

Creating a Strategic Alliance with Diverse Partners to Address Health Disparities through Innovative Precision Health Research

Evans J, McClinton-Brown R, Ta Park V, Duron Y, Vasquez J, Garrick O

Precision Health takes into account people's individual differences in genes, environment, and lifestyle to address disease prevention and treatment. Accordingly, precision health offers a new paradigm for optimizing population health through genuine partnership with patients, providers, community organizations, and key stakeholders. In 2016, Stanford Precision Health for Ethnic and Racial Equity (SPHERE) was launched as one of the first national centers funded by the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, to focus on using precision medicine tools to improve the health of underserved ethnic and racial groups. SPHERE's transdisciplinary approach to precision health calls for innovative engagement models that can be adapted to the complexities of the research projects and the various stakeholder groups. Initiatives in the SPHERE Consortium and Implementation Cores inform effective approaches to engage key and underserved population groups to maximize the potential of precision health in reducing health disparities. The innovative approaches employed by SPHERE combine strategies from CBPR, patient-centered research, and Team Science to optimize engagement in the development, design, testing, and delivery of precision health approaches. This flexibility and agility in engagement is aimed at increasing the ease and willingness of diverse stakeholders to remain highly engaged over the course of the 5-year project. This presentation will describe: 1) The projects and supporting structures of SPHERE; 2) The role of community partners and key stakeholders in the implementation of SPHERE; 3) Novel approaches for building capacity among patients, providers, and communities to incorporate precision health applications for the promotion of health equity.