

Capacity Needs in Community-Based Organizations for Enhancing Translational Research in Puerto Rico

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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?

- In an effort to form and sustain community-academic partnerships to enhance clinical and translational research, an assessment of needs for selecting and implementing evidenced-based programs was conducted among a group of community-based organizations ($N=62$) in Puerto Rico that work or address specific health areas: cancer, neurological disorders, HIV, and cardiovascular health.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

- Little research exists that describes the capacity needs in community-based organizations for building a sustainable translational research capacity and enhancing translational research in Puerto Rico.

WHAT ARE THE FINDINGS?

- The survey revealed wide variability in understanding what constitutes an evidence-based program.
- Training needs for building a productive translational research process also were identified.
- These findings point to important implications for promoting community-campus partnerships for advancing clinical and translational research.

WHO SHOULD CARE MOST?

- Community-based organizations in Puerto Rico that work or address specific health areas: cancer, neurological disorders, HIV, and cardiovascular health.
- Academia, in order to form and sustain community-academic partnerships to enhance clinical and translational research.
- Individuals/organizations responsible for training CBOs.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Build a sustainable translational research capacity by establishing stable community-academic partnerships.
- Based upon training needs identified through the survey and discussion groups, we have designed a comprehensive training program that will be offered to 12 innovator/early-adopter CBOs.
- Build a translational research framework in Puerto Rico.