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2011 St. Louis OHRP National Research Forum and Community-Engaged Research Conference

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Human Research Protection Office
Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

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HRPO website/conference website changes

Community-Engaged Conference a Success!

On September 26 and 27, 2011 Dr. Wayne Riley, President and Chief Executive Officer, Meharry Medical College gave the keynote address at the St. Louis OHRP National Research Forum and Community-Engaged Research Conference hosted by Washington University (WU), the Office for Human Research Protection Office (OHRP), Meharry Medical College (MMC) and the Washington University Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (ICTS). Dr. Riley's message consisted of 3 key questions: "How can we engage the community in research? What events have affected the current lack of community engaged research? What are some basic practical principles that can help us move forward?" These questions set the tone for a conference whose focus was the challenges of community-engaged research and strategies to overcome them. Messages from speakers and participants alike during the course of the conference were that communication should be bi-directional and that any research conducted in a community setting should be shared with the community, trust building is paramount and that both researchers and community participants need to be educated. Engagement with the community should be consistent and long-term. Ways to do that include discussion forums, activities/events of interest to the community, and use of community advisors.

306 individuals from 25 states and 37 community organizations participated in the conference. Amongst the conference attendees were individuals representing community organizations such as: Choctaw Nation, Oasis Institute, The Breakfast Club, Inc., St. Louis Regional Health Commission, St. Louis Integrated Health Network, and the Diabetes Network amongst others.

Presenters included those from the community representing such agencies as Healthy African-Americans Phase II, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and Gateway Greening as well as those from Washington University, Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt University and University of North Carolina. In addition, there were 20 posters presented highlighting issues and/or research with community-engaged research.

Representative comments of those that attended include:

"This was the best conference I have ever attended!"

"I usually don't walk away from a conference with new tools and ideas to apply to my research, but this meeting is going to change the way I do science."

"This was a wonderful/inspiring and informative conference!"

For more information concerning the Human Research Protection Office's Community-Engaged Research Program go to: http://hrpohome.wustl.edu/study_team/CITI/HRPO_CITI.aspx.

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