

Community Scholars-in-Residence Program for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows:

Hands-on Community-Engaged Research

Karen Glanz, PhD, MPH; Sarah Green, MPH; Jill McDonald, MA; Alyssa Yackle, MPA

The Community Engagement and Research Core of the UPenn CTSA launched a new Community Scholars-in-Residence (CSIR) Program to train young scholars in the science of community-engaged research. This two-year CSIR program is co-sponsored by the UPenn Prevention Research Center's Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CPCRN). The program is designed to give young researchers hands-on experience in community-engaged health research and train them on best practices in the field.

The CSIR program's goals are to introduce researchers to the fundamentals of community-engaged research early in their careers, train them on best practices, and help them develop the skills and mindset needed to conduct a successful research project and maintain positive relationships with community research partners. The selected Scholars will learn how to co-develop their respective research projects (in the area of Cancer Prevention and Control) with their community partners by participating in formal training sessions throughout the project period, receiving guidance and feedback from faculty mentors, and committing several hours each week to their community organizations. This program also aims to benefit the community partners by dedicating researcher time to shared initiatives.

An earlier, faculty-focused version of the CSIR program was adapted to be geared towards graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Our expectation is that by teaching researchers the skills for community-engaged research early in their careers, they will be poised to incorporate community-engaged research methods into their work throughout their careers.