

Community Engagement Studios at UCI

The **Community Engagement Studio** is a one-time consultative session for researchers interested in getting input on their work from patients, caregivers, health care providers, community members, and other non-researcher stakeholders. A panel of stakeholders, whose characteristics are defined by the researcher, are assembled to provide feedback to enhance the planning, design, implementation, translation, or dissemination of the research.

The CE Studio provides a framework for stakeholders to give immediate feedback to researchers on specific areas of concern before a research project is implemented, or to assist a struggling project and, for this reason, are considered **experts**. Community input can increase the quality and relevance of research, improve recruitment and retention for clinical trials and, inform community engagement sections for grant proposals.



The benefits of Community Engagement Studios include:

- Accessing stakeholders from various settings, without the complexity of scheduling multiple meetings
- Identifying potential patient or community partners to enhance the implementation of the research
- Addressing potential barriers and challenges related to recruitment and retention
- Assessing feasibility and appropriateness of the project for the patient population or community
- Gaining feedback on cultural and linguistic appropriateness of research documents (e.g. recruitment materials, consent documents, surveys)

The CE Studio can be a valuable experience for researchers at any stage in their career. Faculty, post-docs, fellows, graduate students, and undergrads who are interested in receiving feedback from their population of interest on the relevance and feasibility of their research ideas have reported positive impacts on their projects and proposals.

To sign up as a community expert, or request a CES, visit the ICTS website at <https://www.icts.uci.edu/ce/ces.php> For other questions, please contact Robynn Zender (rzender@hs.uci.edu) or Adrijana Gombosov (agmbosev@hs.uci.edu).