



Community Engagement & Research Program (CERP)

The **Community Engagement & Research Program (CERP)** connects existing academic community research programs from Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) and Emory's Rollins School of Public Health, transforms research from a scientist-subject interaction to an equitable partnership, and trains investigators in principles of community-base participatory research. To reduce health disparities, CERP:

- Creates a continuous community involvement process to reach communities and practitioners, share findings, and engage communities
- Generates new research programs
- Conducts courses and seminars on community-based participatory research
- Builds community capacity to generate research questions and work toward the improvement of community health

A Steering Board, containing a community representative majority and chair, oversees all CERP activities and includes representatives from each ACTSI academic and community partner.

Available CERP Resources

Quarterly, daylong **Research-Community Workshops** are open to clinical and translational investigators, community members and programs, community health centers, private practices, and public agencies such as health departments. The workshops culminate in the assembly of one or more multidisciplinary, multi-institutional task forces responsible for generating a research proposal describing a new initiative. The proposal is submitted to either the ACTSI's Pilot & Collaborative Translational & Clinical Studies (PiCo-TraCS) program or to an external funding agency.

CERP works with the ACTSI Biomedical Informatics Program (BIP) to maximize the data management capabilities in the MSM National Center for Primary Care. The goal is to provide **population surveillance and monitoring**, which will provide rapid-cycle feedback to research scientists, practitioners, and communities, while employing novel approaches to an integrative health information system.

CERP's **Community Health Worker (CHW) Initiative** relies on a team to implement health promotion activities and awareness. The CHW team represents a permanent component of the CERP infrastructure, which collects information and launches community-based participatory research projects.

Education and Training

CERP developed a program of courses and seminars to train investigators to work in the community on participatory-based research, conduct clinical and translational studies, and improve access to previously identified patient populations.

- A semester-long two credit course, **Community Engagement in Clinical Research**, is an integral part of the training of MD and PhD ACTSI trainees and a requirement in the Emory and MSM Master of Science in Clinical Research (MSCR) programs. CERP collaborates with the Research Education, Training, & Career Development (RETC) program to train students in the principles and practice of community-based participatory research.
- A variety of seminars and workshops provide the opportunity for investigators to learn more about projects underway and current thinking in community-based research.



Available CERP Funding

The **CERP Mini-Grant Program** invites proposals for partnership-based health projects that involve collaborations between a community organization and a faculty mentor from MSM, Emory, or Georgia Institute of Technology. Four small grants per year are awarded. Health topics may include, but are not limited to, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, HIV/AIDS/other STDs, nutrition, physical activity, stroke, teen pregnancy, tobacco, or violence/injury. CERP provides proposal-writing workshops for potential applicants and assists them to develop the skills needed to secure larger grants from other sources.

To learn more about the Community Engagement & Research Program (CERP) visit www.actsi.org/cerp.