6th Annual ARCC Community-Engaged Research Partnership Award Recipient:
Pastors4PCOR (P4P): Engaging faith-based communities in health research

The Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC), a program of the Center for Community Health serving the Northwestern University’s Institute for Public Health and Medicine and Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, developed the Community Engaged Research Partnership Award to recognize research partnerships that exemplify strong collaborative community research principles and are working to impact the health of their community.

The 2017 award acknowledges the efforts of the Pastors4PCOR (Patient Centered Outcomes Research) (P4P): Engaging faith-based communities in health research, the exemplary partnership between Paris Davis, PhD and a collaborative partnership of 12 churches serving underrepresented populations in Chicago and South Suburban areas and their congregants, community health advocates, health system providers, and academic health researchers including Rebecca Johnson in Medical Social Sciences at Northwestern University.

In 2014, an ARCC seed grant award enabled the foundation of the P4P Advisory Board and collaborative development of operational documentation including roles and responsibilities for members, a mission and vision statement, agreement on guiding principles and values, and a Memoranda of Understanding for all board members.

In 2015, the P4P Advisory Board was awarded a PCOR Institute (PCORI) Eugene Washington Award to build its capacity to engage a network of faith-based communities spread across Chicago and south suburbs and train research ministry ambassadors.

Over twenty 22 pastors/church members have participated in the five step P4P research ministry ambassador training. This included human subjects certification training and the conduct of a faith-based community health survey of health priorities and factors with almost 500 community members. The program has been well received by participants: “I appreciated hearing about data from each church to compare it to mine”; “I have truly been enlightened about how research is so important”; “I liked that I can help my congregation because I am educated with information to help them have a better quality of life.”

In 2017, P4P was awarded a second PCORI Eugene Washington Award to build on the results of the first award by developing a Research Ministry Facilitator train-the-trainer program and toolkit for faith-based community trainers. These facilitators will train various ministries, as well as offer researcher workshops on strategies and methods needed to engage academic and medical research communities and how to interact with existing ministries in caregiving and health. In addition, several P4P Research Ministry Ambassadors have been actively engaged with local PCORI and other clinical research initiatives including the Chicago Area Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Network (CAPriCORN) and studies such as Adaptable (The Aspirin Study) conducted by other PCORI clinical data research networks around the country.

Further information about the partnership (including a full list of partners) and award can be found at www.ARCConline.net