Community-Engaged Research

The ICTR research infrastructure includes two key resources to support UW research team members with establishing and maintaining successful community-engaged research partnerships: Community-Academic Partnerships (CAP) and the Collaborative Center for Health Equity (CCHE). Both CAP and CCHE have Research Ambassadors who identify and connect UW researchers, community organizations, and community clinicians and clinical practices with shared interests in community-engaged research, including assistance for those who desire to work with members of diverse racial ethnic communities in Wisconsin. Our Ambassadors recognize values and cultures of both community and academic partners and the settings within which they operate, and how these impact a research partnership from project or study design to implementation to dissemination.

Community-Academic Partnerships (CAP)

The Community-Academic Partnerships (CAP) core is organized as a federation; 37 UW and Marshfield programs and centers currently participate. CAP mobilizes resources across UW and Marshfield by:

- **Centralizing and organizing access for investigators and communities** to diverse community- and practice-based research networks and an array of research and training resources.
- **Creating new community- and practice-based research networks** where there is a strong interest from community partners, a critical mass of investigators, and opportunities for grant funding.
- **Creating or adapting research and training resources** targeting gaps in methodological and content expertise identified by communities and investigators.
- **Implementing incentives** (primarily via pilot funding) for community-partnered research, for investigator/community use of research resources, for senior investigators to mentor new investigators, and for collaborative and interdisciplinary research.

Collaborative Center for Health Equity (CCHE)

The Collaborative Center for Health Equity (CCHE) team has a particular focus on community-academic partnerships that engage with diverse rural, urban, and tribal communities. CCHE’s goal is to advance long-term, mutually beneficial collaborations in teaching, research, and service initiatives to improve health equity in underserved communities of Wisconsin. CCHE also sponsors the AHEAD Pilot Awards Program for the AHEAD Scholars Initiative.

CAP Core Resources

- **Dissemination & Implementation Resource**

  The Dissemination & Implementation (D&I) Program supports investigators interested in the research of effectively disseminating, implementing, adapting, and scaling-up evidence-based findings. It also supports researchers and their communities of interest in the process of disseminating and implementing research findings. Consultation services include: Advising on all aspects of D&I Research, including designing for dissemination; Communications, including dissemination plans, translation and packaging of findings, and multi-media communication; Product development, including assessing market demand, feasibility and customer value. Educational resources include short courses, presentations, web-based resources, and educational forums. Please complete a [D&I Consult Request](#) and our team will contact you.
Stakeholder and Patient Engagement Research Resources

Several CAP Programs & Affiliates provide research resources to pilot applicants engaging patient and other stakeholders in their research. Detailed information on the resources these CAP programs provide for stakeholder engagement in translational research is available on our Stakeholder Engagement Resources page.

For help determining which ICTR stakeholder engagement program is the best fit, please contact Kate Judge, MSSW, kjudge@wisc.edu.

Pilot Programs

ICTR offers annual awards to support investigators whose research focuses on clinical and community outcomes, dissemination and implementation research and patient-centered outcomes research. For more information, please visit the Funding Opportunities page and/or contact Kate Judge, MSSW, kjudge@wisc.edu.

CAP Education and Training

CAP Education and Training programs include a graduate-level certificate program targeting early-career investigators with a focus on skills for community-engaged research. Programs also include free, non-credit trainings targeting PIs, research staff, scholars, and community audiences.

Videos of past lectures are free in the SMPH Video Library. Content addresses skills such as working with communities; qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research; grant writing; and evaluating community-based programs.

For more information, please contact Sharon Schumacher, scschumache2@wisc.edu.

Health Services, Population Health & Dissemination Research Programs

Center for Patient Partnerships (CPP)

The Center for Patient Partnerships (CPP) is affiliated with the University of Wisconsin Schools of Law, Medicine & Public Health, Nursing, and Pharmacy. CPP’s mission is to engender effective partnerships among people seeking health care, people providing health care, and people making policies that guide the health care system. CPP accomplishes this through education, advocacy, research & policy.

