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TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Third Thursday Presentation: March 20, 2025
Community and Collaboration Core and the services of the Community Research Advisory Council
Roger Clark, MBA, Pamela Ouyang MBBS, and Crystal Evans, MS

Objectives

- To introduce the resources of the Community and Collaboration Core and the services of the Community Research Advisory Council (C-RAC).

- To share how to access the services of C-RAC.

- To learn more about what C-RAC can provide to research teams and investigators.

About ICTR's Community and Collaboration Core

The Community and Collaboration Core (CCC) assists and trains research teams and community partners to promote sustained community engagement and effective multidisciplinary collaboration throughout the research life cycle.
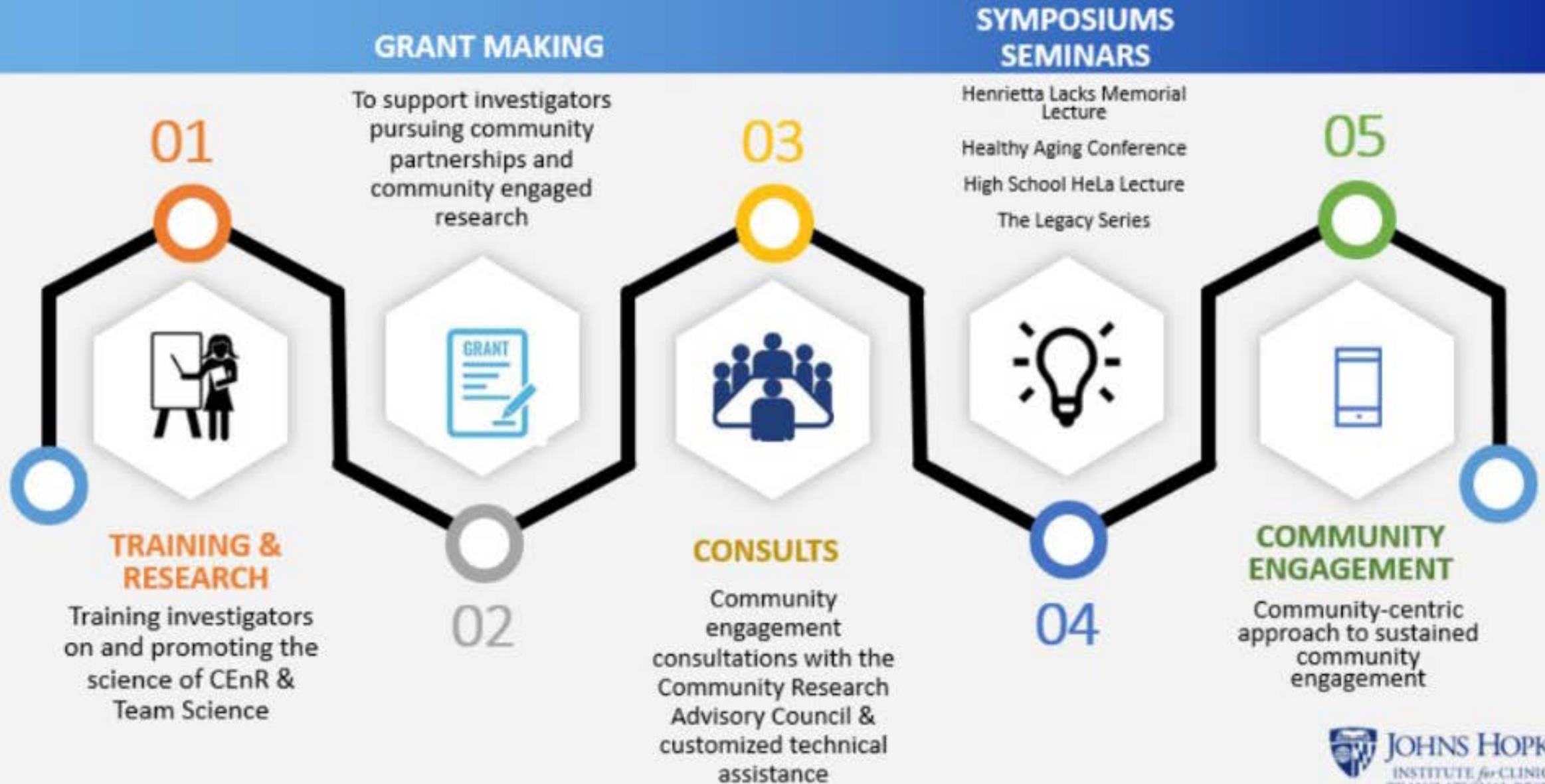
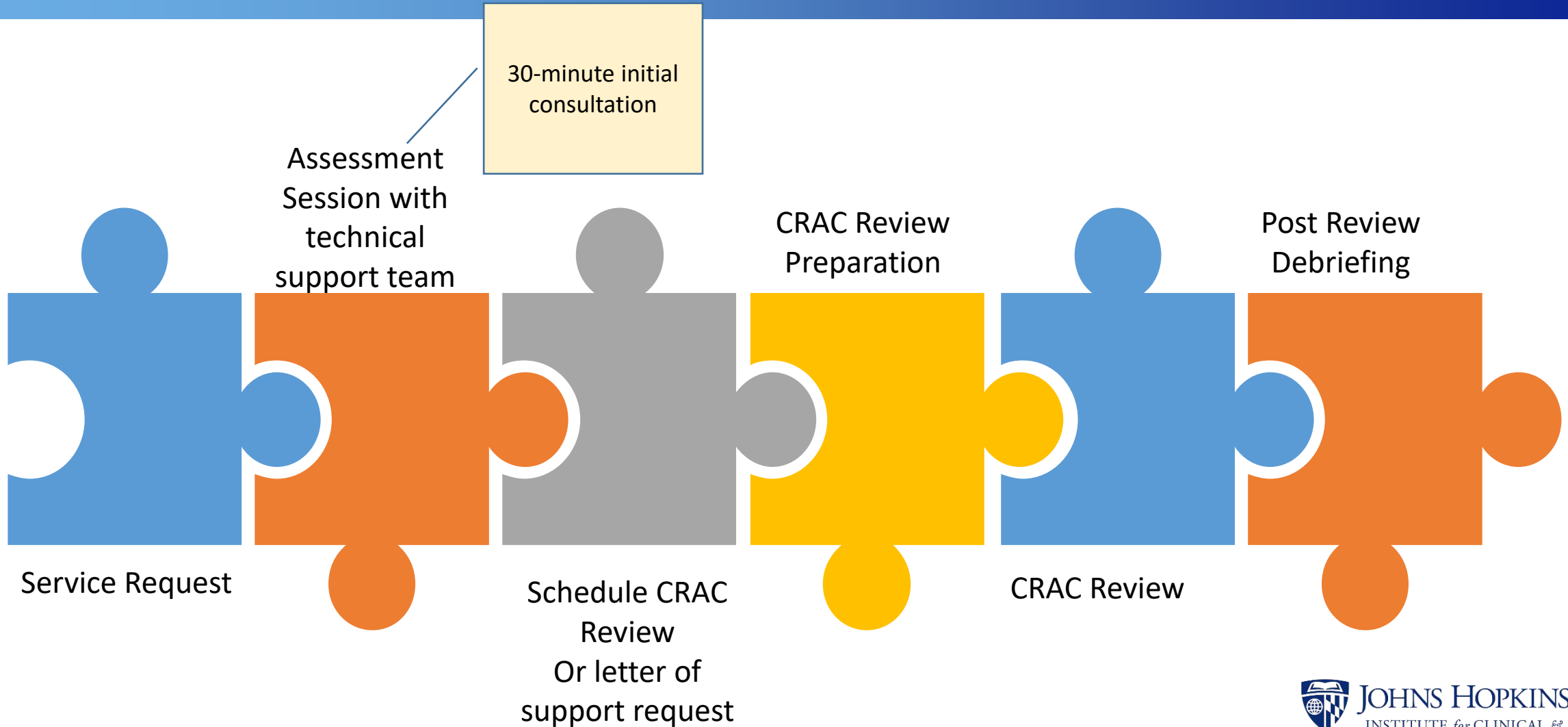- Community Awareness and Outreach
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Research and Scholarship
- Maximizing Research Impact
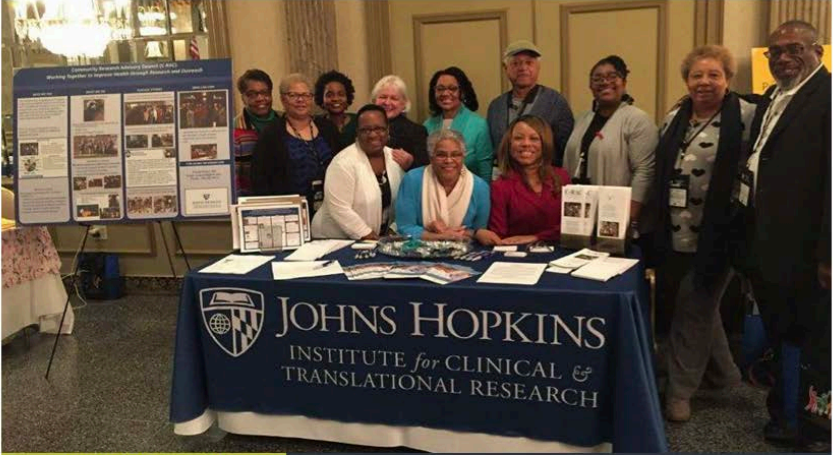
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Community and Collaboration Core Resources

