

## **5. Translation of Research into Practical Applications:**

*How do we establish public health programs and community-based participatory research that foster community involvement, build trust, and create linkages between researchers and community?*

### **From principles to practice: Use of community-based participatory research in evidence-based public health**

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Planning, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based public health initiatives frequently necessitate the utilization of community-based participatory research (CBPR) principles. The Center for Urban Epidemiologic Studies, housed at the New York Academy of Medicine, utilizes many of these principles in its research, including trust-building, extensive community involvement, and ongoing liaison between community members and researchers. For the past four years, our experience as one of three CDC-sponsored Urban Research Centers (Harlem) has allowed us to reflect on how CBPR-led programs are established, and what practical considerations must occur for maximum effectiveness. Currently, we are establishing a four-year rapid vaccination protocol to distribute influenza vaccination to hard-to-reach populations, namely, elderly shut-ins, undocumented immigrants, and homeless individuals in Harlem and the South Bronx. Using this program as an example, we will highlight key themes in the CBPR process, including dialogue and engagement with community members, identification and selection of community-identified health issues, and ongoing, mutual education. In addition, we will discuss barriers we have encountered in implementing this and other comparable research projects, and practical methods for anticipating (and overcoming) these obstacles. While it may be too early to assess whether use of CBPR principles will result in measurable improvements in community health, researchers, service providers and residents alike benefit from exchanged dialogue and sustained connections when collaborating on solutions to local health problems.

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Learning objectives:

Participants will: (1) learn basic principles of CBPR, (2) cite practical examples of CBPR programs, (3) identify key themes and barriers to establishing a community-research partnership