Abstract ID# P21

Title: How Can Clinical Trials Be More Community Engaged?: Community Perspectives on Engagement in Clinical Research Design, Education, and Promotion with Diverse Communities

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There are currently large inequities in clinical trial access and participation by diverse communities. Women, some race/ethnic groups and those with low socioeconomic status are severely underrepresented in clinical trials. An extensive literature discusses community perspectives on clinical trial participation, barriers to participation, and interventions to increase diverse participation. However, we found no published studies on how community-based organizations (CBOs) view their potential role in advising trial design/conduct, educating communities about trials, or promoting trial participation. As the National Institutes of Health, the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, and other health research funders become increasingly interested in community and stakeholder engagement throughout the full spectrum of research and engagement of diverse research participants, it's important to understand and consider the perspectives, interests, and concerns of organizations that represent and serve communities. The Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities in Northwestern University's Center for Community Health explored this topic through three focus groups with participants representing CBOs, faith-based and patient advocacy organizations serving diverse communities. We followed the focus groups with a participant feedback session during which we gathered reactions to our initial analyses. Results from these focus groups are informing our collaborative work with Northwestern's Center for Clinical Research. Our poster will present focus group analyses and initial recommendations for meaningful and feasible mechanisms for community engagement in clinical trial design, conduct, and dissemination and the development of equitable bidirectional relationships with trial investigators and institutions.