Building Trust was developed as a bioethics research initiative designed to address the underrepresentation of many minority groups in research. Although health and medical research has been instrumental in improving the health of Americans, the underrepresentation of minorities in research has limited their ability to benefit equally from scientific advancements. One of the main goals set forth by the Building Trust project was to create training and educational programs designed to increase the participation of minorities in public health and biomedical research, and to strengthen the capacity of researchers and community members to work effectively with each other. We have developed two curricula to help achieve this goal, one specifically for community members, and one for investigators, research staff and IRB members.

Leading this project are Principal Investigators Stephen B. Thomas, PhD and Sandra C. Quinn, PhD. Dr. Thomas is a Professor of Health Services Administration in the School of Public Health and Director of the Maryland Center for Health Equity. Dr. Quinn is the Associate Dean for Public Health Initiatives, Senior Associate Director of the Maryland Center for Health Equity and a Professor in the Department of Family Science. Both are recognized as two of the nation’s leading scholars in the effort to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities.

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Enhancing Minority Engagement in Research

Module 3: Making an Informed Decision
Outcome: Make an informed decision about participating in research.

Module 4: Becoming an Informed Consumer
Outcome: Become an informed consumer of health and medical research results reported in the media.

Module 5: Getting Involved with Research
Outcome: Recognize approaches for getting involved with researchers and in research.

Becoming a Self-Reflective Researcher: Successfully Engaging Minority Communities

This curriculum is designed for use by researchers, research staff, IRB members, and health professions students. This program will strengthen the capacity of researchers to effectively recruit and retain minority participants in research. Through seven interactive modules, participants will respond to trigger films, discuss complex ethical issues, and practice skills for enhancing recruitment, retention, informed consent, and the development of community partnerships. This facilitator-led program can be used in settings such as academic health centers, health sciences schools, research centers, and government agencies.

Module 1: Research, Race, and Social Justice
Outcome: 

Module 2: Case Studies in Ethically Complex Research
Outcome: 

Module 3: Critical Conversations
Outcome: 

Module 4: Meaningful Partnerships
Outcome: 

Module 5: Respectful Recruitment
Outcome: 

Module 6: The Informed Consent Conversation
Outcome: 

Module 7: Conscientious Retention
Outcome: 

“This program gave me an enlightened awareness of issues of race and racism in research. We should constantly remind ourselves of the need to reflect on and address these issues.”

“I opened my eyes, because I never looked at research in a way that would affect me.”

“This curriculum is designed for use in minority communities, particularly those who experience significant health disparities. This program will help participants understand how research can improve public health and eliminate health disparities. The goals of this program are to enable participants to engage with health and medical research in their communities and to make informed decisions about participating in research. Ideally, two facilitators will lead this interactive five-module program in groups. Potential audiences include civic groups, faith communities, YMCAs/YWCAs, tribal groups and others interested in learning more about participating in research.”

“I learned which questions to ask.”

Module 2: Legacy of the Past
Outcome: 

Module 1: Using Research to Improve Our Health
Outcome: 

Appreciate the contributions of research for improving human health and eliminating health disparities.

Recognize how the impacts of past situations of research abuse can affect minority communities today.