GRANT MAKING

SYMPOSIUMS SEMINARS

01

To support investigators pursuing community partnerships and community engaged research

03

Henrietta Lacks Memorial Lecture

Healthy Aging Conference

High School HeLa Lecture

The Legacy Series

05

TRAINING & RESEARCH

Training investigators on and promoting the science of CEnR & Team Science

02

CONSULTS

Community engagement consultations with the Community Research Advisory Council & customized technical assistance

04

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community-centric approach to sustained community engagement

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Community-Engaged Research Consultations with C-RAC

- 45-minute virtual meeting
- Consultants provide community-centered review of study design, including:
  - —Recruitment
  - —Communications
  - —Implementation
  - —Dissemination
- Mondays, from 5 -6 pm

Why was the Community Research Advisory Council formed?

- Leadership at Johns Hopkins University wanted to become more informed about the health and research priorities of patients and local residents

- The Johns Hopkins University Institute for Clinical and Translational Research wanted to create a forum for ongoing community input in the research process.

- Patients and local residents wanted to become more involved in the research process.

- From 2010-2018 there were chapters on the Johns Hopkins East Baltimore Medical Campus and Johns Hopkins Bayview. In 2019, these chapters merged to form the Combined C-RAC Board.   .

ICTR Community Research Advisory Council (C-RAC)
A volunteer board formed in 2009 to connect researchers and community members

Mission

The Community Research Advisory Council (C-RAC) aims to promote trust, understanding, and involvement of the Greater Baltimore-Washington region in research, education, and service activities to enhance overall health, reduce health disparities, and promote social justice.

Goals include:

- Promoting equitable access to health care in research and address health disparities and social justice in study design
- Improving community awareness, trust, knowledge, understanding and participation to all phases of the research continuum
- Improving researchers' commitment to a fully engaged community within the entire research process

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C-RAC Membership

C-RAC Membership

- As of March 2025, C-RAC had 25 members: 61% were not JH affiliated (Bylaws require at least 51% non-JH affiliates)
- Membership is open for all people working or living in Greater Baltimore-Washington region, interested in community engagement in Research
- Individuals with various ages, professions, background, and expertise are encouraged to reflect the diversity in the Greater Baltimore- Washington region

![C-RAC - Community Research Advisory Council logo]

WHO WE ARE

The Community Research Advisory Council (C-RAC) is a group of community stakeholders and Johns Hopkins University faculty and staff that provides consultations for study teams on community engagement throughout the research life cycle, from planning to dissemination of findings. By working together with research teams and faculty, C-RAC informs research and educational programs and promotes community health and knowledge.

PATIENTS
HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS
LOCAL RESIDENTS   CITIZEN SCIENTISTS
RESEARCHERS   STUDENTS   TEACHERS
REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL
& STATE ORGANIZATIONS

57%
of C-RAC members are from the community

77%
of members identify as belonging to communities of color

Strategies to strengthen community engagement

1
- LISTEN

2
- BE UNDER-STANDABLE

3
- BE A TRUSTED PARTNER

4
- GIVE BACK

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C-RAC: How we engage research teams and the community?

