Community Engagement: Lost in Translation
Translational Role

- Life scientist, biotechnology & pharmaceutical discovery & informatics
- Health Sciences Libraries & the Institute for Health Informatics
- Research information, health informatics and translational science
- Play several roles to support our Translational Science efforts
How I Became Involved

• Research partner for community grant proposal
• Profiles presentation to Community Engagement
• Put myself out there
• Core member of the steering committee
Office of Community Engagement for Health

• Established to ensure bi-directional research relationships
Office of Community Engagement for Health (OCEH)

Comprised of community & University members

Collaboratives

- Healthcare Systems
- Health Disparities
- Rural Health
- Child Health

Director of OCEH
Guiding Principles

- **Mutual identification** of the wants and opportunities expressed by Community and University partners
- **Genuine involvement** of Community and University researchers in the development of projects
- Research *data will be collected and shared* appropriately between partners and Community and University will come together in a way that is respectful and recognizes the value of the data collected
- Analysis of research results and turning them into actionable steps for the *improvement of the public & individual health*
OCEH Goals

• Establish a unifying transformative framework of engaged scholarship to *strengthen mutual trust and respect* between UMN and community and to increase their research capacity

• Establish mechanisms to increase *respectful and reciprocal* use of research knowledge and resources

• *Increase engaged scholarship* wherein researchers work collaboratively with community partners to identify research problems that matter to the community and co-produce relevant knowledge

• *Increase dissemination and implementation* of research results that matter to the community
Measuring our Goals

- Connections – *measuring the linkages*, relationships, networks that comprise the framework
- **Evaluating Grant Success** – Community-University partnership grants
- **Faculty Perceptions** Survey – faculty perceptions - barriers/supports
- General Public **Awareness** and Perceptions
- Monitoring of activities
- Community Engagement Retreat in September
Informationist Contributions

• UMN Profiles Research Networking to identify university partners
• Grant reviews, information sharing
  – alerting – analysis – strategy – evaluation indicators
• Community involvement – community activities – health disparities, rural travel, learn about the system – health policy
• UP-HI University-based training – Community Partners Council
Why Do I Focus on Community Engagement?

- Increased emphasis is needed at every level on prevention and on translating research findings into practice and policy
- Ensure core competencies for community engagement that can be woven into translational medicine programs
- The CTSA’s work in community engagement offers an opportunity to strike a balance between bench science and disease prevention
- Interest in Translational Science Models
  - Evaluation and Tracking
  - To enhance the process of taking basic science findings to public health interventions: The Biomedical Translation Continuum

Attributes – Avoid Helicopters

- Patience
- Caring
- Humility
- Authenticity
- Flexibility

Translation belongs in our communities…an Informationist can help facilitate that

- Hope
- Commitment
- Expertise
- Learning
- Being realistic
- Acceptance
- Respect

- Where we each can make a difference
- Outreach savvy
- Where small gains are huge gains
- Tenacity
- Open-minded
- Helpful