For more information, please e-mail info@patientpartnerships.org.

This program provides stakeholder and patient engaged research resources to pilot applicants. Learn more about the CPP stakeholder engagement resources for research teams here.

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R)

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R) offers actionable data, evidence, guidance, and stories that inspire and support community health improvement efforts. The annual County Health Rankings are based on a model of population health that emphasizes the many social, economic, physical, clinical, and other factors that influence both how long and how well we live. CHR&R helps communities identify the challenges and opportunities for improving health for all and provides evidence-informed strategies that are shown to work in real life. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation collaborates with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to bring this program to communities across the nation.

For more information, please contact Julie Willems Van Dijk, PhD, willemsvandi@wisc.edu.
Evaluation Research Group

The Evaluation Research Group at the UW Population Health Institute is a team of 30+ professional evaluators and 10-20 student trainees. We partner with community, tribal, county, and state governmental agencies to develop, implement, and evaluate local and state programs in public health and human services. We also collaborate with national researchers, practitioners, and faculty and staff within the University of Wisconsin on evaluation research projects. Our evaluators can advise on and implement a broad range of applied research methods, from qualitative and descriptive techniques to complex experimental and quasi-experimental trials. We also engage in rigorous intervention research design and evaluation. Our portfolio of evaluation projects reflects the full range of systems and health factors that contribute to population health and well-being. Learn more about our current projects and evaluation services [here](#).

For more information or to schedule a consultation, please contact Sara Lindberg, PhD, [sara.lindberg@wisc.edu](mailto:sara.lindberg@wisc.edu).

Health Experiences Research Network (HERN)

The Health Experiences Research Network (HERN) is a partnership between UW-Madison, Oregon Health & Science University, Johns Hopkins University and Yale University, and part of an international movement to rigorously collect narratives about people’s diverse experiences with health and health care. These stories are then analyzed for both themes and variation, and video/audio clips from the interviews -- along with explanatory text -- are embedded on a public web site for use by multiple audiences including clinicians and researchers. The HERN group at UW produced HERN’s first published module. See [healthexperiencesusa.org](http://healthexperiencesusa.org) to learn more, and visit the module Young Adult’s Experiences with Depression.

For more information, please contact Rachel Grob, PhD, [rgrob@wisc.edu](mailto:rgrob@wisc.edu).

Health Innovation Program (HIP)

The Health Innovation Program (HIP) supports health services research projects in collaboration with local and statewide health systems. This includes research on the quality and cost of health care and research to examine the impact of improvement interventions over time. Extensive resources are available that support the use of electronic health records and Medicare or other health care claims data for research purposes.

For more information, please e-mail [contact@hip.wisc.edu](mailto:contact@hip.wisc.edu).

Health Policy Group

The Health Policy Group provides policymakers, in both the public and private sectors, with timely, non-partisan, high-quality information for evidence-based policy decision-making and works to increase the involvement of UW faculty research and teaching activities in topical issues of state public policy.

For more information, please contact Donna Friedsam, MPH, [dafriedsam@wisc.edu](mailto:dafriedsam@wisc.edu).

Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP)

Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) is a nonpartisan research institution dedicated to producing and disseminating rigorous evidence to inform policies and programs to combat poverty, inequality, and their effects in the United States. We do this through the orchestration of a national research, training, and dissemination agenda (see our resources and events pages) grounded in extensive collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.

For more information, please contact Hilary Shager, PhD, [hilary.shager@wisc.edu](mailto:hilary.shager@wisc.edu).
I-PRACTISE

I-PRACTISE is an educational and research collaborative between the UW Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering, and the Departments of Family Medicine & Community Health, Medicine and Pediatrics in the SMPH. Our mission is to create a home for scholars and clinicians with interest and expertise in industrial engineering and/or primary care to conduct funded projects directed at improving the quality of primary care for patients, clinicians and staff. I-PRACTISE now partners with the Northeastern University Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute, Boston, MA.

