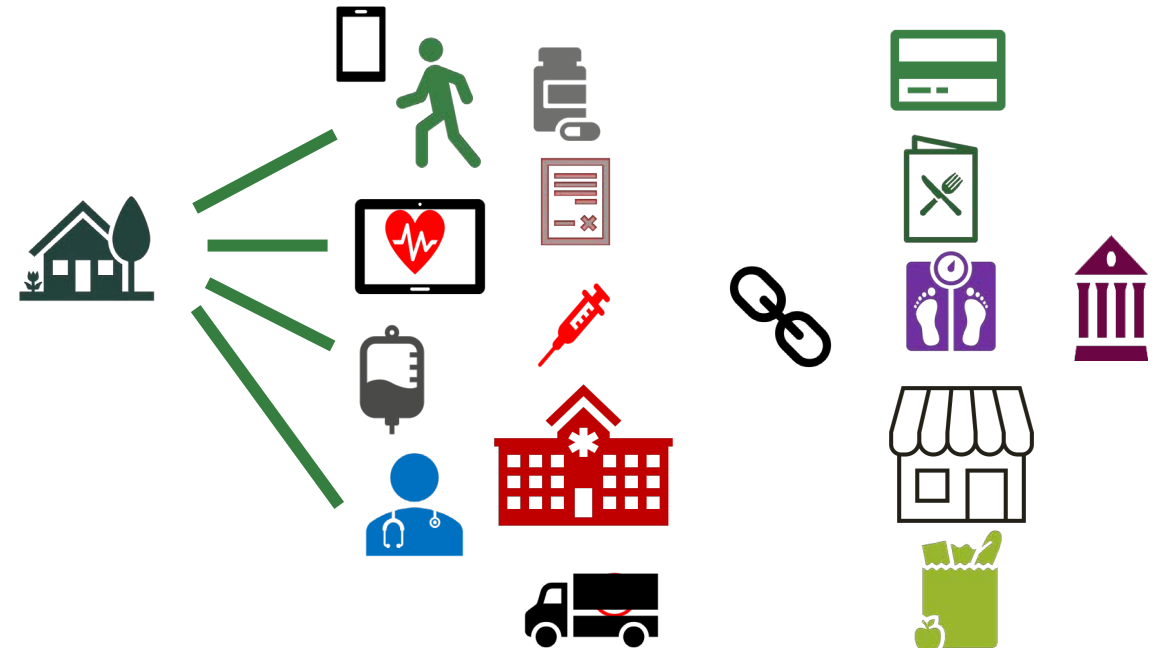


A Changed World of Possibilities

**Pre-COVID-19:
Site based visits & care**



**The Possibilities:
@Clinic, @Home w/EMR + Digital**



CTTI

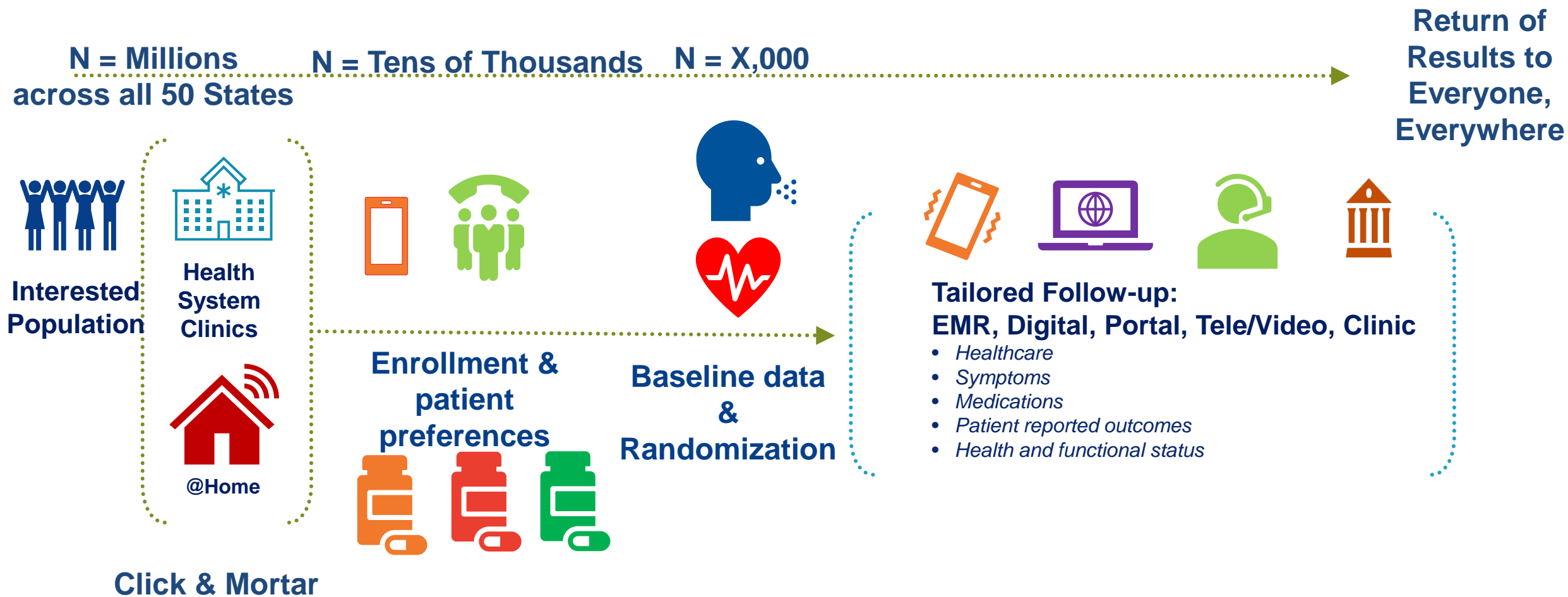


Duke Clinical Research Institute

<https://ctti-clinicaltrials.org>

Art of Possible into Reality

Click and Mortar Model for Pragmatic Clinical Trial Platform



Definition of “primary care research”

Research conducted for the purpose of better understanding or improving primary care (as defined by NASEM 2021). It is research that is

- a) conducted in a primary care setting;
- b) about primary care patients, clinicians, or teams;
- c) on a topic that is integral to, or has direct implications for, the delivery of primary care.



**NATIONAL CENTER
FOR EXCELLENCE IN
PRIMARY CARE RESEARCH**

Primary Care Practice-based Research Networks (PBRNs)

AHRQ defines PBRNs as “groups of primary care clinicians and practices working together to answer community-based health care questions and translate research findings into practice.”

Coverage of Networks



CARE for Health: the Path Forward

Amy Patterson, M.D.

Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives
(DPCPSI)

Establishing an NIH Network for Research in Primary Care Settings

Coordinated infrastructure that embeds innovative research into routine clinical care in primary care settings, that will...

- Support primary care-based clinical research in mission areas **spanning prevention and treatment** and with a **focus on health equity and whole person health**
- Establish a foundation for **sustained engagement with communities underrepresented** in clinical research
- Implement **innovative study designs suitable for primary care settings** that address common health issues and inform clinical practice and enhance dissemination and implementation

...thereby facilitating and accelerating research advances for adoption and implementation into everyday clinical care, improving health outcomes, and advancing health equity for all Americans.

