

# **SYNERGIZING HEALTH DISPARITIES EFFORTS ACROSS SETTINGS IN THE SER HISPANO PROJECT: FACILITATORS AND BARRIERS OF AN INTERDISCIPLINARY ACADEMIC-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

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**Background:** There is an “Immigrant Paradox” whereby newly arrived Hispanic immigrants evidence better physical and mental health outcomes than Hispanic immigrants who have resided in the U.S. for an extended period despite disadvantages in social determinants of health. However, this relative health advantage diminishes over time, contributing to the emergence of health disparities among this population. Multilevel interventions that create synergies across sectors are needed to curb this decline in health.

**Aims/Objectives/Issues of Focus:** We describe the development and sustainment of an interdisciplinary academic-community partnership developed to carry out a research study designed to address this critical need.

**Methods/Proposition:** The “SER Hispano” project is a longitudinal study (N=385) aiming to examine relationships among stress, resilience, and health outcomes among Hispanic immigrants. We use the “Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research” framework to describe the characteristics, inner and outer setting factors, and facilitators and barriers of the partnership.

**Results/Potential Outcomes:** We used a community participatory research approach to develop an interdisciplinary partnership among researchers and staff at an academic institution (nursing, psychiatry, physiology, environmental studies, immigration law, and policy) and community agencies (mental health clinic, community resource center). The team comprises key personnel at the academic institution (faculty, students, staff), and in the community (outreach coordinators, administrators, mental health care providers). The inner (team leadership dynamics) and outer setting (political climate) affected the partnership. Facilitators include: shared decision-making/ownership, community-based recruitment strategies, and institutional commitment to health disparities efforts at all sites. Barriers include: competing demands of partners and need for additional resources, academic collaborators, and efforts.

**Discussion/Implications:** Exploration into aspects that influence successful academic-community partnerships can inform other similar partnerships. The interconnectedness of factors requires

partners to be flexible in that changes in one setting (e.g. inner or outer setting) can impact the overall function of the team. Lessons learned and future directions will be discussed.

#### Author List

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#### Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Design a plan for mutually-beneficial, interdisciplinary academic-community partnership
2. Integrate and synergize ongoing efforts and new interests from both the academic and community sectors to solve problems of mutual-interest

#### References

1. Damschroder, L. J., Aron, D. C., Keith, R. E., Kirsh, S. R., Alexander, J. A., & Lowery, J. C. (2009). Fostering implementation of health services research findings into practice: a consolidated framework for advancing implementation science. *Implementation Science*, 4(1), 50.
2. Cook, W. K. (2008). Integrating research and action: a systematic review of community-based participatory research to address health disparities in environmental and occupational health in the USA. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*, 62(8), 668-676.