For more information, please contact Larry Hanrahan, PhD, MS, larry.hanrahan@fammed.wisc.edu.

LifeCourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF)

The LifeCourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF) is a community-academic collaboration designed to improve local conditions that lead to healthier birth outcomes among African American families in Wisconsin. LIHF supports community efforts to reduce high rates of infant mortality among the African American population through work with statewide initiatives, local health departments, and community collaboratives in Beloit, Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine.

For more information, please contact Gina Green-Harris, MBA, greenharris@wisc.edu.

Community Research at Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation

The ICTR Community Engagement and Research Core at Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation supports the conduct of funded population research, through consultation, collaboration and facilitated access to de-identified data from several population cohorts, including the Marshfield Epidemiologic Study Area (MESA), the Health Care Systems Research Network Virtual Data Warehouse (VDW), and others. This core also leverages Marshfield Clinic’s broad interactions in the local area to provide support for community-engaged research development, through investigator consultations on study ideas, study design/development, core data development/facilitation, collaborator/partner matching, and implementation/dissemination.

MESA is a geographic region defined by 24 zip codes in northern and central Wisconsin where the great majority of is 80,000 residents choose to receive care at Marshfield Clinic, its regional centers, and affiliated hospitals. When combined with Marshfield Clinic health data, the MESA cohort is a unique resource for population-based health research. The VDW contains a dynamic cohort of insured health plan members which can be studied alone or in combination with MESA residents, and includes standardized data on encounters, diagnoses, procedures, medications, labs, vital measurements, and mortality. The VDW cohort with its 175,000 subjects can be used locally or to support collaborative research with national partners from the Health Care Systems Research Network. These data resources are well matched for comparative effectiveness and patient-centered research, studies to determine optimal dissemination and implementation strategies, and formal dissemination and implementation of relevant findings to appropriate stakeholder groups.

For more information, please contact Bob Greenlee, PhD, MPH, greenlee.robert@mcrf.mfldclin.edu.

Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH)

The Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH) Group focuses on advancing health equity by partnering with organizations statewide to deliver training and technical assistance, engage in community-based research and translating data into local action, and convening partners to align around shared health equity priorities. This work includes assessing population health and working with communities to help them identify opportunities for improving community health and equity, engage and build partnerships with communities most impacted by inequity, and find and implement evidence-based programs and policies to address these issues. Key partners include, but are not limited to, local and state governmental public health, leaders that promote the public’s health and community well-being, health and social determinants of health coalitions and coalition
members, community-engaged and applied researchers, and learners and trainees. For more information, please contact Paula Tran Inzeo, MPH, ptran@wisc.edu.

- **Obesity Prevention Initiative**
  The Obesity Prevention Initiative working group is comprised of faculty and staff of the University of Wisconsin Madison. Our mission is to reduce the prevalence of obesity in Wisconsin. This mission is served through basic and community based participatory research.
  For more information, please contact Sara Lindberg, PhD, sara.lindberg@wisc.edu.

- **Office of Community Health (OCH)**
  The Office of Community Health (OCH) promotes and enhances community health-related efforts in education, research and clinical services within the UW Department of Family Medicine and Community Health (DFMCH). DFMCH provides primary care at 20 statewide family medicine clinics and has training programs for medical students, physician assistant students and family medicine residents. The department includes more than 150 academic and community faculty who care for patients, educate learners and conduct community-engaged research and outreach activities. OCH facilitates and designs community health programs to benefit key constituencies including communities, patients, learners, academic partners and health system partners.
  For more information, contact Jennifer Edgoose, MD, MPH, jennifer.edgoose@fammed.wisc.edu.

