

# Engagement Quality, Partnership Processes, and Network Characteristics of a Community-Academic Collaboration to Advance Health Equity

Lisa A. Cooper, MD, MPH<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6</sup>, Katherine B. Dietz, MPH<sup>1,5</sup>, Christina T. Yuan, PhD<sup>4</sup>, Kathryn A. Carson, ScM<sup>1,5,6</sup>, Benjamin P.L. Meza, MD, MHS<sup>7</sup>, Christina Vincent, MPH<sup>1,5</sup>, Chioma Onuoha<sup>8</sup>, Hsin-Chieh Yeh, PhD<sup>1,5,6</sup>, Deidra C. Crews, MD, ScM<sup>1,6</sup>, Chidinma A. Ibe, PhD<sup>1,2,5</sup>, Jill A. Marsteller, PhD, MPP<sup>1,4,5</sup>, Michelle Simmons<sup>5</sup>, Debra Hickman, MDiv<sup>5,9</sup>, and Lee R. Bone, RN, MPH<sup>1,2,3,5</sup>

(1) Department of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; (2) Department of Health, Behavior and Society, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; (3) John Hopkins University School of Nursing; (4) Department of Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; (5) Johns Hopkins Center for Health Equity, Johns Hopkins University; (6) Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; (7) Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research, Department of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California Los Angeles; (8) University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine; and (9) Sisters Together and Reaching, Inc., Baltimore

## What Is the Purpose of this Study?

- The purpose of this study was to understand how well a partnership between a community advisory board (CAB) and a university worked.
- Researchers asked members of a CAB to complete a survey. The survey asked CAB members how well they thought the CAB's partnership with the university worked. The survey also asked CAB members about which other CAB members they had worked with and how they worked together.

## What Is the Problem?

- Building trust, respectful relationships, and sharing power help to create partnerships that succeed between communities and academia. Yet, there is not much known about what traits and processes help community-academic partnerships succeed.

## What Are the Findings?

- Community members rated the quality of community engagement and most partnership areas high. One area, quality of decision-making, was not rated as high.
- Academic CAB members had twice as many ties or “connections” to other CAB members than community CAB members.

## Who Should Care Most?

- Institutions that want to create a relationship based on teamwork, trust, and respect with the community they serve.

## Recommendations for Action

- Findings from this study may help researchers and clinicians to create plans to evaluate their joint work with communities and guide the structure of new partnerships.