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Involving community members as part of scientific teams is increasingly recognized as critical for promoting research with impact. Integrating community voices helps ensure that research is relevant, increases inclusion of groups who have historically been excluded from research, and fosters trust.

CPRET is a research ethics program specifically tailored for community partners involved in research. Developed by CTSI’s Community PARTners core, the University of Pittsburgh Human Research Protection Office (HRPO), and the Community Research Advisory Board (CRAB), CPRET ensures that community research team members have a basic understanding of the purpose of research, provides a brief history of research and the development of ethical principles in research, gives an overview of regulations governing research and the protection of human subjects, and reviews case scenarios related to ethics specific to a protocol or research area. For community members who are working with an investigator on an already-approved protocol, CPRET certification is accepted by HRPO in lieu of the CITI trainings mandated for research faculty and staff.

CPRET uses a train-the-trainer model. CTSI’s Community PARTners team offers shareable educational materials and provides guidance to researchers to adapt these materials to incorporate study specific training that can be used to educate community partners. A meeting is held to help investigators tailor training and modify materials, including creation of examples of ethically challenging scenarios that may arise specific to each study. Following the meeting, investigators review the finalized set of training materials with Community PARTners for final approval. Once the training is completed, investigators can submit a request to add the trained community members to their study protocol.

For more information about CPRET, please sign up for CTSI’s Responsible Conduct of Research presentation on November 23, Community Partner Research Ethics Training.

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**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Health Sciences Bridge Funding**
Through this opportunity, the University of Pittsburgh Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor, Health Sciences announces support for research in the health sciences that has a high probability of receiving funding, but has not yet been funded. This includes projects by junior investigators, investigators who submitted a competitive renewal but were not re-funded, investigators who submitted in a new research area and were not funded, and investigators who have projects likely to be funded but who will experience a delay in the release of funds.

**Competitive Medical Research Fund**
The University of Pittsburgh Office of Research, Health Sciences is soliciting applications for fiscal year 2023 grant support from the UPMC Competitive Medical Research Fund (CMRF). The UPMC Health System established the CMRF to provide modest research support for projects across a broad range of biomedical sciences. These funds are used to support new investigators as they conduct the preliminary studies necessary to support submission of competitive applications to extramural funding sources.

**Social and Behavioral Intervention Research to Address Modifiable Risk Factors for Cancer in Rural Populations**
The National Cancer Institute solicits applications to develop and test interventions to address modifiable risk factors for cancer in rural populations. Applications should focus on primary prevention and address factors that contribute to cancer disparities in rural populations: tobacco use, diet, physical activity and weight, alcohol use, UV exposure, and HPV vaccination status.
CTSI Updates | CTSI Announces Pitt Innovation Challenge (PInCh) Awardees

Each year, CTSI’s PInCh competition challenges campus innovators to propose creative solutions to difficult health problems, and each year, the contestants inspire with their vision. PInCh 2021 recently awarded a total of $550,000 to eight worthy projects:

- **Healthy Teeth, Healthy Me Family Activity Box**: A family-oriented engaging activity box to prevent tooth decay in vulnerable children
- **NextGenET**: a simplified endotracheal tube that prevents ventilator-associated pneumonia
- **Parenting While Black: Healing and Growing Together**: a program that provides African American parents with tools to promote positive racial socialization, mental health, and academic achievement for adolescents
- **DouLAS-AC**: a doula model to provide dignity, legacy, advocacy and support for individuals with advanced cancer in the Pittsburgh black community
- **The O2 Cube**: a solar powered supplemental oxygen system that can rapidly bring medical oxygen to rural health centers that lack grid electricity
- **TRIBUTE for Bereavement in Communities of Color**: a training program for paraprofessionals in communities of color to provide interpersonal psychotherapy to reduce bereavement-related depression
- **LiDIA**: a low-cost hearing screening plus amplifier device to improve clinical communication
- **Platelet-Be-Gone-Stent**: A novel vascular stent coating process to prevent thrombosis and perfusion

Research teams recorded video pitches for these projects which convey true passion for their work; watch them [here](#).

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REGULATORY NOTES | Office for Human Research Protec-
tions (OHRP) Guidance

The OHRP website provides decision [trees](#) to help researchers determine if an activity is research involving human subjects that must be reviewed by an institutional review board (IRB) and whether or not informed consent or the documentation of informed consent can be waived under the 2018 Requirements (the revised Common Rule.) These easy to follow guides are a helpful starting point for thinking through the regulatory implications of your study design, though other factors, like state and local regulations and sponsor requirements, also need to be taken into consideration, and it is always best to consult Pitt’s local [IRB](#).

The OHRP website offers a number of other educational resources, including a recorded [Luminaries Lecture Series](#), which features topics like eConsent, mobile clinical trials, community engagement, and ethical issues in research. The website also offers [mini-tutorials](#) on regulatory issues and provides in-depth information about the revised [Common Rule](#). To learn more about ongoing opportunities offered through OHRP, sign up for their mailing list [here](#).
DEAR CTSI,

Question: Our team isn’t sure what needs to be covered in the key information section of our informed consent forms to comply with the revised Common Rule. Is there guidance available?

Answer: In order to provide additional protections to research participants, the revised Common Rule specifies that an introductory key information section be included at the beginning of informed consent documents, summarizing the study and helping participants understand why they might want to participate or alternatively decline.

There are no federal guidelines stating exactly what should be included as key information, in part because research is done on a vast number of topics and the key information section will be study-specific. The Common Rule does, however, provide a description of five factors that should appear under key information. These include:

- A statement that the project is research, and that participation is entirely voluntary
- A summary of the study, including a description of purpose, study procedures, duration, and number of visits
- A summary of potential risks or discomforts
- A summary of expected benefits
- Alternative treatments available, if appropriate for the study

Further guidance can be found on the HRPO website.

Readers, this space is reserved for your questions. If you have a research question you would like to ask, please send it to cliftons@pitt.edu and look for answers in our next edition.