Community & Collaboration Core
University of Kentucky
Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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Our Team

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Core Director

Ashley Hall, MS
Research Project Manager

Aaron J Kruse-Diehr, PhD
CLIK Director

Lynn Warneke, BA
Research Program Manager
Aim 1. Establish new and support existing multi-hub CTSA and community-academic partnership programs that assure bidirectional scientific inquiry to foster health equity.

Aim 2. Implement new and expand established structures that support CCTS Network Capacity.
CCTS Community and Collaboration Core Programs and Services

- Rural research hub offices in Appalachia and rural Kentucky to support research activities
- Community Health Worker program
- Community Leadership Institute of Kentucky
- Mini-grants provided to community organizations
- Pilot funding for community engaged researchers

Inter-institutional Collaborations:
- Appalachian Translational Research Network (ATRN)
- Consortium of Rural States (CORES)
- Partners for the Advancement of Community Engaged Research (PACER)
Example Impact

Rural Research Hub Services
• Elizabeth Rhodus, PhD, MS, OTR/L, College of Medicine
  • **Pilot Supported by rural research hub coordinator, Vickie Fairchild:** “Harmony at HOME (Help Online Modifying the Environment)”
  • **Resulted in NIA-fund K23, “Improving Person-Environment Fit of Community-Residing Older Adults with Dementia Through Assessment and Individualized Intervention.”**

Community Health Worker Services
• Fatima Espinoza Vasquez, College of Communications
  • **Pilot Supported by CHWs Guipsy Lopez-Ramirez and Herlinda Martinez:** “Establishing a Community-Owned Sociotechnical Infrastructure to Respond to Public Health Emergencies.”*
  • **Resulted in UNITE funding:** Infrastructure informed by pilot data will be strengthened. This will be eligible for future funding under technological innovations grant.


Community Leadership Institute of Kentucky (CLIK)

• CLIK is a leadership development training program offered by the UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health, the Kentucky Office of Rural Health, and the UK CCTS.

• Overall goal of the program is to build capacity in community leaders in Appalachian KY. to reduce health inequities, leverage funding, and learn how to use data to improve services and programs.

• Participants are selected based on leadership qualities and a proposed real-world project that will improve their community.
CLIK at a Glance

- 49 CLIK graduates
- Projects focus on real-world issues such as diabetes, cancer prevention, substance misuse, food insecurities, smoking cessation, environment and healthy lifestyle
- 28 Appalachian counties impacted
- Over 12,000 adults and children impacted
- Over $100,000 in additional funding and in-kind services/supplies
- 3 graduates employed in Appalachian research projects
- 2 graduates are enrolled in Health Professions Graduate Programs
- 1 graduate was recent president of the Kentucky Rural Health Association

Community Mini-Grant Program

Through this program, we support health equity in Appalachian communities by supporting organizations in the development, implementation and evaluation of community programs.
Community Mini-Grants At-A-Glance

Currently funded Mini-Grant provided to the Kentucky River District Health Department
- “Health In Motion”
- Has improved dietary habits in over 300 5th graders in 3 Appalachian KY counties
- Due to the success, the program will soon be offered to parents of schoolchildren

Community Engagement Pilot Grant

- Annual $25,000 grant
- Grants often support academic-community partnerships
  - Makenzie Barr, PhD, RD, College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment, Dept. of Dietetics and Human Nutrition
    - “Place-based behavioral nudges as an approach for improving post-operative dietary adherence among Black bariatric surgery patients.” *

*UK CCTS - Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) Collaborative Award
Community Champions Cabinet

MISSION
The Mission of the Community Champions Cabinet (CCC) is to ensure that the community has a collaborative voice in the direction, actions, activities and initiatives of the University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science as it completes its mission to conduct and translate research in partnership with our Appalachian communities to transform health.

VISION
The CCC is dedicated to partnering with the University of Kentucky and communities in a shared vision to transform health and achieve health equity.

