



# BUILDING EQUITABLE COMMUNITY-ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR OPIOID RECOVERY RESEARCH

FROM A 2022 PUBLICATION IN THE JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP

[www.iris.ssw.umaryland.edu](http://www.iris.ssw.umaryland.edu)

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# ABOUT IRIS

## Innovations in Recovery through Infrastructure Support



**Developing and disseminating effective opioid recovery support strategies through strong community-academic partnerships. This is achieved through trainings, funded pilot projects, research fellowship, and other collaborative efforts to create and answer important recovery research questions.**

IRIS is a National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse funded initiative led by Principal Investigators, Drs. Jay Unick and Michelle Tuten from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) School of Social Work.



# WAYS FOR RESEARCHERS TO BUILD EQUITABLE COMMUNITY-ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

## LESSONS LEARNED

Build a strong team, aim to secure ample resources, and place great emphasis on stakeholder engagement by allocating staff for this purpose

Distribute benefits of research, including through financial compensation for partners' time and by drawing on community's expertise to drive research

Maintain ongoing commitment to representativeness of diverse stakeholders by leveraging relationships of partners, constantly asking "Who's missing?" and attending community recovery events

## NEXT STEPS

Bring stakeholders together around common interests and facilitate collaboration through a research fellowship and conference for partners to present research findings

Share benefits of research with broader community through dissemination beyond publications (i.e., social media) and facilitate use of research as a policy advocacy tool

Continue expanding internal team and broader network to be representative of diversity in areas where we are still lacking through ongoing assessment and targeted recruitment



# WAYS FOR RESEARCHERS TO BUILD EQUITABLE COMMUNITY-ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS (CONT'D)

## LESSONS LEARNED

Reshape research's relationship to the community to be less extractive and more equitable by involving community as research partners rather than subjects

Approach the work with humility and accountability by making space to address concerns, acknowledging mistakes, and committing to improvement

Dedicate time and effort to developing equitable community-academic partnerships, as the robust collaborations and outcomes which emerge make it well worth the investment

## NEXT STEPS

Continue approaching work with humility by acknowledging community harms caused by research, co-creating and embodying anti-racist research values, and checking in often to work through challenges and celebrate successes

Continue making time for process, acknowledging expertise brought by community and academic partners, and evaluating project's progress in partnership with stakeholders



# THANK YOU COMMUNITY PARTNER CO-AUTHORS

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PRICE**

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Inclusion  
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KNIGHTON**

Executive  
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PEOPLE  
ENCOURAGING  
PEOPLE



# "Building Equitable Community-Academic Partnerships for Opioid Recovery Research: Lessons Learned from Stakeholder Engagement With Peer and Provider Organizations"

JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP

## FULL ARTICLE ONLINE

<https://jces.ua.edu/articles/10.54656/jces.v15i1.479>



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