Workshop Title: Building and Strengthening Community-Academic Partnerships to Address Food Insecurity

Workshop Abstract

1. Background and Rationale

Food and nutrition insecurity are significant drivers of health inequalities in the United States (US), especially for nutrition-related chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease. There is growing recognition and interest in Food as Medicine (FAM) as a strategy for addressing food insecurity and nutrition-related chronic conditions. Partnerships between community-based food organizations (e.g., farms, food banks/pantries), community health centers, and Academic Medical Centers (AMC) can advance the implementation and scaling of FAM through research, policy, and advocacy.

Community-academic partnerships focused on FAM benefit from the strengths and resources that each partner brings to the table. For example, community-based food organizations contribute their expertise in growing and bringing to market produce and other healthy foods that are culturally-tailored for the customers they serve. Community health centers provide a critical linkage to patients who are disproportionately impacted by food insecurity and nutrition-related chronic conditions and would benefit from FAM. Finally, AMCs can contribute expertise in community-engaged research, implementation science, and dissemination of innovative collaborative models.

In this workshop, we present several examples of FAM programs within community-academic partnerships aimed at closing the research to practice gap. This workshop will dive deep into the conversation on the role of AMCs in addressing food and nutrition insecurity by offering an approach rooted in building bi-directional, mutually beneficial partnerships with community-based organizations who are experts in the space. We will also discuss elements of programmatic design that take into account the capacity and needs of CBOs and patients served. The workshop will focus on how to facilitate these partnerships, centering on elements of partnership development, as well as lessons learned throughout the process.

2. Learning Objectives

A. Identify key elements of effective community-academic partnerships
B. Describe effective strategies for creating sustainable multi-sectoral partnerships, including evaluation of the effectiveness of partnerships
C. Surface common issues related to using community partnership to address FAM in AMCs
D. Consider how to implement concepts discussed during this workshop to the social needs screening efforts within their organization

3. **Agenda Description**

A. Introduction of community partnership programs at Stanford Medicine
B. Explore community-academic partnership building through case examples: community-based clinical trials, clinical implementation of screening and referral programs, community-engaged research, and stakeholder convenings
  a. Designing effective research and programs to meet each partner's needs
  b. Lessons learned across the cases
C. Strategies for building and strengthening community-academic partnerships in an AMC
  a. Common facilitators and barriers
  b. Tools to facilitate partnership development and overcome barriers

D. Small group discussion
E. Take home tools for effective community partnership
F. Q&A

4.   Participant Interactivity
Participants will be interacting throughout the workshop in brief exercises. The session will culminate in small group discussions centered on connection, reflection and deep-dive action planning of their next steps. Guiding questions for the discussions will include: 1) What kinds of work is happening at your institution; and 2) What barriers have you experienced and how have you attempted to address them? Presenters will summarize common themes surfaced during the workshop.