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THE CENTER

- **Mission:** Provide the infrastructure and resources to develop collaborative research teams that use precision medicine (PM) approaches to eliminate disparities in health outcomes among minorities
- **Target population:** African Americans and Latinos in the Southeast region of the United States
- **Center Partners:** Vanderbilt University Medical Center, University of Miami, and Meharry Medical College
- **Aims:**
 1. Establish the **human and technical infrastructure** to foster research collaborations
 2. Develop novel methods to **integrate individual, contextual and environmental data** to identify at-risk groups and explain disparities
 3. Propel novel health disparities research **leveraging genomic and phenotypic data** to examine differences in health outcomes
 4. Develop ethical, socially and culturally acceptable methods for **engaging vulnerable populations in PM** to eliminate health disparities

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The Center utilized input from African Americans and Latinos community members, community leaders that provide services to minorities, and the community advisory council members to inform future activities
- **Methods:** Surveys (n=50), Community engagement studios (n=21), Semi-structured interviews (n=9)

Table 1. Survey responses from community to guide the Center.

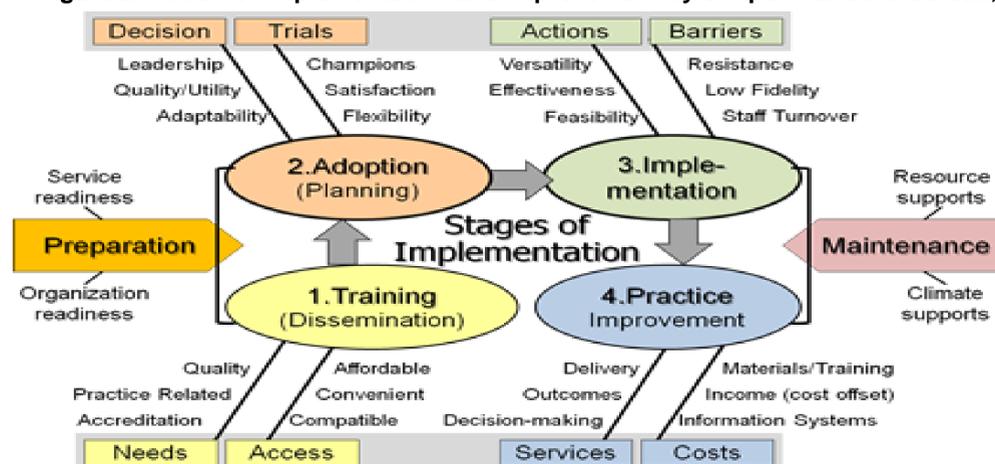
Which topics should the new Center address?					
Obesity (56%)	Stress (48%)	Diabetes (44%)	Cancer (36%)	Asthma (34%)	HIV (34%)
How likely are the following to impact your ability to have the best possible health? (Percent of participants reporting "very likely" or "likely")					
Understanding health info (92%)	Insurance status (86%)	Income (86%)	Discrimination (76%)	Racism (72%)	
How familiar are you with the following? (Percent of participants reporting "very familiar" or "moderately familiar")					
DNA/Genetics (92%)	Hereditary (88%)	Biomarkers (42%)	Pharmacogenomics (26%)	Precision Medicine (16%)	

THE IMPLEMENTATION CORE

- **Background:** Implementation of effective PM strategies have been delayed by numerous barriers, particularly among minorities
- **Mission:** Foster the adoption and dissemination of PM initiatives
 - Areas of emphasis will include genomic health literacy, using principles of community engagement to enhance adoption of precision medicine, and biomedical ethics
- **Aims:**
 1. Identify **barriers and facilitators** to implementation and adoption of PM discoveries among minorities.
 2. Develop **strategic approaches** to speed the dissemination and adoption of evidence-based PM strategies
 3. **Address ethical issues** related to PM among minorities.

IMPLEMENTATION CORE METHODS

Figure 2. Model for Implementation and Improvement by Simpson and Dansereau, 2007



- The Core's work will be guided by the stages of implementation model with the goal of identifying empirically-based areas where the model may be adapted to the field of PM.
- **Planning & Dissemination:** work with the community to identify factors that can influence the execution of PM and develop strategies that are beneficial to the targeted audiences
- **Implementation:** developing culturally informed implementation materials to enhance feasibility
- **Maintenance:** engage partners that will make the program improvements sustainable over time

NEXT STEPS

Barriers and facilitators identification

- Patients from clinics and hospitals associated with the Center will be recruited to complete surveys (~500 people per year)
- Healthcare professionals will complete surveys on topics related to PM and concerns identified in Center's prior surveys

Strategic approaches for dissemination, diffusion and adoption

- Project workgroups will include community, academic networks, and Center members
- Develop dissemination and training materials to address barriers/facilitators and genomic health literacy
- Create culturally-appropriate implementation materials for the Center's research projects
- Disseminate findings
 - Create short publications and/or videos that detail best practices for dissemination of PM studies among minority groups
 - Prepare briefs, scientific publications, local presentations, and a regional conference that will help leaders utilize PM information when making local and regional decisions

Addressing ethical issues and enhancing trust

- Establish Community Ethics Advisory Board to inform processes and outcomes
- Conduct focus groups with African-Americans and Latinos to understand and map influencers of trust to concerns about DNA use and privacy
- Create strategies to improve trust in PM practices and systems

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