Community Engagement Key Function of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI CEKF): Improving Health through Engaging the Community by Creating Scientific Citizens and Citizen Scientists

Syed M. Ahmed, Zeno Franco, David Nelson, Anne Kissack, Sharon Neu Young, Mia DeFino, Shari Hagedorn

BACKGROUND
The Clinical and Translational Science Institute of Southeast Wisconsin is a regional collaboration of unique academic-community partnerships comprised of the Medical College Of Wisconsin, University Of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Marquette University, Milwaukee School Of Engineering, Froedtert Hospital, Children’s Hospital Of Wisconsin, Zablocki VA Medical Center and Blood Center Of Wisconsin that offers a transformative plan to remove barriers to the translation of fundamental discoveries into better health for our citizens.

PURPOSE
The Community Engagement Key Function’s goal is to support meaningful and productive community engagement and training in clinical translational research.

PROGRAMMING
- Science Cafes
- Community Engagement in Research Workshops
- Education and training in Community Engagement in Research

COLLABORATION
- Projects have improved in institutional and discipline/departmental diversity
- Marked increase in participation from community in planning and research

RESEARCH and METHODS
- Science Cafes and Scientific Literacy
- Social Networking Analysis
- Evaluation and assessment research for improving community-academic partnerships
- Translational research in the community setting
- Appreciative Inquiry and Interviews
- Electronic Surveys

DISSEMINATION
Our key audiences encompass a broad spectrum ranging from the communities in Southeastern Wisconsin to the National Consortium for Community Engagement Key Functions through the Clinical and Translational Science Awards to our academic peers. Through multiple platforms for dissemination and input about the research we conduct, we continue to transform new modes for sharing our findings.

NEXT STEPS
- CEKF can be a resource to other institutions of higher learning, research and the not for profit health service organizations
- We strive to build bridges and breakdown silos to advance translational research through incorporating Community Engagement in all phases of research
- We will study and share our knowledge that will advance the art and science of Community Engagement in Research

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