

about Building Trust

“Every community should be aware of the importance of research studies.”

Building Trust was developed as a bioethics research initiative designed to address the underrepresentation of many minority groups in research. Although health and medical research has been instrumental in improving the health of Americans, the underrepresentation of minorities in research has limited their ability to benefit equally from scientific advances. One of the main goals set forth by the Building Trust project was to create training and educational programs designed to increase the participation of minorities in public health and biomedical research and to strengthen the capacity of researchers and community members to work effectively with each other. We have developed two curricula to help achieve this goal, one for community members, and one for investigators, research staff, and IRB members.

Leading this project are Principal Investigators Stephen B. Thomas, PhD, and Sandra C. Quinn, PhD. Dr. Thomas is a Professor of Health Services Administration in the School of Public Health and Director of the Maryland Center of Health Equity. Dr. Quinn is the Associate Dean for Public Health Initiatives, a Professor in the Department of Family Science, and Senior Associate Director of the Maryland Center for Health Equity. Both are recognized as two of the nation’s leading scholars in the effort to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities.

The Building Trust Project was funded by a grant from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities and the Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health from 2009-2012.

Contact us



Meet our team, from left to right Drs.: Kevin Kim, David Barnard, James Butler III, Sandra Quinn, Craig Fryer, Mary Garza, Christopher Ryan, and Stephen Thomas.
Not pictured: Meleah Himer, MEd

The Maryland Center for Health Equity
School of Public Health
University of Maryland

3302E SPH Building #255
College Park, MD 20742-2611

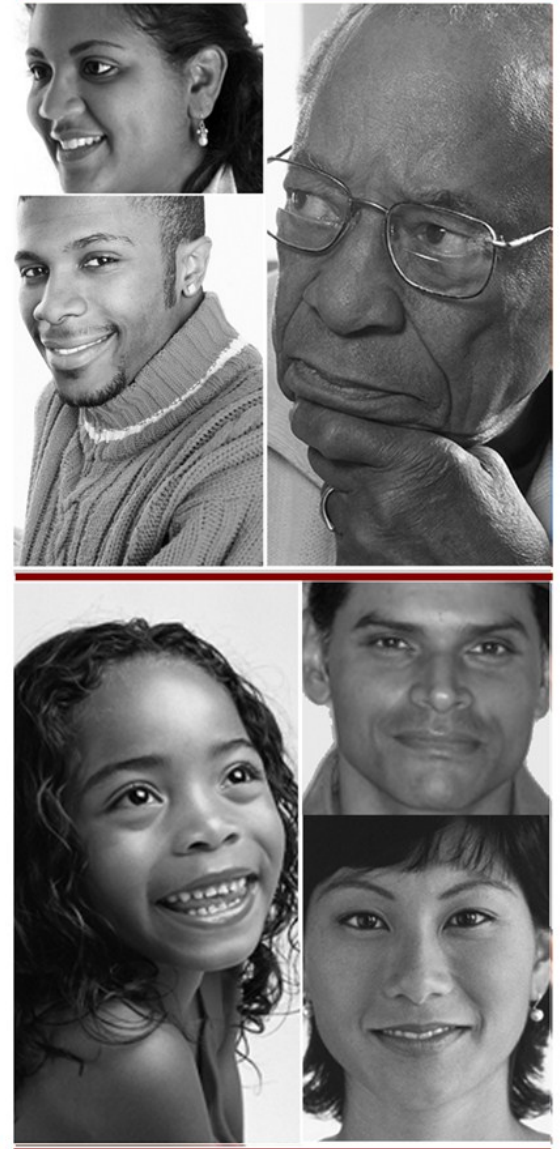
301-405-8859
www.healthequity.umd.edu



National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities and the Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health, and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act RC2MD004766



EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Enhancing Minority Engagement in Research

This curriculum is designed for use in minority communities, particularly those who experience significant health disparities. This program will help participants understand how research can improve public health and eliminate health disparities. The goals of this program are to enable participants to engage with health and medical research in their communities and to make informed decisions about participating in research. Ideally, two facilitators will lead this interactive five-module program in groups. Potential audiences include civic groups, faith communities, YMCAs/YWCAs, tribal groups and others interested in learning more about participating in research.

“It opened my eyes, because I never looked at research in a way that would affect me.”

Module 1: Using Research to Improve Our Health

Outcome: Appreciate the contributions of research for improving human health and eliminating health disparities.

Module 2: Legacy of the Past

Outcome: Recognize how the impacts of past situations of research abuse can affect minority communities today.



Module 3: Making an Informed Decision

Outcome: Make an informed decision about participating in research.

Module 4: Becoming an Informed Consumer

Outcome: Become an informed consumer of health and medical research results reported in the media.

Module 5: Getting Involved with Research

Outcome: Recognize approaches for getting involved with researchers and in research.

“I learned which questions to ask.”

Becoming a Self-Reflective Researcher: Successfully Engaging Minority Communities

This curriculum is designed for use by researchers, research staff, IRB members, and health professions students. This program will strengthen the capacity of researchers to effectively recruit and retain minority participants in research. Through seven interactive modules, participants will respond to trigger films, discuss complex ethical issues, and practice skills for enhancing recruitment, retention, informed consent, and the development of community partnerships. This facilitator-led program can be used in settings such as academic health centers, health sciences schools, research centers, and government agencies.

Module 1: Research, Race, and Social Justice

Outcome: Examine how social and historical context impact researchers' engagement with minority communities.

Module 2: Case Studies in Ethically Complex Research

Outcome: Given case studies, analyze ethical considerations in conducting research with minority populations within the contemporary contexts of racial and ethnic diversity and social justice.



“This program gave me an enlightened awareness of issues of race and racism in research. We should constantly remind ourselves of the need to reflect on and address these issues.”

Module 3: Critical Conversations

Outcome: Recognize how researchers can create effective discussions with minority communities in order to stimulate openness to research.

Module 4: Meaningful Partnerships

Outcome: Examine the importance, benefits, and challenges of community partnerships in the respectful engagement of minority communities in research.

Module 5: Respectful Recruitment

Outcome: Identify effective and respectful recruitment strategies for use with racial and ethnic minority communities.

Module 6: The Informed Consent Conversation

Outcome: Enhance the effectiveness of the informed consent process with racial and ethnic minority participants.

Module 7: Conscientious Retention

Outcome: Explore the unique factors that contribute to enhanced retention of individuals from racial and ethnic communities in research.