

# **Engaging Community Partners in Preparing Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications**

This resource will provide strategies and considerations to ensuring community stakeholders' involvement and perspectives are incorporated in peer reviewed manuscripts. Related Directory resource: Writing about Community-Engaged Research for Academic Journals.

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# Framing the Issue

- Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is defined as “a collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research **process** and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings” (WK Kellogg Foundation, 2001)
- The research process should include active engagement of community stakeholders:
  - In preparing findings that go into peer reviewed publication
  - In providing their perspectives on work that is being presented in the peer reviewed publication

# Challenges to Engaging Community Stakeholders in Peer Reviewed Publications

1. Community stakeholders' previous experience (or lack of) writing for publication in academic journals
  - e.g., traditional sections (Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion) of an article
2. Mechanisms for actively and effectively engaging community stakeholders in the writing process
3. Enabling community stakeholders to tell “their story” in the publication
4. Intimidation factor in writing for “academic” audience/fear of writing

# Helpful Strategies to Engage Community Stakeholders in Manuscript Preparation

1. Provide community stakeholders with an understanding of the process involved in writing for academic publication
  - Accept, revise/resubmit, reject terminology
  - Authorship criteria/expectations for authorship
  - Formats for academic articles
  - Contribution to scientific/knowledge advancement

# Strategies to Engage Community Stakeholders in Manuscript Preparation (cont...)

2. Establish a publication/writing committee that includes community stakeholders
  - Community stakeholders can gain clarity on writing process (see previous slide)
  - Community stakeholders can provide guidance on manuscript content
  - Figuring out roles for community stakeholders in writing sections of manuscript
  - Ensures that community stakeholders will be involved in the dissemination process

# Strategies to Engage Community Stakeholders in Manuscript Preparation (cont...)

3. Offer alternatives to obtaining community stakeholders' contributions that move beyond typing out their part(s) of a manuscript. For example:
  - Interview community stakeholders to get their insights and transcribe interviews
  - Have community stakeholders complete journal/diary entries
  - Expanding on figures, tables, programmatic materials that stakeholders may already be using

# Strategies to Engage Community Stakeholders in Manuscript Preparation (cont...)

4. Identify areas of the manuscript about which community stakeholders are most interested and most comfortable writing
  - May need to figure out how to fit community stakeholders' perspectives and involvement into “traditional” introduction/methods/results/discussion format
  - Creative approaches like “community response” or designating academic and community perspective in the manuscript may be appropriate for some journals

\*\*Is there a need for an article that is just a “community perspective”?

# Community Perspective Section in Progress in Community Health Partnerships journal

- Manuscripts that “reflect the perspectives and insights of community partners involved in any aspect of partnership research, training, or evaluation”
- Priority on articles written BY community stakeholders
- Creativity is encouraged
- Traditional journal format is not required



# Identifying Topics for Community Perspective Articles

- Are there topics that are important to share via peer-reviewed publication so that community-university partnerships can learn from community stakeholders' experiences?
- Are there 1-2 topics that could potentially generate interest from multiple community stakeholders and, therefore, be appropriate for a special section of PCHP?

# Progress in Community Health Partnerships journal

[http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/progress\\_in\\_community\\_health\\_partnerships/](http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/progress_in_community_health_partnerships/)