GOALS
1) To promote programs for implementation through the UK CCTS that benefit communities locally, regionally and nationally
2) To build sustainable, bidirectional capacity for community representation to have a central role in guiding the CCTS
3) To provide the framework for community involvement in research priority setting
4) To be a trusted advisor to senior leadership of the CCTS
Example Collaborations

- Appalachian Translational Research Network (ATRN)
- Consortium of Rural States (CORES)
- Partners for the Advancement of Community Engaged Research (PACER)
  - Program to Alleviate National Disparities in Ethnic and Minority Immunizations in the Community (PANDEMIC) Grant (L. Cottler, PI)
  - NIH “All of Us Consortium of CTSI Community Engagement Programs” (L. Cottler, PI)

ATRN

Vision:
Health equity across Appalachia

Mission:
To address the chronic health issues and disparities among the mostly rural, medically underserved, population of Appalachia by fostering collaborative research partnerships, promoting clinical translational research, and enhancing active community engagement.
ATRN

Collaboration among CTSAs of Appalachian-serving Universities

- University of Kentucky
- Marshall University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Ohio State University
- Ohio University
- University of Cincinnati
- Wake Forest University
- West Virginia University
- iTHRIV
  - Virginia Tech
  - University of Virginia
  - Carilion Healthcare

And a growing number of community organizations including:
- Health Departments
- Hospital Systems
- Community Clinics
- Area Health Education
- Community Organizations addressing health and wellness

Pivotal Aspects of the ATRN

- **Established as a 501c3 in 2021**
  - Supports community and academic membership
- **Annual Summit**
  - Hosted by UK in 2022; WVU in 2023 (Oct. 4 & 5)
  - Theme: Community-Academic Engagement: Building Resilience Together
  - Over 200 participants from 9 states and 20 unique academic and community organizations
- **Bi-annual ATRN newsletter**
  - Research Spotlight, Funding opportunities, Seminars/Lectures, Current Events
- **ATRN Inter-institutional Pilot Program**
  - Annual RFAs that must represent a collaboration between researchers from 2 or more ATRN institutions
  - Funding $50,000; $25,000 contributed from each institution
Example Collaborations

Consortium of Rural States (CORES):
• University of Kentucky, University of New Mexico Health Science Center (UNM HSC), University of Utah, Kansas University Medical Center (KUMC), University of Arkansas Medical Sciences (UAMS), University of Iowa.

Partners for the Advancement of Community Engaged Research (PACER):
• Led by Dr. Linda Cottler of the University of Florida and Milton “Mickey” Eder of the University of Minnesota, PACER brings together community and academic researchers to explore issues important to building community-academic research partnerships and to improve public health through research.

Three overarching activities:
- Environmental scan to identify promising practices
- Implement identified practices, and track and monitor success
- Develop toolkit with evidence from interventions

Goal is to increase the uptake of vaccinations for COVID-19 and influenza vaccines in high need communities including migrant farm workers, LGBTQ populations, Native Americans, Latino/Hispanic and Black populations.

Represents a partnership between CTSA Community Engagement and Cooperative Extension Programs. (Linda Cottler, PI)
Take our short COVID-19 survey!

Link to survey: bit.ly/OCOHsurvey
Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us.

1,864 Surveys of Perception

64 Vaccine Clinics
- 650 Adult Vaccines
- 404 COVID-19 Vaccines

New Programs
Patient Engagement for Equity in Research (PEER)

- Will support community and patient voice in research programs
- Available to both researchers and K/T Scholars
- Strengthen research success both for investigators and communities/patients
- Potential to provide a foundation for future community-academic collaborations

Community Reviewer Training Program

Purposes are to:

1. Include community voice in the review of CCTS Community Engaged grant proposals;
2. Provide grant review training that will strengthen skills of community members interested in or involved in writing grants for CBOs;
3. More closely partner with communities in which research is conducted and learn from community experts.
Questions?

Feedback?