- **Program of Research on Outcomes for Kids (PROKids)**
  Program of Research on Outcomes for Kids (PROKids) is a child health services research program within the UW Department of Pediatrics. PROKids focuses on research and quality improvement efforts to optimize the health of children in our community, including access to care, the quality and safety of care, and the outcomes from care. A central theme in all PROKids activities is the engagement of stakeholders such as children, teens, parents, multidisciplinary healthcare providers, child health advocates, payers, and healthcare leadership in designing, delivering, and evaluating interventions to improve children’s well-being.
  For more information, please contact Elizabeth Cox, MD, PhD, ecox@pediatrics.wisc.edu.
  This program provides stakeholder and patient engaged research resources to pilot applicants. Learn more about the PROKids stakeholder engagement resources for research teams [here](#).

- **Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research Resource**
  ICTR-CAP Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research Resource can offer support to investigators whose research design incorporates qualitative or mixed methods.
  For more information, please contact Nora Jacobson, PhD, najacobson@wisc.edu.

- **Simulation Center**
  The School of Engineering-based Simulation Center supports research that strives to estimate the potential impact of type 2 translational research using modeling and simulation, developing quantitative decision-analytical models to optimize medical decision making and use of mathematical/computer models for policy formation in health care.
  For more information, please contact Oguzhan Alagoz, PhD, alagoz@engr.wisc.edu.
❖ **Sonderegger Research Center (SRC)**

The School of Pharmacy-based Sonderegger Research Center (SRC) supports the organization, delivery, financing, quality and outcomes of pharmacy within the broader health care system as well as the patient-provider interaction (including access to videotaping capacity and support).

This program provides stakeholder and patient engaged research resources to pilot applicants. Learn more about the SRC stakeholder engagement resources for research teams [here](mailto:michelle.chui@wisc.edu).

For more information, please contact Michelle Chui, PharmD, PhD, [michelle.chui@wisc.edu](mailto:michelle.chui@wisc.edu).

❖ **UW Carbone Cancer Center (UWCCC) Population Sciences**

The UW Carbone Cancer Center (UWCCC) Population Sciences programs conduct research on effective and equitable approaches to reduce the burden of cancer. They also disseminate and implement evidence-based interventions in communities served by the UWCCC.

Population Sciences programs include:

- [Cancer Control Scientific Program](mailto:)
- [Cancer Population Outcomes Data (C-POD) Shared Resource](mailto:)
- [Cancer Health Disparities Initiative](mailto:)
- [Cancer Outreach](mailto:)

For more information, please contact Betsy Rolland, PhD, MLIS, MPH, [brolland@wisc.edu](mailto:brolland@wisc.edu).

❖ **UW Department of Medicine Health Services and Care Research (HSCR) Program**

The UW Department of Medicine Health Services and Care Research (HSCR) Program seeks to improve the health and quality of life of patients and caregivers within Wisconsin and beyond through high-impact services researchers to promote continued growth and success. The HSCR Program houses an array of resources required for the conduct of health services and models of care research. These include national-level data sources of health systems, socioeconomic and geospatial metrics, a state-of-the-art high capacity secure computing environment, and expert consultation on all aspects of research conduct and dissemination in these fields. Areas of research focus reflect critically important topics in the field, including health aging and Alzheimer’s Disease, pulmonary diseases, cardiovascular disease, health disparities, and others. One of the resources developed by HSCR faculty and staff, the [Neighborhood Atlas](http://), hosts an accessible, online, interactive map of more than 70 million zip codes linked to socioeconomic data at the neighborhood level, which helps to quantify the degree of disadvantage in a given area, a factor viewed as critical to assessing health disparities and effective interventions. The Neighborhood Atlas is available as a tool to advance disparities-focused research, informing study design, recruitment and retention of participants, and analysis and dissemination of results for translational, clinical, and community-based research. Data are available for download at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health’s Neighborhood Atlas [website](http://).

For more information, please contact Amy Kind, MD, PhD, [ajk@medicine.wisc.edu](mailto:ajk@medicine.wisc.edu).