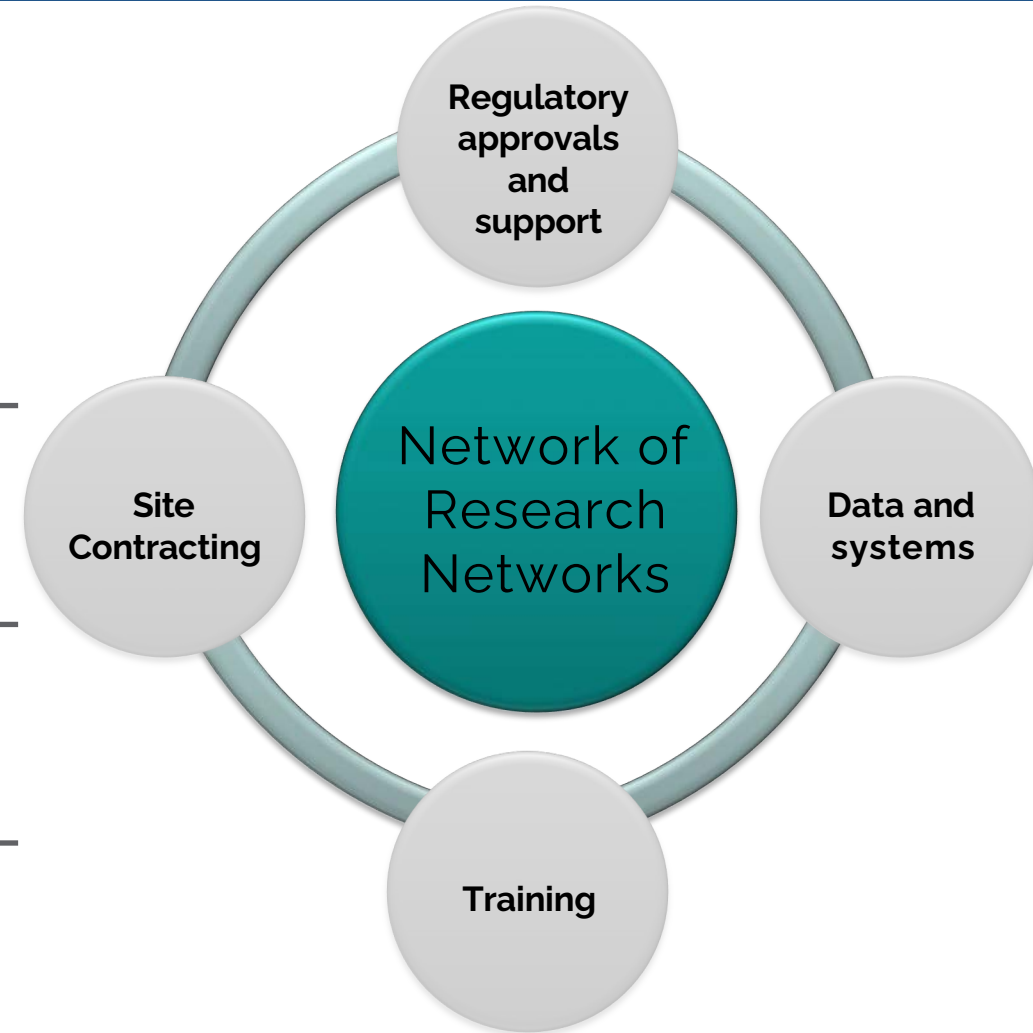
Approach

Expand enrollment efforts of existing NIH studies and pilot new studies as the infrastructure is established

Partner with existing clinical research networks and resources, expanding with new collaborations as the network grows

Engage primary care sites and community network partners on prioritizing and planning research

Implement study designs across the landscape of clinical trial innovations to minimize burden on patients and providers



**Practice-based and
Patient-centered**

**Research
prioritization
and planning**

**Clinical study
innovations**

**Sustained
community
engagement**

Potential Synergistic Partnerships



IDeA | Clinical and Translational Research

NIH CEAL
Community Engagement Alliance

CTSA Clinical & Translational Science Awards Program

 **NIH Collaboratory**
Health Care Systems Research Collaboratory

 **pcornet**
The National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network



Patients, Communities

Community Health Centers

Federally Qualified Health Centers

CARE for Health Partners

Professional Societies

Federal Agencies

Practice Based Research Networks

HRSA
Health Resources & Services Administration

OASH | Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

FDA **U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION**



CMS
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES



Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

NIH National Institutes of Health

CARE for Health Leadership



**CARE for Health Oversight
Committee Co-Chair**

Helene Langevin, M.D.

*Director, National Center for
Complementary and Integrative
Health (NCCIH)*



**CARE for Health Oversight
Committee Co-Chair**

Joni Rutter, Ph.D.

