

Defining Essential Supporting Infrastructure in Engagement Research

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Objectives: Patient and community engagement from the study conception to dissemination can help ensure that the research is more relevant and meaningful. However, engagement does not happen in a vacuum. Significant infrastructure, which is often not grant funded, is required. We sought to describe the engagement infrastructure needed to conduct quality patient and community engaged research.

Methods/Study Population: We used a mixed methods approach combining survey items added to PCORI's WE-ENACT survey of Pilot Awardees with eight semi-structured interviews of self-identified exemplars.

Results/Anticipated Results: 22 out of 50 awardees completed the additional WE-ENACT survey items. Survey respondents rated "connections and relationships" (mean 3.68, SE 0.29), "Skills and expertise in engagement methods" (mean 3.58, SE 0.29) and Culture that supports engagement (mean 3.37, SE 0.22) highest in terms of how well local infrastructure supports engagement. Interview themes confirmed the relevance of most of our survey domains while additionally highlighting the importance of leadership and an ongoing trajectory of support for engagement research. An additional contrast emerged between engagement infrastructure supporting research across a broad range of topics vs. that supporting research around specific health conditions.

Discussion/Significance of Impact: Among this cohort of PCORI pilot awardees, who were the initial recipients of PCORI funding several key elements of engagement infrastructure were identified as important. Clinical and Translational Science Award hubs and other institutional infrastructures that seek to support engagement research may benefit from the insights of these successfully funded PCORI awardees.

Funded by: PCORI EAIN-2181 Award