

THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING AND SUSTAINING A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND COMMUNITY

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PURPOSE & AIMS

Purpose: To develop a lasting partnership among community health educators, academic researchers, and faith communities and to improve understanding and utilization of advance care planning among Chinese and Vietnamese Americans.

Specific Aims:

- Build and strengthen a collaboration among a community-based organization (CBO), academic researchers, and faith-based organizations to conduct community-based participatory research (CBPR) on advance care planning among Chinese and Vietnamese Americans
- Design an effective intervention involving faith-based organizations to address advance care planning in Chinese and Vietnamese American communities
- Evaluate the impact and efficacy of a faith-based intervention to increase completion of advance directives among Chinese and Vietnamese Americans.

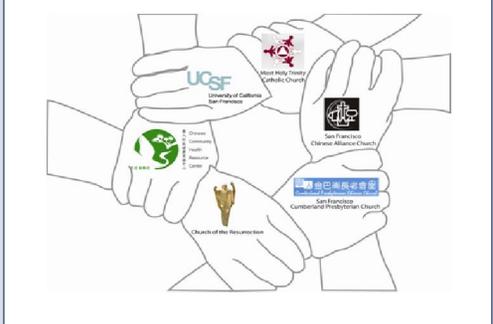
BACKGROUND/RATIONALE

Asian Americans (AA):

- Comprised of 4.8% of the US Population (14.6 million)^{7,8}
- 3.8 million are of Chinese descent⁷ (about 26% of AA population)
 - 61.0% are immigrants
 - 75.3% speak a language other than English
 - 41.1% endorsed low English proficiency
- 1.6 million are of Vietnamese descent⁸ (about 1.65% of AA population)
 - 64.5% are immigrants
 - 85.2% speak a language other than English
 - 51.7% endorsed low English proficiency
- Have low rates of Advance Directives (AD) utilization
- No published studies have addressed advance care planning among AAs
- Evidence shows community-based approach through faith communities can lead to higher use of ADs in African and Hispanic Americans and non-Hispanic Whites⁵

ACADEMIC-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The multidisciplinary partnership was based on **Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR)**⁹ in which all partners in the project, including leaders from academia, community based organization, and faith-based organizations have the opportunity to be full participants in each phase of the project.



METHODS

Theory used for Intervention:

- Theory of Reasoned Action¹ was chosen for this intervention because:
 - TRA has been used to understand the AD Decision making process⁶
 - Allows examination of social influence in AD completion as being applied in research promoting health behavior change via faith based programs³
 - Has been applied across various cultures, including Asian, that place importance on collectivism and family values in decision making^{2,4,10}

Division of Tasks among CBO and Academia:

Tasks were divided according to *Expertise* of the each partners:

Academia:

- Draft sections on literature review, theory, and methodology

Community:

- Solicit support from its network
- Draft Sections of proposal related to the community's skills
- Grant Submission Process

All:

- Draft sections related to the Research Plan, Budget, and Human Subject Protection Protocol



RESULTS

- The Grant Proposal was approved and the study is currently in progress.
- The **Community Partner** is leading the study as the Principal Investigator (PI).
- The **Academic Partner** is providing guidance and expertise in research theory and methodology.



Timeline of Accomplishments and Milestones (Year 1)

Current Stage of Study

YEAR 1	Oct '10 (Mon 3)	Nov '10 (Mon 2)	Dec '10 (Mon 3)	Jan '11 (Mon 4)	Feb '11 (Mon 5)	Mar '11 (Mon 6)	Apr '11 (Mon 7)	May '11 (Mon 8)	Jun '11 (Mon 9)	Jul '11 (Mon 10)	Aug '11 (Mon 11)	Sept '11 (Mon 12)
RESEARCH TEAM	RESEARCH TEAM MEETING											
CHURCH PARTNERS & RESEARCH TEAM	CHURCH PARTNERS & RESEARCH TEAM MEETING											
ACADEMIC PARTNER	ACADEMIC PARTNER MEETING											
COMMUNITY PARTNER	COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETING											
ADDITIONAL MILESTONES	RECRUITMENT OF PARTICIPANTS FOR BASELINE SURVEY											

Year 2 of the Study will focus on further strengthening collaboration between all academic, community, and faith-based partners, continuation of the intervention, data entry, management and analysis, and report compilation.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

- Selected an appropriate and agreeable decision-making strategy
- Balanced Coordination and Communication among all Partners

CONCLUSION

This study provides a model for:

- Establishing and sustaining a multidisciplinary partnership
- Identifying partners with common goals
- Maintaining a balance of power (financial, political, and cultural) across all partners with flexibility without compromising the integrity of each partner's mission and culture
- Maximizing expertise and resources of all partners
- Balancing coordination and communication among all partners

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 Church of the Resurrection, Sunnyvale, California
 Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church, San Jose, California
 San Francisco Chinese Alliance Church, San Francisco, California