A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that
Presentation of four posters at national conferences.
Completion of two half
The
Integrating research activities into the daily clinical
A Partnership Self
Joint planning meetings in Year 1 focused on the creation of: a
Developing a repository for all partnership
Predominantly minority population: 54% Latino and
Continued development of UHP research
90%
Dissemination of the model to additional sites.
Delivery of a clinical research training lecture series by
100%
Submitted a collaborative NIH grant on postpartum
Capitalizing on strengths of each institution.
Residents suffer high rates of diabetes (14%,
The
The

SPECIFIC AIMS

Aim 1
To complete an in-depth evaluation, using a social-ecological framework (Figure 1), of the community’s capacity for research
Aim 2
To develop and implement a research infrastructure and to train selected personnel at Urban Health Plan in high-quality research techniques
Aim 3
Evaluate the partnership and infrastructure for the collaboration and to translate this infrastructure for dissemination to other Bronx sites in a practice-based research network

BACKGROUND
The Bronx is one of five boroughs (counties) in New York City with the following unique characteristics:

• 26% most populous county in the U.S., with ~1.39 million residents.
• Among the nation’s poorest urban counties; contains the 16th most congested district in the U.S.
• Predominantly minority population: 54% Latino and 37% African-American.
• Residents suffer high rates of diabetes (14%, compared to ~7% nationally), obesity (26%), hypertension (34%), asthma (16%), and HIV infection (almost 2%).

HYPOTHESIS
Transformative collaboration of an academic medical center and community-based organization may answer the urgent need for research that is responsive to the needs of the individuals, providers, and systems in the Bronx.

METHODS
Timeline: Funded July 2010 – July 2013
• Joint planning meetings in Year 1 focused on: a shared vision; a leadership and partnership structure; a work plan (Figure 2); and a communication strategy.
• To inform the work plan, an anonymous, qualitative questionnaire was administered to faculty and staff in July 2011 to identify areas of mutual interest, establish understanding of each organization’s priorities and needs, and identify potential barriers.
• A Partnership Self-Assessment was conducted in December 2011 and December 2012, using a novel partnership evaluation survey tool to determine how well the Bronx CORE partnership was functioning and make any necessary changes.2

RESULTS
• Based on findings from the first Partnership Self-Assessment (December 2011), three workgroups were created, with members of the Steering Committee and Implementation Team participating in each group, in order to incorporate more direct and regular participation and decision-making among all of its Implementation Team members:
  ○ The Research Initiation & Projects Workgroup focuses on specific research ideas and projects.
  ○ The Training and Development Workgroup focuses on identifying clinical research training needs and developing a continuing training program.
  ○ The Infrastructure Development Workgroup focuses on administrative and structural processes/systems that will assure sustainability of the work we accomplish during the funding period.
• Figure 4 is based on the Partnership Self-Assessment in 2011 and 2012 and shows positive change in partners’ self-reported level of involvement prior to the development of the workgroups (T1) and after their development (T2), a year later.

PROGRESS
In its third and final year, the Bronx CORE has accomplished the following:
• Delivery of a clinical research training lecture series by Einstein faculty for UHP’s multidisciplinary staff.
• Completion of two half-day intensive clinical research training sessions facilitated by Einstein faculty and attended by 5 UHP providers and 2 staff members.
• Published a peer-reviewed article on UHP’s asthma management program.3
• Presentation of four posters at national conferences.
• Submitted a collaborative NIH grant on postpartum smoking relapse.
• Funded collaborative NCI project on improving cervical cancer screening adherence in young women.
• Continued development of a UHP research infrastructure.

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES
The following challenges have been identified during the first two years of the partnership:
• Communicating in a common language.
• Gaining consensus on priorities for clinical research training.
• Project selection for collaborative community-based research.
• Capitalizing on strengths of each institution.
• Integrating research activities into the daily clinical operations of UHP, a busy community health center.
• Sustaining research capacity and infrastructure.

The opportunities that lie ahead include:
• A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that formalizes the partnership.
• Sustaining the Community Research Associate’s role.
• Developing a repository for all partnership documentation.
• Dissemination of the model to additional sites.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
This project is supported by NIH/NIMHD: RC4MD-005783-03 (E. Walker and P. Hernandez, PIs)

REFERENCES

UHP = Urban Health Plan
Einstein = Albert Einstein College of Medicine