Overview
SPARK is a dynamic collaboration between the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) and the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS). Participants are introduced to community-engaged research focused on health disparities/health equity and receive extensive mentorship from faculty.

Students identify a research topic, program leaders assist in identifying mentors, and students work with their mentors to develop a project. Students conduct projects in their home communities over the summer, receiving funds to support this research. After implementing the project, participants meet with their mentors, undertake data analysis and write-up, and present and publish their research in professional settings.

Activities
Classes
Health Equity 101, Research Ethics 101, & Data Analysis 101

Workshops/Enrichment
Literature Review, Project Planning and Management, Quantitative Data Analysis, Book Club, Special lectures

Group & Individual Research Project Sessions
Designing good research questions & methods, Writing a grant application, Developing IRB applications, Creating a budget, Collecting and analyzing data, etc.
What motivated students to apply to SPARK?

**Top 4 Motivators**

1. Opportunity to gain research skills and experiences.
2. An interest in learning health equity research.
3. Opportunity to contribute to inclusive excellence in research environments.
4. Opportunity to broaden UK research networks. Tied for #3

Outcomes and Accomplishments

Benefits of Working with Community Mentors Reported by SPARK Participants

- Individual recognition, encouragement, and support
- Experience in networking
- Development of strategies to meet research goals
- Greater understanding of the community
- Confidence to challenge oneself to achieve new goals and explore alternatives
- Increased access to research populations

Training & Development

Improvements in Abilities and Skills Reported by SPARK Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Networking skills</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation skills</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data analysis</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<td>Research data collection</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<td>Developing a budget and budget justification</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<td>Developing and carrying out a research plan</td>
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<td>Better understanding of health equity issues</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (Professionalism, Time management)</td>
<td>33%</td>
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