



Addressing Tensions Related to Values, Traditions and  
Priorities

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Morehouse School of Medicine

Integrity

Service

Justice

Wisdom

Innovation

Excellence

National Academies Science Engineering and Medicine Division of Behavioral and  
Social Sciences and Education Board on Science and Education



# Institutional Context

## Morehouse School of Medicine Mission Statement

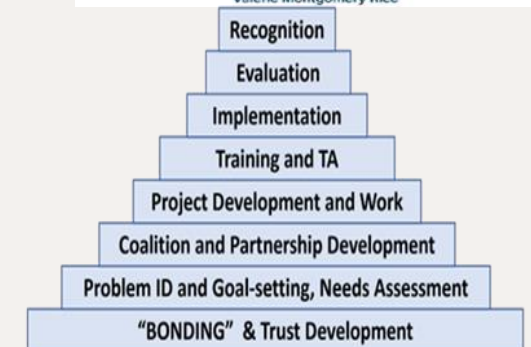
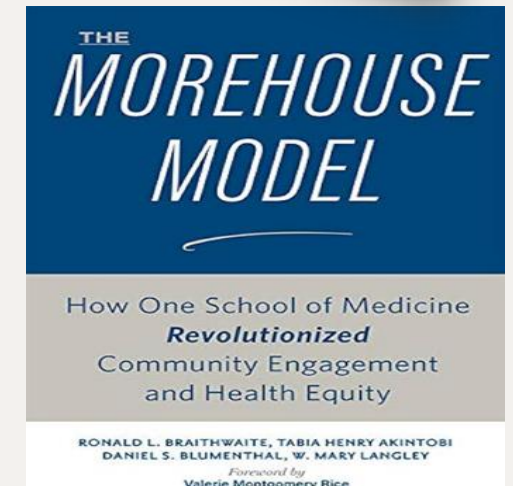
### We exist to:

- Improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities
- Increase the diversity of the health professional and scientific workforce
- Address primary health care through programs in education, research, and service

With emphasis on people of color and the underserved urban and rural populations in Georgia, the nation, and the world.

### We Need:

- Compassionate Care
- Innovative Medicine
- Culturally Competent and sensitive care
- Service to the Underserved
- Primary Care Professionals
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGED learners, researchers, clinicians and practitioners**



# Infrastructure: Community Governance

MSM Prevention Research Center Community Coalition Board:

Local History, National and Global Reach

Demonstrate the value of community governance (vs. advisory) boards

- **Composition**

- Community Residents (majority in #, all leadership seats, weighted votes)
- Academic Institution Representatives
- Agencies

- **Function**

- Policy-making body
- Identifies health priorities and approves projects
- Sets policies and oversees research infrastructure & operations
- Provides information on research activities to organizations and agencies
- Ensures clear benefits of community-engaged research
- Establishes or sustains trust with community

The community engagement course and action network: strengthening community and academic research partnerships to advance health equity

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**Background:** Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions are uniquely positioned to implement community-campus research partnerships based on a history of service, the pursuit of community trustworthiness and student demographics often similar to surrounding marginalized communities. The Morehouse School of Medicine Prevention Research Center collaborates with members of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, and community organizations on the Community Engaged Course and Action Network. This network is the first of its kind and aims to strengthen members' ability to implement Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) principles and partnerships. Projects address public health priorities including mental health among communities of color, zoonotic disease prevention, and urban food deserts.

**Materials and methods:** To assess the effectiveness of the network, a Participatory Evaluation framework was implemented to conduct process evaluation which included review of partnership structures, operations, project implementation processes, and preliminary outcomes of the research collaborations. A focus group of Community Engagement Course and Action Network members (community and academic) was also conducted to identify benefits and challenges of the network with emphasis on key areas for improvement to further enhance the relationships between partners and to facilitate their subsequent community-campus research.

**Results:** Network improvements were tied to themes strengthening community-academic partnerships including sharing and fellowship, coalition building and collaboration, and greater connections and awareness of community needs through their current community-academic partnerships. The need to conduct ongoing evaluation during and after implementation, for determining the early adoption of CBPR approaches was also identified.

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# Institutional Will & Support: T<sup>x</sup>™ Working Group, Trademark, Approach, Funding, Office of Community Engagement and Strategic Plan



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and Public Health



Case Report

Moving Morehouse School of Medicine Translation T<sup>x</sup>™ Research through MDTTs—Multidisciplinary Translational Teams

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**Abstract:** Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) works to achieve the vision of advancing health equity through conducting transformational, translational science (T<sup>x</sup>). T<sup>x</sup> describes our translational research continuum, symbolizing a method and scientific philosophy that intentionally promotes and supports convergence of interdisciplinary approaches and scientists to stimulate exponential advances for the health of diverse communities. Morehouse SCM actualizes T<sup>x</sup> through multidisciplinary translational teams (MDTTs). We chronicle the identification of MDTTs by documenting formation, composition, functioning, successes, failures, and sustainability. Data and information were collected through key informant interviews, review of research documents, workshops, and community events. Our scan identified 16 teams that meet our Morehouse SCM definition of an MDTT. These team science workshops from basic science, clinical, and public health academic departments, and include community partners and student learners. We present four MDTTs, in various stages of progress, at Morehouse SCM and how they are advancing translational research.

