Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is a collaborative process of research between trained researchers and community representatives to solve problems relevant to human health in communities. Members of the community may be involved in all aspects of the research including design, conduct, analysis, and dissemination of results.

KUMC supports a number of resources available for investigators who plan to conduct CBPR that discuss basic principles of CBPR, ethical issues, and training for academic and community partners. The organization maintains institutional components that are funded by the CTSA and PCORI grants to support these community engagement efforts. These include the Community Partnerships for Health funded by CTSA and the Greater Plains Cooperative funded by PCORI. Other entities included grant funded components of Center for American Indian Community Health (CAICH) and JUNTOS. Each of these components promotes CBPR through formation of community advisory boards that provide input about the design and conduct of research.

Investigators who conduct community-based participatory research are encouraged to review the optional training course developed by our local Community Partnerships for Health (CPH), posted at [http://www.kumc.edu/CommunityEngagement/](http://www.kumc.edu/CommunityEngagement/) and to use the self-assessment and consultation services offered by CPH.

To assist in the IRB submission and review of CBPR projects, specific questions have been added to the KUMC protocol template and the IRB application forms. The CPH also provides their expertise as consultants to the IRB when CBPR projects are being reviewed.

**Principles of Community-Based Participatory Research**

- Topic /research question is defined in collaboration with community partners
- Community members are seen as participants or partners (focus / unit of analysis)
- Researchers and communities work together to improve instruments, increase participation, and interpret results (study design and execution)
- Researches and communities collaboratively obtain new knowledge and skills
- Data are shared; community and researchers agree on dissemination plans (return of results)

**The IRB will consider the following points when reviewing CBPR Projects**

- The research should aim to facilitate collaborative, equitable partnerships with the community at all stages of the research. This includes planning and implementing the research and disseminating research results.
- If possible, community members should be involved with the identifying the issues of concern and need for the research. In addition they need to be involved in designing, planning and implementing the research. This permits building on the community strength and resources and promotes co-learning and capacity building among all partners. This also helps emphasize the local relevance of the issues to be studied.
- The risks and benefits to individuals and the community must be considered. The
community needs to be recognized as a unit of identity. Minimize risks and maximize benefits by:
  o Using community collaborators to identify culturally-appropriate perspectives
  o Capacity building within the community to empower

- Investigators need to consider the methods used to be sure they are sensitive and appropriate to the various communities (literacy, language barriers, cultural sensitivities)
- When possible the research should include capacity-building opportunities

*Source: Partners/Harvard Catalyst Human Research Committee Guidance Document

**Differences between Traditional & Community-Based Participatory Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Traditional Research</th>
<th>CBPR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic/research question</td>
<td>Defined by researcher</td>
<td>Defined in collaboration with community partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus/unit of analysis</td>
<td>Human subject in community</td>
<td>Community members are seen as participants or partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study design and execution</td>
<td>Researcher controls all aspects of the project</td>
<td>Researchers and communities work together to improve instruments, increase participation, and interpret results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge acquisition</td>
<td>Researcher obtains new knowledge</td>
<td>Researchers and communities collaboratively obtain new knowledge and skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data and disseminations</td>
<td>Owned and controlled by researcher</td>
<td>Data is shared; community and researchers agree on dissemination plans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Resource at KUMC**

When the IRB reviews community-based participatory research, additional expertise is available from our CTSA Community Partnership for Health.  
[http://frontiersresearch.org/frontiers/community-partnership-for-health](http://frontiersresearch.org/frontiers/community-partnership-for-health)

Principles of Partnership Self-Assessment Tool  
[http://frontiersresearch.org/frontiers/sites/default/files/frontiers/documents/Frontiers%20CPH%20community%20partnership%20assessment%20w%20AW%20final%204%208%202014.pdf](http://frontiersresearch.org/frontiers/sites/default/files/frontiers/documents/Frontiers%20CPH%20community%20partnership%20assessment%20w%20AW%20final%204%208%202014.pdf)

Community Engagement Training  
[http://www.kumc.edu/CommunityEngagement/](http://www.kumc.edu/CommunityEngagement/)