

Case Study: The Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Family Medicine and Community Health Story

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Our story of integration into the Rutgers/Princeton/NJIT CTSA provides an example of how a department can lead in the community domain of CTSA's.

When planning began for the New Jersey Alliance for Clinical and Translational Science, (NJ ACTS) submission to the National Institutes of Health, the department had already, slowly but successfully, built a thirty-year solid track record of externally funded research through community engaged research. These started out, as outlined in the JABFM article 'Building Family Medicine Research through Community Engagement'

<https://doi.org/10.3122/jabfm.2024.240007r1>, with small projects that grew other projects over time.

As our department's community-oriented research grew, we built a 'laboratory' through a practice-based research network (PBRN) in collaboration with family medicine and other primary care practices throughout New Jersey. We did this in collaboration with the New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians.

We were approached by the future Principal Investigator (PI) of the prospective CTSA to explore potential collaboration in developing the grant submission to the NIH. Working together with other collaborators in the submission, it became clear that our leadership role in the community would be a strong positive in the submission. We eventually became co-PI's and members of the Executive team in the submission. We had a story to tell about successful community based research, and became the logical home for the community core required at that time by the application.

The successful application, built in large part on the community core piece the department contributed and coordinated, further enhanced department research within the university and state, tying together community partners we had previously engaged and collaborated with on other projects. This central role for the department in the CTSA has led to further research gains for department faculty and our community partners.