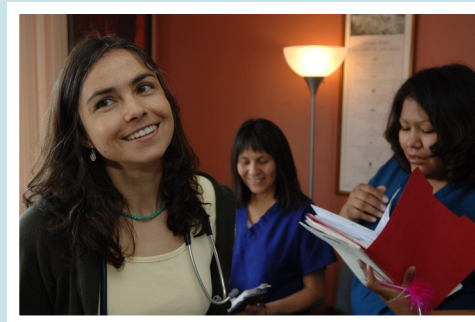
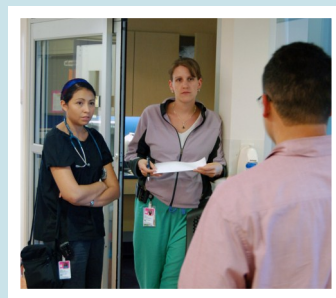
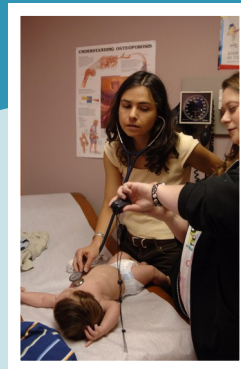


Community Engagement Core



Working closely with New Mexico's communities and academic partners to match research activities to community needs.



NM CARES
Health Disparities Center

*Increasing Health Equity in New Mexico Through
Community & Academic Research Partnerships*



Goals of the Community Engagement Core

The goal of the Community Engagement Core (CEC) is to build relationships, trust and create partnerships between *Researchers* and *Community* in order to support research towards eliminating health disparities and inequality and improve health equity and fairness in diverse communities. As part of the NM CARES HD we seek to support institutional reflection and change, and enhance the partnerships and capacities of UNM to conduct health disparities research with — and across diverse communities in New Mexico

Our Aim

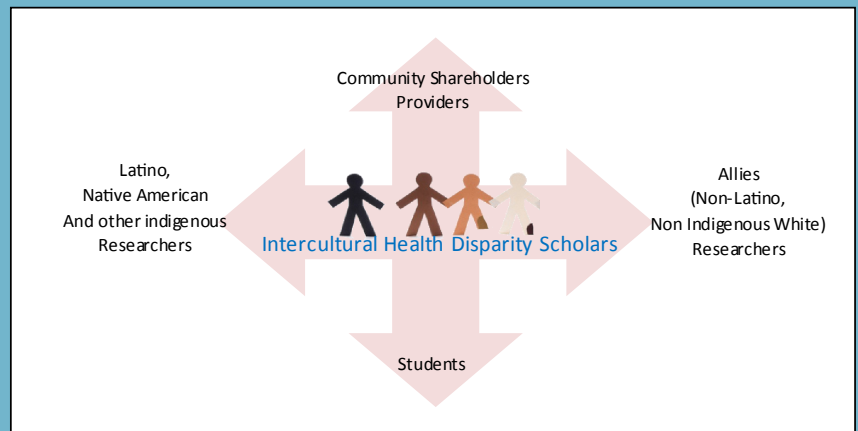
The CEC has the following four aims:

1. To create multi-directional partnerships between academic *Researchers* and *Community* constituents (clinicians/providers, policy makers, community organizations, and community members);
2. To promote academic researcher reflection and organizational assessment of barriers and bridges to community engagement, and to develop action strategies and best practices for enhancing community trust, and university/community partnerships;
3. To develop co-learning and mentoring opportunities through allies of “Intercultural Health Disparity Scholars” and summer co-learning One-Day Institutes;
4. To translate and share findings with our community partners to enable practice, program, and policy interventions.