**Keywords:** translational research; multidisciplinary teams; health-equity; community participatory research

Check for updates

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Commentary

## COMMENTARY: T<sup>x</sup>™: AN APPROACH AND PHILOSOPHY TO ADVANCE TRANSLATION TO TRANSFORMATION

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The translational science spectrum consists of phases or types of research, from discoveries that advance our understanding of the biological basis of health and disease to interventions that engage individuals and social systems toward improved population health. The health research system has widely acknowledged flaws that delay (or even deny) the fruits of research findings for the population and for chronically disadvantaged groups. Coined and patented at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM), T<sup>x</sup>™ symbolizes an approach and scientific philosophy that intentionally promotes and supports the convergence of interdisciplinary approaches and scientists to stimulate exponential advances for the health of diverse communities. While the T<sup>x</sup>™ patient is new, this approach to research translation is embedded within the MSM tapestry with historically aligned research from the

### INTRODUCTION

The translational science spectrum consists of phases or types of research, from discoveries that advance our understanding of the biological basis of health and disease to interventions that engage individuals and social systems toward improved population health. The schematic depiction of translational research is often a series of “T<sup>x</sup>” (“T” for translation stage) proceeding in order from T<sub>1</sub> to T<sub>n</sub> (with variations in the number of discrete stages identified). However, a more

tiatives that culminate in clinical research or clinical trials. However, the path from observation and analysis of phenomena to real world health impact can emanate from any of the T phases. According to the National Institutes of Health, translation is the process through which scientific discoveries (laboratory, clinic and community, among others) advance improvements in the health of individuals or populations — “from diagnostics and therapeutics to medical procedures and behavioral changes.”<sup>1</sup>

The health research system has

- Engages the community, ideally, from inception of research
- Convenes interdisciplinary teams
- Involves collaboration among researchers across the translational continuum/rings
- Conducts research with results that broaden the evidence-base
- Results in adoption and/or adaptation to communities



**MOREHOUSE**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Office of

**Community Engagement**

Research, Service, Patient Care, and Education

 **MOREHOUSE**  
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**Leading the Creation  
and Advancement of Health Equity to  
Achieve Health Justice.** (Our Vision)

**Our Desired Impacts on Those Whom We Serve** (Our Customer Value Proposition)

**OUR MISSION (OUR CUSTOMER VALUE PROPOSITION)**

**PILLAR 1**

Translating Discovery & Innovation into Health Equity

**Research Goal**

Partner with communities to dismantle barriers to optimal health through discovery and the implementation of scientific, medical, and public health breakthroughs by leveraging technology and our unique talents.

**PILLAR 2**

Building Bridges Between Healthcare & Health

**Research Goal**

Build a just and sustainable healthy global community, centering the patient as an equal.

**PILLAR 3**

Preparing Future Health Learners & Leaders

**Research Goal**

Recognized as the world-class and dynamic academic health science ecosystem where health equity and health justice learners and leaders are empowered to remove educational, medical and social barriers to produce pathways toward optimal health for all.

**PILLAR 4**

Serving as a Catalyst for Community Empowered Health Equity

**Community Engagement Goal**

Lead in the transformation of contexts, conditions, and systems to be the pre-eminent global resource, advancing health equity and health justice *by, with and for* communities to ensure optimal health for all.

**STRENGTHENING OUR FOUNDATION TO DELIVER GREATER VALUE TO OUR LEARNERS & OTHER KEY PRIMARY CUSTOMERS**

**PLATFORM A**

Focusing on Human Capital by Developing Competency & Capacity

**Human Capital Goal**

Be the preferred global employer for health equity and health justice innovators and champions where all are valued.

**PLATFORM B**

Securing Long-term Financial & Operational Sustainability & Success

**Financial & Operational Stewardship Goal**

Recognized as the global innovative hub in organizational excellence and business performance to achieve advanced health equity and health justice for all communities.

**PLATFORM C**

**Policy & Advocacy**

Be the premiere global vehicle through which policies are transformed to dismantle systemic barriers and ensure health equity and health justice across all communities and all levels of government.

**PLATFORM D**

**Brand Positioning**

Position Morehouse School of Medicine, in the minds of all, as the trusted leader for health equity and health justice through education, clinical care, research and community engagement.