

WHY IS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IMPORTANT FOR TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH?

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ADDS **MANY BENEFITS** TO TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH. ENGAGEMENT WITH THOSE WHO MAY BE IMPACTED OR WHO HAVE THE EXPERIENCE TO COMMENT ENSURES RESEARCH IS NOT ONLY FIT FOR PURPOSE BUT ALSO **BETTER, RELEVANT, ACCEPTABLE, AND APPROPRIATE** FOR SOCIETY'S NEEDS.

EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT RESEARCH DONE **WITH**, RATHER THAN **TO** OR **FOR** PATIENTS AND OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS, IS **MORE LIKELY** TO BE IMPLEMENTED, CREATING GREATER IMPACT ON HEALTH AND WELL-BEING, PARTICULARLY IF THESE STAKEHOLDERS ALSO HAVE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THERAPY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.

THERE ARE VARIOUS MOTIVATIONS DRIVING ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH. SOME OF THESE ARE:

RESEARCHER DRIVERS

DEVELOP AND CO-CREATE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGH MUTUAL LEARNING

IMPROVE USER EXPERIENCE

GAIN AWARENESS OF BROADER CONTEXTS OF RESEARCH AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF INDIVIDUALS

- Career development – effective public engagement and involvement experience are increasingly important for career progression
- Raise their profile within their department, in the wider academic setting, and in the patient, public, charity, and industry arenas
- Can improve self-worth, empowerment, and personal motivation for work in a role that can feel isolating
- Sense of community and connection to their work
- Develop new skills and expertise such as communication, influencing and presenting

ETHICAL DRIVERS

- ENGAGE IN RESEARCH THAT IS MORE LIKELY TO BE TRANSPARENT, RELEVANT AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE TARGET GROUP AND WIDER PUBLIC, THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO EVIDENCE-BASED KNOWLEDGE IN THE PUBLIC REALM

- Be accountable to the public for research funding and understand what matters most to patients, carers and the public

- Raise the profile and acceptance of the value of research through the research outcomes and information gained

- Contribute positively to a more equal and open society

DRIVERS TO IMPROVE RESEARCH QUALITY

DEVELOP NEW IDEAS AND CHOOSE BETWEEN ALTERNATIVE DIRECTIONS FOR RESEARCH

AVOID INCORRECT ASSUMPTIONS

CAN IDENTIFY UNFORESEEN OPPORTUNITIES, FOR EXAMPLE, PATIENT IDEAS AROUND COMBINED THERAPY/TESTING AND OTHERWISE UNANTICIPATED PROBLEMS, AND THEIR SOLUTIONS

- Gain sources of new and broader motivation, inspiration, perspectives, and expertise

- Confirm that the right decisions have been made, thus instilling confidence in those decisions

INDUSTRY AND LEGAL DRIVERS

- INCREASE BUY-IN AND ADOPTION OF A THERAPY – THE MORE STAKEHOLDERS WHO ARE INVOLVED DURING THERAPY DEVELOPMENT, THE MORE LIKELY IT WILL BE ADOPTED AND USED. THIS ENSURES THAT RESEARCH IS RELEVANT TO PATIENTS AND THOSE THAT SUPPORT PATIENTS

- Secure funding by strengthening research proposals through demonstrating effective patient and public involvement

- Gain access to wider groups of public / patients through stakeholders, and access to other clinicians and hospitals via their treating teams. In certain instances, there is a legal requirement to do this

DRIVERS FOR PATIENT STAKEHOLDERS

BE INFORMED OF RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN, LATEST EVIDENCE ON TREATMENTS AND CARE AS WELL AS GETTING FAMILIAR WITH RESEARCH OUTCOMES

ENSURE PRACTICALITIES OF USING THE THERAPY IN THE REAL WORLD ARE CONSIDERED AND MEET PATIENT NEEDS, INCLUDING LANGUAGE, PHYSICAL AND OTHER BARRIERS

SHARE LIVED EXPERIENCE

CREATE SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION TO THOSE WORKING IN RESEARCH AND TO OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS WHO MAY SHARE THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES

- Can improve self-worth and empowerment at a time when things can feel out of control

- Contribute skills such as communication, influencing and presenting, as well as professional skills from their fields

- Support dissemination of results to a wide patient and public audience

- Access to training to develop and co-create new knowledge, skills, and understanding through mutual learning

- Altruism – wanting to actively assist in the research process and contribute to a better healthcare system to the benefit of all

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

This training resource is part of ACCELERATE - a set of interlinked training and development initiatives aimed at upskilling the UCL research community in translational research. ACCELERATE is a collaboration between the UCL Academic Careers Office and the UCL Translational Research Office. This training resource was developed in collaboration with others across UCL including the UCL Public Engagement Team from UCL Culture and members of the Patient and Public Research Panel at the UCL Blood and Transplant Research Unit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

[ACCELERATE_UCL Translational Research Training Programme](#)
[UCL Public Engagement](#)
[Patient and Public Research Panel, UCL Blood and Transplant Research Unit](#)

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS RESOURCE WAS SUPPORTED BY