*Director, National Center for
Advancing Translational
Sciences (NCATS)*



**CARE for Health Oversight
Committee Co-Chair**

**Debara Tucci, M.D., M.S.,
M.B.A.**

*Director, National Institute on
Deafness and Other
Communication Disorders
(NIDCD)*



**CARE for Health Oversight
Committee Ex-Officio**

Tara Schwetz, Ph.D.

*NIH Deputy Director for
Program Coordination,
Planning, and Strategic
Initiatives*

Timeline & Budget



Spring 2024: Obtain perspectives from external partners to inform planning for the network

- Listening sessions and public workshop



Quick Launch in 2024: Expand existing NIH-funded studies to increase engagement with underrepresented rural populations and to enhance accrual and collaboration

- Research Opportunity Announcement published May 6, 2024
- Common Fund Program with an anticipated budget of \$5M in FY24



Expand in 2025 and Beyond: Launch new studies across the network and further establish and solidify the network infrastructure and expand to additional populations

- Anticipated budget: \$25M in FY25; anticipate ramp up of \$50-100M/year after assessing feasibility and budget requirements



Network Research Hubs: Objectives



Research in Primary Care Settings in Collaboration with Clinical Sites on Select Existing NIH-Funded Studies and New Studies



Participant and Community Engagement



Innovations in Clinical Study Design



Participation in Coordinated Infrastructure Supporting Research in Primary Care Settings

Infrastructure to Embed Research into Primary Care

Infrastructure components anticipated to be piloted and implemented



Network Research Hubs



Clinical Science Center



Operations Center



Independent Review
and Monitoring Boards



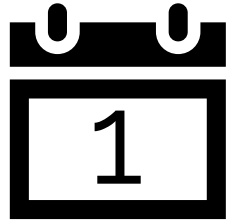
Community Engagement



Industry Partnerships

Phased Approach to Launching Studies and Building Infrastructure

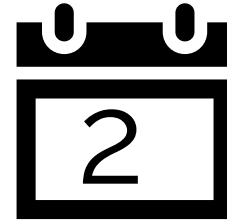
This effort is expected to be a **two-year pilot**



Year 1

Fund Network Research Hubs

That will participate in selected existing studies. These studies may be interventional or observational and are expected to be suitable for primary care settings



Year 2

Conduct New Research

In coordination with the other components of the infrastructure

Perform a Program Evaluation

Before the end of year two, NIH will evaluate which approaches and efforts are working for broader implementation

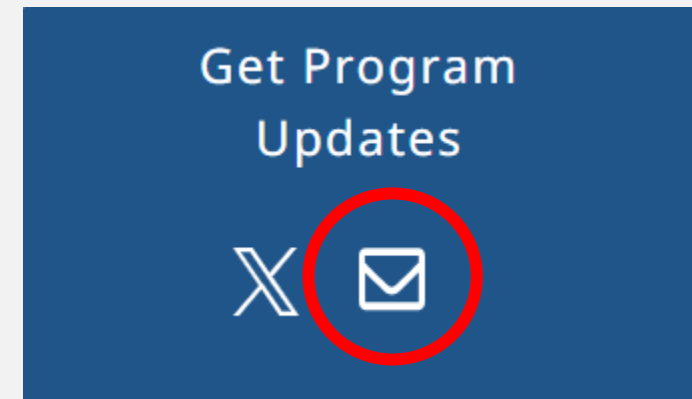
CARE for Health: Information Resources

Additional resources can be accessed via the CARE for Health website:



- ✓ Research Opportunity Announcement (ROA)
- ✓ Technical Assistance Webinar Recording and Slides
- ✓ Listening Session Executive Summary

To stay up-to-date on program activities, please sign up for the listserv:



The listserv registration button can be found on the left side of the CARE for Health website

Open Question and Answer

Moderated By: Tara A. Schwetz, Ph.D. and Amy Patterson, M.D.

Stay in Touch!

For program updates, please visit **go.nih.gov/CARE-for-Health**. You can also sign up to join our listserv.

Reach us at: CAREforHealth@od.nih.gov

Have additional feedback?
Share your thoughts via
Slido.

*Scan the QR code below or visit
Slido.com and use code #1222418.*



Thank you!



go.nih.gov/CARE-for-Health