Our Approach

Intercultural Health Disparity (IHD) Scholars and Community Dialogue

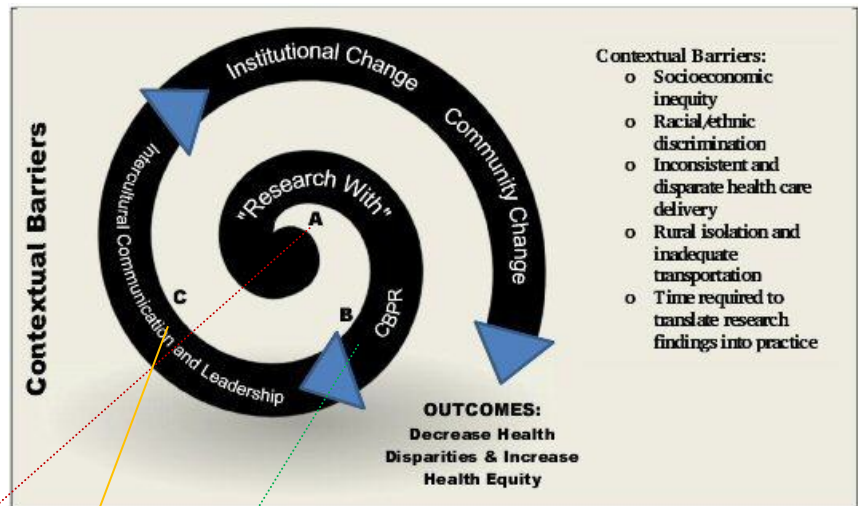
Teams of IHD Scholars are being recruited from within New Mexico’s diverse communities and will include indigenous and non-indigenous academic researchers, students and other community constituents (clinicians/providers, community members, traditional healers, local, state, and tribal policy makers). Furthermore, IHD Scholars will be selected for their commitment to reducing health disparities, promoting cross-cultural relationships, and developing intervention strategies that bridge community-based with science-based knowledge.



Guiding Framework for Conducting Health Disparities Research

The guiding framework and model below describes how the community and institutional changes can happen while overcoming barriers (discrimination, socio-economic inequity) when the research relationship and processes are built upon principles of *Intercultural Partnership and Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)*. The NM CARES HD through the Community Engagement Core will identify and recruit academic and community partners to become Intercultural Health Disparity Scholars using this framework as a guide.

**INTERCULTURAL
COMMUNITY-BASED
PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH
(CBPR) MODEL**



A - Research with Communities



In order to move towards institutional and community change, dialogues between academic and community members are needed. The focus of the ongoing dialogues should be on “how” we shift our thinking about doing community research from using an “on/in” approach to a “with” modality. The figure (left) illustrates a continuum of research that occurs between universities and communities from “doing research-on,” “to doing research-in”, with final movement towards “doing research-with.”

B - Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

CBPR is described as supporting “collaborative, equitable partnerships in all phases of the research.” This is achieved through a co-learning and capacity building process among all partners. All research findings and knowledge gained is shared with all partners. CBPR involves a long-term process and commitment from both Researchers and Community.

Source: Israel et al. 2003, pp. 56-58

C - Intercultural Communication and Leadership:

- Include cultural diversity at the center of how things are conceptualized and implemented across research projects.
- Expand the definition of community and research partners to Intercultural Allies who mutually advocate for each other to guarantee community voice and perspective in the outcomes relating to the elimination of health disparities.
- Intercultural Allies are trusted individuals.
- Be aware of and help equalize power differentials between community experts and the research institution.
- Both partners step into a mediator role “for the community but not against the institution.”
- Engage in intercultural communication based on:

Anticipated Outcomes

This framework aims to increase capacities of institutions and communities to work together and conduct mutually beneficial research that **Reduces Health Disparities** and **Increases Health Equity in New Mexico**.

Our vision is to shift from studying problems
to creating solutions to reduce health disparities



On behalf of the Community Engagement Core team of the NM CARES HD, we are honored to be addressing the "need to include the community as an equal partner in the research process." This is the single most important action we can take together, using our existing resources and funding more efficiently. The CEC will be working closely with New Mexico's communities and academic partners to help match research activities to community needs. Our vision is to shift from studying problems to creating solutions to reduce health disparities in New Mexico.

We hope to ensure that NM CARES Health Disparities Center, together through its core components (research, training/education, initial research projects and other evolving disparities researchers), will advance knowledge and interventions that are not only scientifically based, but also culturally-centered and of use to communities. Accordingly, our Community Engagement Core addresses two of the NM CARES HD foci area: 1) how to access and build public trust; 2) how to engage the community as partners in the conduct of research that informs effective health disparity interventions.

Lisa Cacari-Stone, PhD

Director