❖ **UW Extension, Cooperative Extension**

[UW Extension, Cooperative Education](http://) seeks to address the changing needs of the state and society by conducting, applying, and conveying relevant university research, integrating a scholarly approach to outreach across many academic disciplines, and addressing the specific educational needs of under-served, disadvantaged and non-traditional students. Consistent with [Cooperative Extension’s National Framework for Health and Wellness](http://), UW Extension has identified health as a strategic priority. With an office in every
Wisconsin county, partnerships with tribal governments, and other public and private organizations, UW Extension is uniquely positioned to engage communities in research, and has a strong infrastructure for dissemination and implementation of evidence-based research. Cooperative Extension Dean and Director is Richard Klemme.

For more information, please contact Kristin Litzelman, PhD, litzelman@wisc.edu.

- **University of Wisconsin Survey Center (UWSC)**
  
The University of Wisconsin Survey Center (UWSC) offers comprehensive data collection services. The UWSC offers specialized expertise for health researchers, including guidance on the overall design and administration of a study; collection of data in all modes (in-person, phone, web, and mail); the conduct and analysis of qualitative interviews (cognitive interviews, key informant interviews) and focus groups; and the development, review, and testing of questions (scale development, behavioral frequency measures, vignettes) and questionnaires. The UWSC also offers services to collect biomeasures, such as genetic measures, biological samples (e.g., saliva, feces), anthropometric measures (e.g., height/weight, hip circumference), and evaluations of physical performance (e.g., peak flow, grip strength).

For more information, please contact John Stevenson at (608) 262-9032.

- **UW Public Health Information Exchange (PHINEX)**
  
The UW Public Health Information Exchange (PHINEX) links clinical care and public health through electronic health record (EHR) exchange. It provides advanced, user friendly data analysis tools to mathematically represent the multiple determinants of health (ecological health systems model). Because this system’s approach examines disease within their biological, psycho-socioeconomic, environmental, and community contexts, it is likely to provide a better understanding of what can be done to improve health care quality and population health.

For more information, please contact Larry Hanrahan, PhD, larry.hanrahan@fammed.wisc.edu.

- **William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital Research Program**
  
The William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital Research Program supports research and quality improvement initiatives dedicated to the health and care needs of Veterans, including age-related conditions, mental health, healthcare-associated infection prevention, chronic disease, transitions of care, women’s health, deployment-related exposures, and health equity and access. Madison VA is also home to the new VA Patient Safety Center of Inquiry – using human factors and systems engineering approaches to implementing evidence-based interventions. Quality improvement is the focus of the newly-funded VA healthcare-associated infection prevention network – a practice-based network that includes VA patients as active participants.

For more information, please contact Nasia Safdar, MD, PhD, ns2@medicine.wisc.edu.

This program provides stakeholder and patient engaged research resources to pilot applicants. Learn more about the VA stakeholder engagement resources for research teams [here](#).

- **Wisconsin Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) System**
  
The Wisconsin AHEC System works to improve the supply, distribution, and quality of health care professionals in Wisconsin. With seven regional Centers, AHEC offers decentralized training for health professionals and linkages between communities and academic health centers to promote cooperative solutions to local health problems. Among other things, WI AHEC supports community-based training sites in under-served communities, and cultural competence training for health professionals. See more about program areas [here](#).

For more information, please contact Brenda Gray, PhD, bgray4@wisc.edu.
Wisconsin Institute for Healthcare Systems Engineering (WIHSE)

Wisconsin Institute for Healthcare Systems Engineering (WIHSE) supports patient safety research that integrates human factors engineering (design, development, and deployment of systems), healthcare systems, and health information technology.

For more information, please contact Pascale Carayon, PhD, pcarayon@wisc.edu.

Wisconsin Network for Research Support (WINRS)

The Wisconsin Network for Research Support (WINRS) is a patient and community engagement resource. WINRS provides a suite of consultation services that address a persistent problem for researchers—how to effectively engage participants, especially people from under-represented communities or “hard to reach” populations. Services include: development of tailored training programs for community or patient stakeholders; Best practices to sustain stakeholder engagement; Review of consumer-facing materials; and Advice on strategies for successful recruitment and retention of study/program participants. WINRS staff also coordinate meetings with CARDS (Community Advisors on Research Design and Strategies®), focus groups of Madison community members from diverse racial, socioeconomic, and educational backgrounds who are trained to give feedback to investigators on recruitment plans and materials, consent forms, survey or interview questions, etc.

