

CCH Community Partners & Staff Share & Learn at Community-Engaged Research Conference in Washington DC

Last week, a great team of community partners and staff from the [Center for Community Health](#) at the [Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities \(ARCC\)](#) participated in the [Advancing the Science of Community-Engaged Research Conference](#) in Washington, DC. The conference convened researchers and community stakeholders from across the country to share and discuss innovative methods and promising practices. The agenda featured presentations from leaders at the [National Institutes for Health](#), the [Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute](#), and many colleagues from the NIH [Clinical & Translational Science Award \(CTSA\)](#) Program and universities.

See below for reflections of some of our participating community partners and a list of CCH and ARCC presentations and participants.

Reflections:

“I am yet overwhelmed at being selected to participate in the Advancing the Science of Community-Engaged Research Conference hosted by Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University Medical Center as one of the conference Scholarship recipients. I truly enjoyed my time there as this CEnR conference organized distinguished researchers and community stakeholders together to dialog regarding innovative methods and promising practices, used in the rapidly developing field of community-engaged research. From the plenary sessions to the learning labs to the small group discussions and the “think tanks” on problem-solving issues that can obstruct or fast-track community-engaged research, these sessions heightened my confidence of being able to inspire others and to utilize the knowledge that I gained from being there. This conference has succeeded in re-fueling my passion for community-based participatory research to find better ways of assisting in the care of disenfranchised and underserved populations.”

- Geraldine Peacock. Apostolic Faith Church (<http://www.afcchicago.org/>), [ARCC Steering Committee Member](#), and [ARCC Seed Grantee](#)

“By attending the community-engaged research conference in DC, I was able to gain invaluable insight on how the community and the academic research community can work together to advance their work in addressing health disparities in our respective communities. As a community partner and community member, I learned strategies on how to connect the community with academics and how community members could learn how to best influence research. I left the conference inspired and with the charge to be a change agent in my community.”

- Jeanette Gonzalez, [Gilda's Club Chicago](#) and [ARCC Seed Grantee](#)

“Thought the conference was excellent overall and from a community perspective, the most salient and significant presentation was that of the NIH Director, who literally provided a blueprint of what the organization is seeking to fund going forward. The NIH application process is rigorous and not commonly awarded on behalf of our communities. To receive invaluable, high level insight is why this particular conference continues to be a critical convening, particularly for community participants.”

- Melvin Thompson, MBA, Executive Director of the [Endeleo Institute](#), [ARCC Steering Committee](#) Co-Chair and [ARCC Seed Grantee](#).

“Attending the Advancing the Science of Community Engaged Research was truly a privilege. I took away from this wonderful event: 1. Science and Community can work together with a common goal and make affective change. 2. Having the research community engaged with community partnerships is a huge and major step in creating trust and transparency.”

- Candace Henley, [The Blue Hat Foundation for Colorectal Cancer Awareness](#) and CCH/ARCC partner.

Presentations:

- Plenary presentation & session moderation by Melvin Thompson, MBA, Executive Director of the [Endeleo Institute](#), [ARCC Steering Committee](#) Co-Chair and [ARCC Seed Grant](#) Recipient: *Data as the Driver- and Passenger- for the Community-Engaged Research Vehicle*
- Plenary presentation by Regina Greer Smith, MPH, LFACHE, President, [Healthcare Research Associates, LLC](#), Part of [ARCC Seed Grant](#) and [ARCC 2017 Award](#) Partnership: [Pastors 4 PCOR](#) *Big Data Research Ready Communities in Chicago*
Poster Presentations:
- Evaluating the Impact of [Stakeholder Academic Resource Panels](#) : Grisel Robles-Schrader, Josefina Serrato, Michael Fagen
- Achieving Health Equity through Health Department-Academic Partnerships & Community-Engaged Public Health Research: [Healthy Chicago 2.0](#): Jen Brown, Nik Prachand, Lisa Masinter, Anne Posner, Sarah Rittner, Marc Atkins, Pankaja Desai, Doriane Miller.
- Multiplying Resources: Impact & Return on Investment of 10 Years of Community-Engaged Research & Partnership [Seed Grants](#) : Melvin Thompson, Rebecca Johnson, Ivonne Kang, Maryann Mason, Gina Curry, Jen Brown

Participants:

- Jen Brown, Director, [ARCC](#)
- Jeanette Gonzalez, [Gilda's Club Chicago](#) and [ARCC Seed Grantee](#). Conference Scholarship Recipient
- Candace Henley, [The Blue Hat Foundation for Colorectal Cancer Awareness](#) and CCH/ARCC partner. Conference Scholarship Recipient
- Geraldine Peacock. Apostolic Faith Church (<http://www.afcchicago.org/>), [ARCC Steering Committee Member](#), and [ARCC Seed Grantee](#). Conference Scholarship Recipient
- Grisel Robles-Schrader, Research Portfolio Manager for Community & Stakeholder Engagement, CCH
- Josefina Serrato, Project Coordinator, CCH
- Melvin Thompson, [Endeleo Institute](#) and [ARCC Steering Committee Co-Chair](#), and [ARCC Seed Grantee](#) Conference Planning Committee
- Tom Wilson, [Access Living](#), [ARCC Steering Committee Member](#)