

## **A TOOL KIT: INTEGRATING RESEARCH INTO COMMUNITY BASED-SETTINGS FOR PWUD**

### **Speakers/Facilitators:**

Rachel Silk<sup>1</sup>, Sarah Kattakuzhy<sup>1</sup>, Elana Rosenthal<sup>1</sup>, David Sternberg<sup>1</sup>

Rachel Silk MPH, BSN, RN has worked in community-based research for 13 years focused on infectious diseases and more recently on the intersection of infectious diseases and substance use. As a research nurse coordinator and program manager of multiple community-based research sites, she believes in the importance of bringing research to communities for reasons of equity, justice, and overall health.

Sarah Kattakuzhy MD, MPH is a clinician investigator, Internal and Addiction Medicine trained physician, and Associate Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She co-directs the Research Initiative in Infectious Diseases and Substance Use, where her work is focused on implementation science and education to improve the SUD care continuum.

Elana Rosenthal, MD is an infectious diseases specialist and Associate Professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She co-directs the Research Initiative in Infectious Diseases and Substance use, where her work focuses on the intersection of infectious diseases and substances, as well as gender and sexual minorities.

David Sternberg, MHA has worked as a cultural broker and community-based researcher since 2010. In 2015, David launched clinical services within a syringe exchange serving communities impacted by drug use and sex work in Washington, DC. He served as Vice President of Community Impact and Evaluation at Community of Hope, where he expanded low-barrier drop-in spaces.

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### **Background and aims:**

Without accessible research in underrepresented groups, their health issues cannot be highlighted or addressed, further compounding disparities. National guidelines in the United States emphasize the vital nature of integrating research into community settings to increase diversity<sup>1,2</sup>. Since 2010 the Research Initiative on Infectious Disease and Substance Use has successfully implemented clinical research studies in under-resourced community settings such as syringe service and opioid treatment programs serving PWUD who are un/underinsured, engage in transactional sex, experience homelessness, transgender individuals, and other marginalized populations. The aims of this workshop are:

- To provide a tool kit to implement clinical research in community-based settings for PWUD
- To discuss barriers, facilitators, and ethics of implementing community-based research for PWUD
- Highlight the benefits of community-based research partnerships

### **Description of workshop:**

The workshop will outline tools to successfully implement research in community-based settings. A unique aspect of this workshop is the inclusion of both community-based organization and academic researcher perspective. The presenters will discuss topics that include embedding clinical care into

non-medical community sites, overlaying research with clinical care, administrative/ethical considerations, identify/establishing community partners, developing community advisory boards, and community-based partnership navigation. Our presentation will highlight the benefits of academic-community partnerships to academia, community-based organizations, and PWUD.

**Methods and format:**

The first 30 minutes of the workshop will include a presentation on integrating research into community-based settings for PWUD. For the next 30 minutes, workshop participants will be placed into small groups, to strategize how to implement research into a unique community setting accessing PWUD, such as a syringe service program, mobile clinic, or jail. Each group will be given real life challenges to discuss and problem solve. For the final 30 minutes, participants will return for a large group discussion to share strategies, and have a Q&A session with presenters.

**Number of delegates:**

30 participants

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

Dr. Rosenthal is the principal investigator of investigator-initiated research grants from Merck paid to the institution. No other presenters have disclosures.

**References:**

1. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2020. *Improving Representation in Clinical Trials and Research: Building Research Equity for Women and Underrepresented Groups*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/26479>.
2. Woodcock, J., Araojo, R., Thompson, T., & Puckrein, G. A. Integrating Research into Community Practice - Toward Increased Diversity in Clinical Trials. *The New England journal of medicine*, 2021; 385(15), 1351–1353. <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMp2107331>