

CREST

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Welcome

Welcome to CREST Community!

A quarterly newsletter by the Integrating Underrepresented Populations in Research (IUPR) Team at Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI).

CREST (Collaboration for Research Equity, Sustainability, and Trust) is comprised of organizations and individuals committed to improving the health and welfare of Black and Brown communities in Boston.

Together, we will foster interactions between community-academic partners who share an interest in improving public health.

[Learn more about us](#)

[Apply to be a CREST Member](#)

Coming Soon:

IUPR Questionnaire

Staff of the IUPR team have been working on a pre-consult questionnaire for our joint consults with the Recruitment & Retention unit (RRSU). The purpose of the questionnaire will be to screen research studies for the inclusion of vulnerable populations & to advise that the necessary protections be included in study designs.

Coming Soon:

Mental Health Forum

Over the last few months, the IUPR team has had multiple meetings with the Science Communications team to plan concern-gatherings that will ultimately lead to a forum on mental health.

Stay tuned!

Coming Soon:

New I LEARN Course

The I LEARN course, "Community Participation in Research", created by CREST Staff and members of the Professional Education (PE) team is in it's final stages. A community review is currently underway and the course will be LIVE and available to the public soon.

Stay tuned!

News

ADAPT-CREST Co-Learning

In March, CREST had another co-learning session with the Addressing Disparities in Asian Populations through Translational Research (ADAPT) team. During the co-learning session, Kristen Halbert, Senior Associate at Black Lion Strategies and Senior Advisor at deWit Impact Group, served as a guest speaker. She spoke about best practices in regards to attracting attention and support from policymakers in order to have your desired impact on health outcomes. We will have another ADAPT-CREST co-learning session in June. Stay tuned!

IUPR/CREST Steering Committee Meeting

Last week, staff of the IUPR/CREST team held their Steering Committee meeting. They went over everything that has been accomplished over the last grant cycle. From community engagement, to newly created tools for consultations in partnership with the Recruitment & Retention Services Unit (RRSU), to goals for the new CTSA 7-year grant. Next steps are 1) sending the CREST evaluation report out for review by committee members; and 2) connecting our community partners with Principal Investigators that they can collaborate with on health-related research projects of interest.

Community Events

Over the last few months, there has been one event that CREST community partners, specifically the Authentic Caribbean Foundation, has hosted that we would like to highlight:

Andrew Sharpe, Executive Director of the Authentic Caribbean Foundation (ACF), hosted their Afro-Caribbean Black History Gala & Awards on February 25th at Florian Hall in Dorchester. More than 300 people attended the event, including Mayor Michelle Wu. In addition to live music and food, nine professionals were honored and received rewards for the work they do to advance health equity, education, and community development throughout the West Indian American community in Boston and beyond. Tufts CTSI was represented at the event by Angelique Santiago, Research Project Coordinator II of our IUPR team.



Upcoming Events

UCB In-Person Resource Fair

Tufts Health Plan will be sponsoring Union Capital Boston's (UCB) In-Person Resource Fair on Saturday, May 6th from 10:30AM until 12PM. It will take place in the Bruce Bolling Building in Nubian Square.

10th Anniversary: Caribbean American Heritage Festival

CREST community partner, Authentic Caribbean Foundation, will be celebrating National Caribbean American Heritage month by hosting a festival at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston. The event will be on Saturday, June 3rd from 12PM to 6PM. Save the Date! We hope to see you there.

Community Day

On Saturday June 24th, CREST community partner Arnetta Baty will be involved with the Metropolitan Baptist Church for "Community Day". The event will take place from 12PM to 5PM. There will be food, vendors, games, and tons of fun! Once again, save the date. We hope to see you there! Also, if you are interested in assisting with sponsorship or would like vendor table information, please email admin@mbcboston.org

Quote of the Month:

"What mental health needs is more sunlight, more candor, and more unashamed conversation."

-Glenn Close

More at Tufts CTSI:

CTSA Grant #4

It's official! Tufts CTSI has received its fourth grant from the National Institute of Health's (NIH) National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). It will fund the institute's research services, resources, and educational programs over the next seven years. We are so excited to see all the ideas generated and work that comes to fruition during this next grant cycle. Congrats everyone!

Welcome MGH CARE!

Not too long ago, Tufts CTSI welcomed the Mass General Hospital (MGH) Community Access, Recruitment, and Engagement (CARE) Research Center to co-consult with the Recruitment & Retention Support Unit (RRSU). These consults also include staff from the Community & Stakeholder Engagement (CSE) Team and the CREST/IUPR Team. MGH CARE has already had a positive impact on our joint consultations to academic research teams and we are happy to have them. Welcome!

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