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10-Step Framework For Continuous Engagement

PLANNING

- 1: Topic Solicitation
- 2: Prioritization
- 3: Framing the question
- 4: Selection of outcomes

IMPLEMENTATION

- 5: Create the framework
- 6: Develop analysis plan
- 7: Data collection (recruitment and retention)

ANALYSIS & DISSEMINATION

- 8: Reviewing and interpreting results
- 9: Translation
- 10: Dissemination

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C-RAC provides an opportunity for bi-directional interchange between community and researchers

Community has fear and negative perceptions about research

Repeated messages and physical presence highlighting community participation in research

C-RAC

Researchers need to recognize negative perceptions about research exist

Assist research teams by providing participant-centered input into research questions, study implementation, and dissemination of information

Increased trust and collaboration in research

Improved health outcomes from Community Engaged Research

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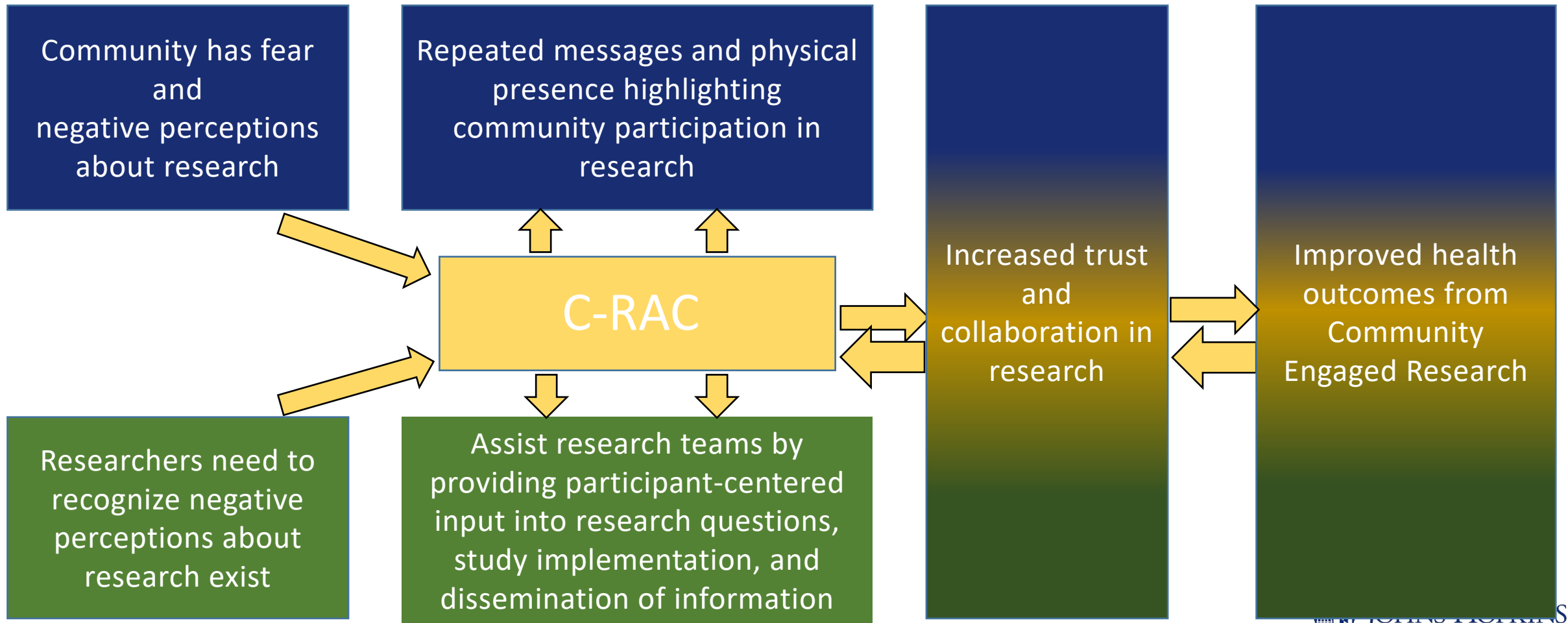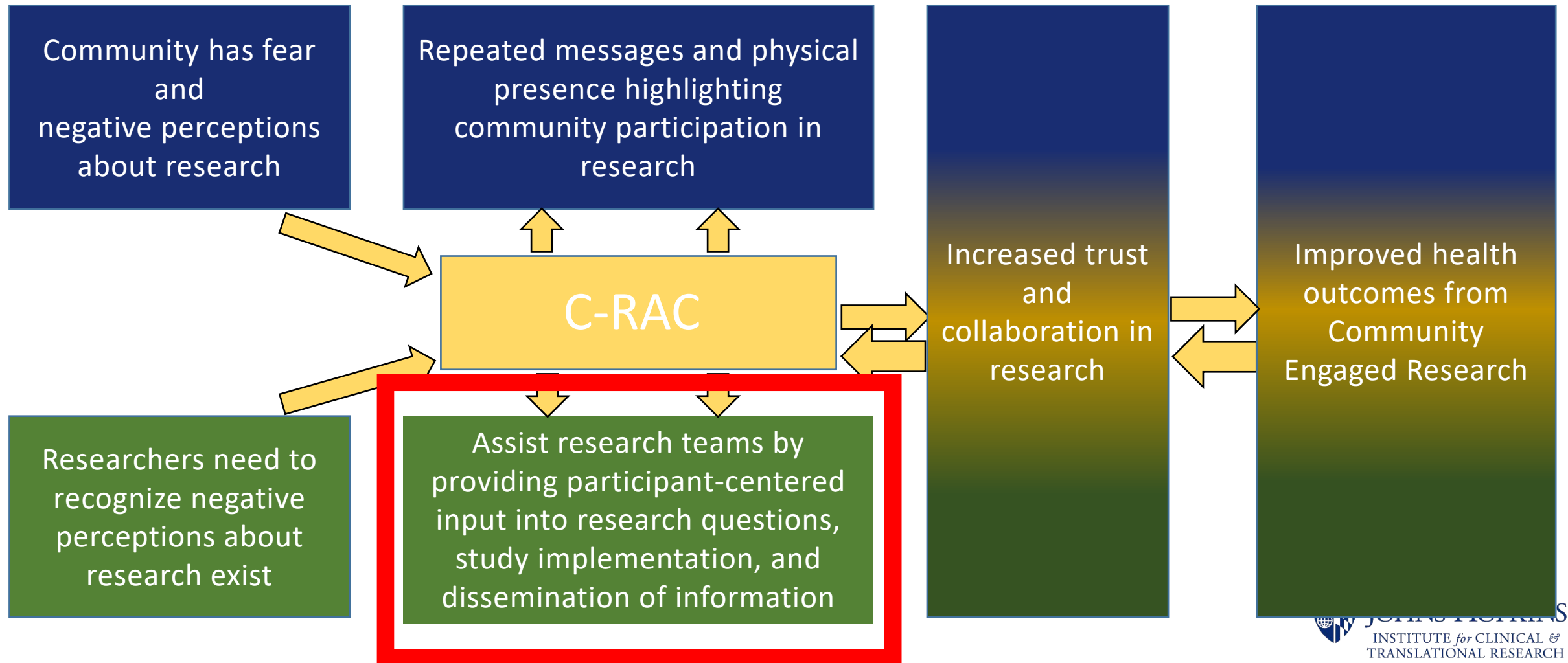
C-RAC: assistance to researchers

