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The Recruitment Innovation Center (RIC) is one component of the Trial Innovation Network (TIN), an affiliation of more than 60 Clinical and Translational Science Awardee sites around the country. The RIC offers evidence-based tools for recruitment and retention, and recently developed a study website design toolkit.

The toolkit is designed to help teams learn about some of the benefits of having a study website and provides a basic overview of what to consider during the process of designing and developing a website. It was created with input from the community via a series of Community Engagement Studios; citizens with a wide variety of health conditions from different geographic areas across the country participated to help ensure that multiple perspectives were considered in the design phase.

The toolkit encourages considering the following key points when designing a website:

- Who is your target audience?
- What is the main purpose of the website? Is it for study information only, or will you be regularly sharing news, articles, or other content?
- What is your overall goal for the website? What will you ask users to do when they visit your website? Will they be offered a screening form or asked to submit contact information for follow up?
- Do you have staff that can regularly update the website? What content will you need for the website – images, graphics, videos?
- How will you share/advertise your website to attract visitors?

The toolkit delves deeper into guidance on these key elements and provides useful guidance, examples, and tips. If study websites are used for recruitment, it is imperative to consult with the Human Research Protection Office for approvals before launch.

**Partnering Research and Community Organizations for Novel Health Equity Research: Addressing Social and Clinical Determinants of Maternal Health**

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) seeks to fund comparative clinical effectiveness research studies that focus on multicomponent interventions addressing health conditions and social determinants of health to improve maternal health outcomes. This opportunity will fund studies in which community organizations are in leadership roles as full partners and are critical decision makers alongside research organizations.

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research on the Health of Women of Understudied, Underrepresented and Underreported (U3) Populations**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH)/Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH) announces the availability of administrative supplements to support research exploring health disparities among women who are underrepresented in biomedical research. This opportunity encourages a multi-disciplinary approach, including collaborations between women’s health researchers and researchers with health disparities expertise.

**Developmental Sciences (DS) | NSF - National Science Foundation**

The National Science Foundation DS grant supports basic research that investigates understanding of cognitive, social, cultural and biological processes related to human development across the lifespan. Applicant proposals should address developmental processes within the domains of cognitive, social, emotional and motor development across the lifespan by working with any appropriate populations for the topics of interest including infants, children, adolescents, and adults.
REGULATORY NOTES
New National Institutes of Health (NIH) Policy On Data Management and Sharing

The NIH recently announced a new Data Management and Sharing (DMS) policy effective January 25, 2023 for all research that collects scientific data. The new policy requires that researchers submit a DMS plan for review with grant applications, and plan and budget for managing and sharing of data. NIH program staff will review the DMS plan for acceptability and may request modifications. The plan should identify methods/repositories for sharing data; further guidance on other specific elements that need to be included are outlined in detail on the NIH website. Following funding, awardees must maintain compliance with the stated plan, provide updates in annual progress reports, and consult with an NIH Program Officer for approval of any requested changes.

A representative from the University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Library System will give an informative talk on the new policy as part of CTSI’s Responsible Conduct of Research seminar series. Join us for this presentation, Preparing for the New NIH Data Management & Sharing Plan: Elements, Costs, and Tools, on Tuesday, December 6th. Register here to save your spot.

CTSI UPDATES
Pitt Innovation Challenge (PInCh®) Awardees Announced

Congratulations to the 2022 PInCh® Challenge awardees! Each year we challenge investigators to submit innovative research ideas proposing bold solutions to challenging health problems. PInCh® attracts proposals from many different research areas; this year, awardees include teams investigating solutions to health problems as varied as ALS, depression, opioid addiction, dating violence, and post-surgical complications. $500,000 in funding was awarded to support nine novel proposals; awardees will also have project management support through CTSI. Bonus funds were awarded to projects that involve partnerships between Pitt’s School of Engineering and Schools of the Health Sciences to help promote cross-disciplinary collaboration. To learn more about the winning proposals, visit the CTSI website.

Making an IMPaCT

CTSI’s newest core, IMPaCT (Implementation to Maximize Population and Community Translation), announces a new monthly virtual speaker series, Moving Your Research Beyond Bench to Bedside: Dissemination and Implementation in Research and Practice. The series will feature national leaders in the Dissemination and Implementation Science (“D&I”) field covering important topics like connections between health equity and sustainability, adaptation of evidence-based programs to local context, innovative mixed-methods, and development of engaging interventions. It is held the fourth Monday of each month and will be valuable for researchers seeking to learn more about the cutting-edge field of D&I or integrating Dissemination and Implementation concepts into their work.

Learn about the series here: https://www.disc.pitt.edu/current-events-calendar and/or contact Lisa.Lederer@pitt.edu for a calendar link.
DEAR CTSI,

Question: I have heard Short Form consents are sometimes used when enrolling non-English speakers, what are they and when are they appropriate to use?

Answer: Short Forms are abbreviated consent templates that have been translated into languages other than English; they are limited to the basic elements of consent and must be accompanied by an oral presentation of study-specific details by a qualified interpreter. Short Forms are most often used when a study team unexpectedly encounters a non-English speaker who wishes to participate in a study for which there is no translated full consent. They are not meant to be used in studies that specifically target non-English speaking populations, which should have translated full consent documents. An Exception Request must be submitted and approved in PittPRO prior to using the Short Form; the Human Research Protection office does have Short Forms translated into several languages and may be able to help find these documents in other languages if needed.

The Short Form consenting process involves the participant reading the Short Form, followed by an oral presentation by the interpreter. The interpreter should base the presentation on a written summary of the study-specific details; the IRB-approved English language consent form may serve as this summary. All participant questions and concerns should then be addressed. A member of the study team who is qualified to take part in informed consent discussion and sign consent must be present as well as a witness, unless the interpreter also acts as the witness. Please see the HRPO website to learn who may act as an interpreter/witness as there are restrictions and qualifications that apply (for example, a family member cannot act as the interpreter).

Following the consent process, if willing, the participant signs and dates the Short Form; the witness signs and dates the Short Form and the IRB approved English consent; and the study team member signs and dates the IRB approved English consent. The participant receives copies of both consent forms. If the study is FDA regulated, participant copies must be signed. Please see the HRPO website for robust guidance on this topic.