

Background

- Patient and community engagement is increasingly recognized as critical for enhancing the relevance, quality, and benefits of research.
- Such engagement is believed to be critical to address cancer-related health disparities and enhance the relevance of the research to the communities involved.
- Factors related to time, competing priorities, and skills interacting with stakeholders may interfere with researchers' ability and/or willingness to partake in meaningful engagement.
- First established in 2018, the Community Scientist Program (CSP) has now trained over 100 Community Scientists (CSs) in principles of human subjects, biomedical research, and community engagement.
- The CSP aims to facilitate engagement by providing researchers with rapid feedback from trained patients and community members.
- This project evaluated the CSs and Researchers' satisfaction, CSP's impact on the implementation and application of research, and its effects on the Community Scientists' overall perception of research.

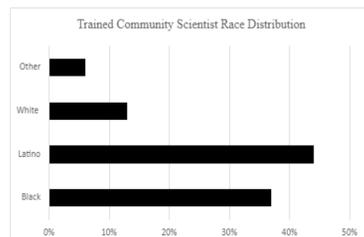
Methods

- The Community Scientist Program (CSP) has expanded to include four research institutions across geographic regions of Texas (Houston, Northeast Texas, Rio Grande Valley), encompassing both urban and rural settings.
- The CSP offers researchers one-hour facilitated online sessions where researchers present topics for feedback, ranging from conceptions of a research question to study implementation and dissemination to Community Scientists.
- Feedback forms are then sent to the researcher and the Community Scientist to gauge their satisfaction with each of the feedback sessions.

REDCap was utilized to analyze saved information and examine the effectiveness of the CSP on the benefit of research for the researchers, and its overall effect on community engagement.



DEMOGRAPHICS



19%
82%

- 26 cancer survivors
- 24 caregivers

Table 1: Community Scientist Feedback Sessions Results for 79 Evaluations 2020-2022. (N=432)

Variables	Strongly Agree/ Agree % (N)
I felt my feedback was valued*	99% (253)
I was satisfied with the feedback session	98% (422)
The feedback session process was worth my time	98% (421)
The feedback I provided will improve the research project	98% (420)
Would you participate in a feedback session again?	100% (432)
The researcher's presentation gave me enough information to provide appropriate feedback	97% (419)

* Evaluation question was added October 21, 2021.

Graph 1: In what ways has your experience with the Community Scientist Program influenced your current or future research methods? (N=37)

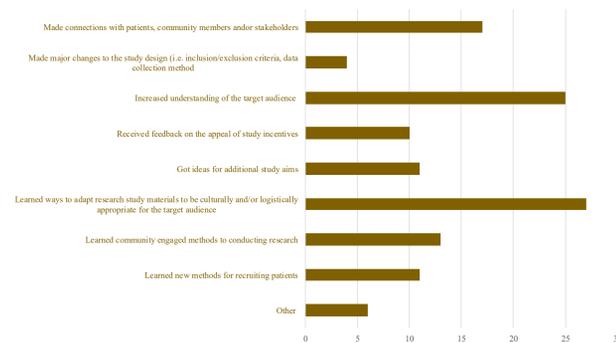
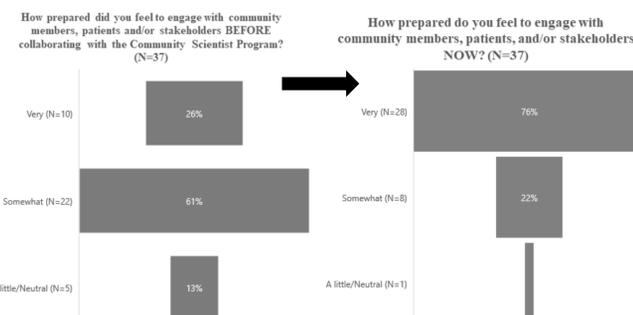


Table 2: Researchers Feedback Session Immediate Evaluation (N=45)

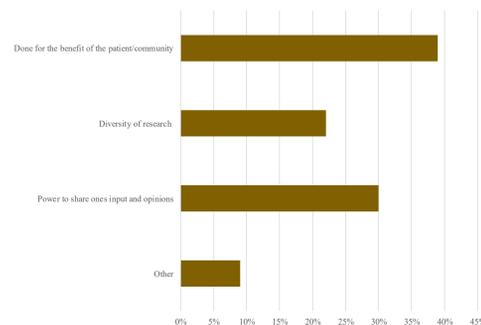
	% (N)
Would you recommend the Community Scientist Feedback Session to a colleague?	
Yes	100% (45)
No	0% (0)



Results

End of Year Evaluation (2020-2021)

Graph 2: Please explain how your perception of research changed after participating in the Community Scientist Program. (N=22)



Community Scientists' Responses:

"I thought research was impersonal and only data-driven in order to meet funding deadlines or requirements. What I have found is that those who propose research do it painstakingly in order to answer important questions that plague the community or the patients we serve."

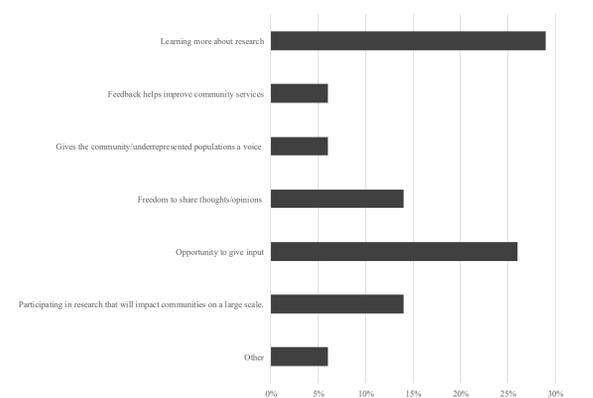
"Research is not just lab coats and test tubes."

"it made me understand research actually takes the communities interest while implementing their programs."

"Power to speak on behalf of one's community."

"Research encompasses more than just customer satisfaction surveys and it seeks to better serve the community."

Graph 3: What do you like most about the Community Scientist Program? (% distribution) (N=35)



Community Scientists' Responses:

"Having the opportunity to learn about research project directed toward those in the community who are experiencing the most disparity in healthcare and other resources. Also being able to give feedback which could potentially help with decision making that could have a positive impact on the program."

"I like that I was able to give feedback and that my feedback was valued."

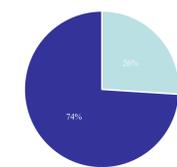
"The ability to learn about new studies that will improve a person's life."

"Knowing that my feedback can help improve service for the community."

Table 3: Community Scientist End of Year Evaluation 2020-2021. (N=45)

Variables	Very Satisfactory/Satisfactory % (N)
Overall, how would you rate the Community Scientist Program?	97%(35)
Did the program increase your knowledge of research enough that you felt comfortable sharing/teaching other people what you learned?	100%(35)
Overall, how would you rate the Community Scientist Program Feedback Sessions?	97%(34)
Overall, how would you rate the training you received for the Community Scientist Program?	97%(35)

How likely is it that you would recommend the Community Scientist Program to a friend or colleague? (N=35)



Conclusion

- With 99% of Community Scientists agreeing their feedback was valued, CSP offers a vital and scalable resource to incorporate community input and values into the research process.
- The Community Scientist Program (CSP) connects the research community to patient/community stakeholders.
- CSP creates a safe space where researchers, community members, and patients have the opportunity to learn from one another.
- CSP ensures that the individuals who are most impacted by the research being conducted are at the forefront.

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