- As an example of staying relevant to medical issues, C-RAC pivoted and responded to the needs of over 18 research teams during the pandemic:
  — Promoted community capacity for remote engagement
  — Developed expedited review consultation for research teams
  —Increased meetings from quarterly to weekly to meet the needs of research team providing solutions during the pandemic
  — Maintained a high level of engagement from our community stakeholders that remains consistent 18 months into the pandemic
  —The frequency of meetings forged a highly integrated, high-performance team comprised of community and academic partners

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C-RAC

Assist research teams by providing participant-centered input into research questions, study implementation, and dissemination of information

Increased trust and collaboration in research

Education :
- Day at the Market
- IRB visit
- Forum for engaging community about Covid-19 vaccination
- Writing research MS

Improved health outcomes from Community Engaged Research

C-RAC: Examples of responding to community needs/interests

Examples of Opportunities:

- Day at the Market (Northeast Market and Lexington Market)
- Healthy Aging Community Forum
- Visit to the IRB
- Community Conversation: We asked community stakeholders what they wanted to know about research and COVID-19.
  - "I want to know that there are people like me working with researchers about those issues that matter to me and my community."
- Virtual Henrietta Lacks Symposium
- Educate our C-RAC members about the research process.
  - Writing research manuscript. C-RAC members are invited to write/collaborate on manuscripts
  - ⑩ Research ethics and the IRB

How does community engagement help your research?

