

## A Community-Academic Partnership to Understand the Correlates of Successful Aging in Place

Kimberly S. Vasquez, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Dozene Guishard, EdD<sup>2</sup>; William Dionne<sup>2</sup>; Caroline Jiang, MS<sup>1</sup>, Cameron Coffran, MS<sup>1</sup>; Andrea Ronning, MA, RD<sup>1</sup>; Glenis George-Alexander RD<sup>1</sup>; Barry S. Collier, MD<sup>1</sup>; Jonathan N. Tobin, PhD<sup>1,3</sup>, Rhonda G. Kost, MD<sup>1</sup>

1. Center for Clinical and Translational Science, The Rockefeller University, New York, NY (RU-CCTS)
2. Carter Burden Network, New York, NY (CBN)
3. Clinical Directors Network (CDN), New York, NY (CDN)

### **Abstract**

**Objective:** The Rockefeller University CCTS, Clinical Directors Network, and Carter Burden Network, a multi-site senior services organization serving East Harlem, NY, formed a community-academic partnership to develop a simple validated surrogate measure of overall health status in this population. Many CBN seniors are racial/ethnic minorities, low-income, and suffer chronic conditions, depression and food insecurity. Multiple biological, musculoskeletal, psychosocial and nutritional factors contribute to frailty, which has been defined variously in senior health outcomes research. The CTSA-funded Pilot Project aims to: **1)** Engage CBN seniors (n=240) and stakeholders in priority-setting, joint protocol-writing, research conduct, analysis and dissemination; **2)** Characterize the health status of the CBN seniors using validated measures; **3)** Establish database infrastructure for current and future research.

**Methods:** CEnR-Navigation was used for partnership development and to engage seniors/stakeholders to refine priorities and research design, provide feedback on conduct, and analyze and disseminate results. Standard physical measurements and validated survey instruments were used to collect multiple assessments. The primary outcome is frailty as measured by validated walk/balance tests. Secondary outcomes include measures of engagement, and association of use of services/activities with the primary outcome.

**Results:** 29 CBN-tenants joined 3 engagement sessions to align study design with client priorities. 2 CBN directors served as site PI and co-investigator on the study. Assessments will continue through Fall 2017.

**Significance:** A simple validated frailty measure in seniors will enable community-academic partners to accelerate community-based translational research addressing senior health.