For more information, please contact Gay Thomas, grthomas@wisc.edu, or Betty Kaiser, PhD, blkaiser@wisc.edu.

This program provides stakeholder and patient engaged research resources to pilot applicants. Learn more about the WINRS stakeholder engagement resources for research teams here.

Wisconsin Surgical Outcomes Research Group (WiSOR)

The Wisconsin Surgical Outcomes Group (WiSOR) strives to improve the quality, safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of surgical care through research and innovation. WiSOR provides an intellectual home for surgical outcomes research, while providing support and resources to facilitate and expedite research. WiSOR is also committed to career development and training for the next generation of researchers pursuing health services research in the field of surgery.

For more information, please contact Jessica Schumacher, PhD, schumacher@surgery.wisc.edu.

This program provides stakeholder and patient engaged research resources to pilot applicants. Learn more about the WiSOR stakeholder engagement resources for research teams here.

Practice Based Research Networks

Community-Academic Aging Research Network (CAARN)

Community-Academic Aging Research Network (CAARN) aims to augment the capacity and effectiveness of both Wisconsin’s aging services network and the UW to conduct clinical and dissemination research related to aging.

For more information, please contact Jane Mahoney, MD, jm2@medicine.wisc.edu.

Pharmacy Practice Enhancement and Action Research Link (PEARL Rx)

Pharmacy Practice Enhancement and Action Research Link (PEARL Rx) is a statewide research network of over 60 community, clinic and hospital pharmacists with the goal of building capacity for practice-based research initiatives in response to opportunities that can enhance and advance pharmacy practice in the state.

For more information, please contact Michelle Chui, PharmD, PhD, michelle.chui@wisc.edu.
Wisconsin Public Health Research Network (WPHRN)

Wisconsin Public Health Research Network (WPHRN), is a group of health department leaders and researchers who have organized to support and advance public health systems and services research driven by the needs and interests of health departments in Wisconsin and beyond.

For more information, please contact Susan Zahner, DrPH, sjzahner@wisc.edu.

Wisconsin Network for Health Research (WiNHR)

Wisconsin Network for Health Research (WiNHR) supports a statewide clinical and translational infrastructure and offers opportunities for collaborative research between institutions and communities around the state. The four founding members of WiNHR are the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Aurora Health Care, Gundersen Health System and the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Bufford, MS, bufford2@wisc.edu.

Wisconsin Research & Education Network (WREN)

Wisconsin Research & Education Network (WREN) is a statewide primary care, practice-based research network. Researchers may collaborate with WREN when their research involves partnerships with multi-site primary care clinicians, practices, and the communities they serve; quality improvement/enhancement; and underserved populations.

For more information, please contact David Hahn, MD, david.hahn@fammed.wisc.edu.

Current Programs & Affiliates

ICTR-CAP programs and affiliate programs (printable PDF) are potential partners for faculty and community stakeholders applying for many different types of funding opportunities.

Note to Investigators applying for ICTR funding: To meet the criteria of “Collaborating with an ICTR-CAP program or affiliate program,” you must involve one of the CAP programs in the design, implementation and/or evaluation stages of the proposed research. If you would like assistance connecting with one of these programs, please complete an ICTR CAP Consult Request.

Because the ICTR-CAP award programs place such strong emphasis on collaboration, the distinction between a collaborator and a consultant is important. Note: ICTR-CAP programs/affiliates may be limited to offering consultation-only, depending on other time and resource demands.

- **Collaboration** occurs when an investigator works together with her/his collaborators in a joint intellectual effort. Examples of collaboration include: joint development of the research question, oversight of tool development and implementation, joint analysis of research data, etc.

- **Consultation** occurs when an investigator meets with an individual or individuals during which time advice is given or views are exchanged, but the consultant is not an active participant in the research project.