- Research will be helped by engaging the Community and understanding their priorities throughout the entire trajectory of research from the point of developing the research goals, design, implementation, and dissemination.

- Meaningful and sustained connections with the Community will help research teams successfully complete studies.

- C-RAC is committed to:
    - —Strengthening bi-directional trust between research teams and community.
    - — Helping researchers gain the communities' trust.
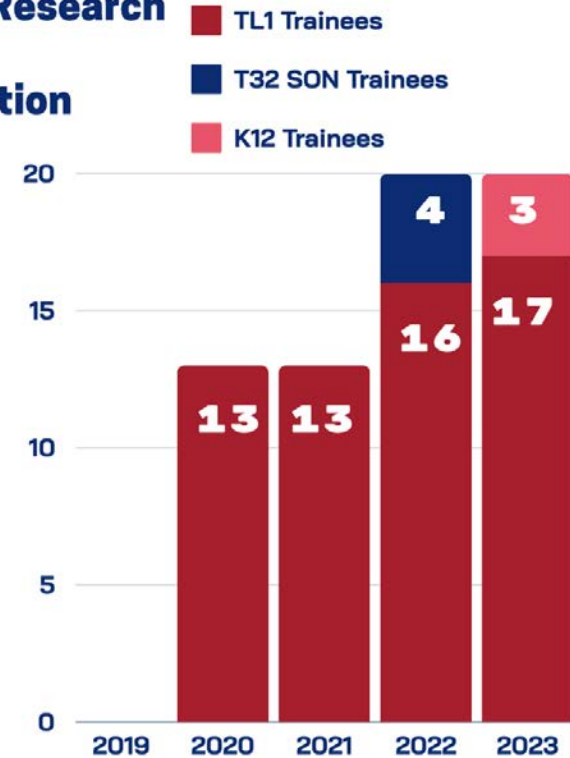
Impact of the collaboration

Research Reviews

■ Research Reviews

Year	Value
2019	5
2020	32
2021	40
2022	42
2023	44
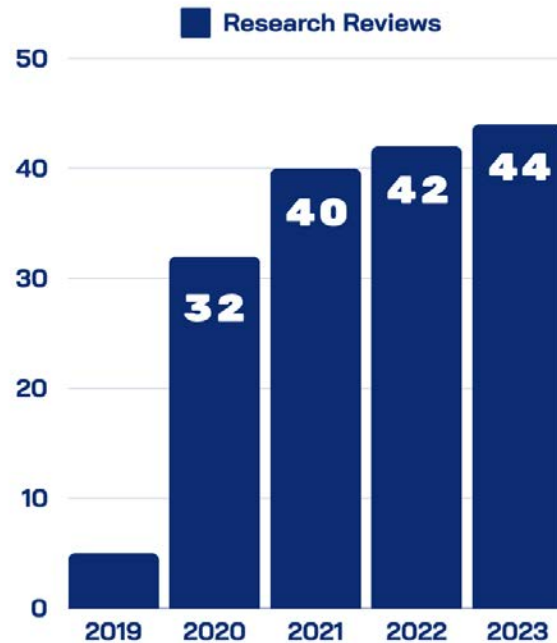
18
COVID-related
studies reviewed in 2020-2022

Community-engaged Research Training Collaboration

■ TL1 Trainees
■ T32 SON Trainees
■ K12 Trainees

Year	TL1	T32 SON	K12
2019			
2020	13		
2021	13		
2022	16	4	
2023	17		3

6
Cohorts supported
& mentored by
C-RAC

66
Trainees
supported and
mentored by C-RAC

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Points for consider for research teams

- **C-RAC can contribute to the research team**
  - C-RAC consultation – community perspectives on your research
  - Letters of support
    - Will this be a useful contribution to the community?

- **Build it and they will come.**
  - Continued feedback from community members and partners require compensation and technical support.

POST-EVENT SURVEY

- https://t.jh.edu/sv5E94

For more information, visit Community Research Advisory Council (C-RAC) – Institute for Clinical and Translational Research or contact ictr-c-rac@jhmi.edu

Thank you.