

Transcript: iTHRIV Learning Shorts, Team Science with Community Partners: Community Perspectives in Team Science

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Deron Campbell, PhD: My name is Deron Campbell director of Community Health Programs with the Inova Health System and I'm here to talk to you about team science today.

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Deron Campbell, PhD: So, I can see those questions floating above your head. You're probably thinking, what matters to people? What are the priority health problems in a given community or what are the gaps in current scientific knowledge or health resource? Scientists want to know this, but community members do too and often times we don't think the community members have these answers but, they really do.

Sophie Wenzel, PhD: Having a community partner on the research team when you're doing research in the community is absolutely crucial. They know what's going on in their community. They know what the needs are. They can identify things that you may not even have thought about as a researcher. So, it really, it makes for a diverse team it makes for a better research project because it's community informed versus strictly coming from the researchers perspective.

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Deron Campbell, PhD: So, I hope you're still with me and you understand what I'm saying. We as scientists often communicate with each other using jargon or insider knowledge that we only understand. But what about community? The most important question is can you make your work accessible to anyone? Critical to much of the health-related research is the ability to explain your scientific question clearly in a straightforward way that resonates with everyone. That communicates the importance of your work, that creates buy in.

Okay, so look don't roll your eyes at buy in. So, what is buy in?

Buy in is needed for recruiting participants, it's needed for engaging potential users in your intervention, or trying a new device. Hey, even if you do bench science you need permission to obtain tissues.

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Deron Campbell, PhD: Unfortunately, all too often great achievements in science failed to make that Neil Armstrong leap into actual practice and improving people's lives. But that's what we really want to do. And why is this important? Unfortunately, it might be that there are really good reasons why a strategy just never was widely adopted received or trusted by a community. Incorporating the community perspective early on can help save scientists a lot of time devising interventions or strategies that are feasible to implement and value the community member and the community. And being able to showcase that you have taken such a perspective into consideration from day one is also likely to help promote the kind of buy in that creates inclusivity, because that's what we're really looking for.

For more information about iTHRIV and team science, please visit our website.

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