

**Vanderbilt-Miami-Meharry Center of Excellence in
Precision Medicine and Population Health:
Engaging Community in Planning and Execution of the Implementation Core**

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Background: The Implementation Core of the Center of Excellence in Precision Medicine and Population Health aims to enhance the application of precision medicine (PM) techniques to reduce health disparities among minority populations. The equitable adoption of PM calls for anticipating and resolving barriers to implementation among stakeholder groups, including healthcare professionals and minority communities, with attention to unique inclusion, communication, and trust issues experienced among minority groups.

Methods: In planning the Core, we obtained input from African American and Latino community stakeholders through surveys, community engagement studios, and semi-structured interviews. We assessed priority topics, familiarity with PM terminology and potential barriers to implementation.

Results: Community members identified priority health topics including obesity, stress/mental health, diabetes, cancer, and HIV. Difficulty understanding health information, discrimination, racism, insurance status, and income were identified as key determinants of health. Familiarity was limited for terms like biomarkers (42%), pharmacogenomics (26%), and precision medicine (16%). Community members were enthusiastic about the Center, but stressed the importance of providing education, engaging diverse groups, and understanding how discrimination impacts health.

Implication: Based on this input, the Implementation Core is developing surveys, focus groups, and an Ethics Advisory Board to learn more about concerns related to privacy, confidentiality, and prior experiences with discrimination that will affect PM adoption. Furthermore, we will survey healthcare professionals on PM knowledge, experience, attitudes, reimbursement, and competing demands. These data coupled with the guidance of community stakeholders will aid the advancement of PM initiatives such that minority populations can share equitably in the benefits.