



*Creating the Future We Want to Be:
Transformation through Partnerships
May 12 – 15, 2010 • Portland, Oregon, USA*

ISSUE THRASH SESSIONS

Historically, CCPH conferences have included facilitated sessions that enable groups of participants to meet twice during the conference for an action-oriented purpose connected to the conference theme. For many, these sessions are viewed as a highlight of the conference because they respond to participant-identified issues and challenges in real time, emphasize collaborative problem-solving and identify helpful resources.

This year, these sessions are called Issue Thrash. Part 1 will take place on Thursday May 13 from 3:30-5:00 pm, and Part 2 will take place on Saturday May 15 from 10:30-12 noon. Participants are encouraged to attend both sessions of the particular Issue Thrash they have selected.

Issue Thrash sessions enable conference participants to engage in a purposeful dialogue on a particular topic of shared interest, allowing them to:

- Explore issues and challenges related to the topic
- Identify strategies and resources to help address those issues and challenges, including those available, underway or planned through CCPH
- Determine priority areas for collective action
- Pursue opportunities for continued networking and collaboration
- Make recommendations to be shared with the broader field of community-campus partnerships, CCPH and co-sponsoring organizations to inform program, policy and advocacy efforts

Possible topics were identified by a review of CCPH conference and other program evaluations, member surveys, suggestions from CCPH conference planning committee members, board members and staff. The 9 topics below were selected because they were felt to be of broad interest and likely to spark continuing activities after the conference. In some cases, there are already ongoing or planned CCPH activities related to the issue that participants can get involved in.

1. Advancing the Health Equity Agenda - This Issue Thrash is intended for conference participants who seek to ensure that health equity is a top priority of policy makers at international, national, state and local levels. With the recent passage of health care reform legislation and planning for Healthy People 2020 already underway in the U.S., for example, how do we ensure that health equity and strategies that address the social determinants of health are on the agenda? How do we ensure that community-based participatory research has policy relevance and impact on policy decisions? This discussion builds from a series of CCPH initiatives on these topics, including educational conference calls, Healthy People 2010 curriculum guide and action toolkit, the Health Disparities Service-Learning Collaborative, policy position statements and advocacy activities.

2. Building Community Capacity for Research – This Issue Thrash is intended for conference participants who seek to build community capacity to develop research agendas, conduct research, establish authentic partnerships with academic partners and effectively act on research findings. What infrastructure is needed in communities, for example, and how can it be established? This discussion builds from a series of CCPH initiatives on these topics, including Community Partner Summits, community partner peer mentoring and advocacy efforts, educational conference calls and the CCPH-CTSA member interest group.

3. Recognizing & Rewarding Community-Engaged Scholarship – This Issue Thrash is intended for conference participants who seek to recognize and reward community-based participatory research and other forms of community-engaged scholarship (CES) through such mechanisms as promotion and tenure guidelines, faculty and staff development, institutional support structures and opportunities for peer review and dissemination. This discussion builds from a series of CCPH initiatives on these topics, including the current Faculty for the Engaged Campus Project that aims to strengthen community-engaged career paths in the academy, the CES4Health.info online system for peer-reviewed publication of diverse products of CES, and the CCPH Online Database of Faculty Mentors & Portfolio Reviewers.

4. Ensuring the Ethics and Integrity of Community-Campus Partnerships – This Issue Thrash is intended for conference participants who seek to address ethical issues that arise in community-academic partnerships, such as addressing community-level risks and benefits, obtaining community consent, navigating the research ethics review process and developing codes of ethics for service-learning. This discussion builds from a series of CCPH initiatives on these topics, including an educational conference call series that led to the report, “Ensuring Community-Level Research Protections,” a soon-to-be-released curriculum on community-engaged research for IRBs and research ethics boards (the term used in Canada) and a national (U.S.) study of community-based processes for research ethics review.

5. Developing Emerging Leaders – This Issue Thrash is intended for conference participants who seek to support and develop future leaders of community-academic partnerships and social change, whether based in community, academic, government, philanthropic or corporate sectors. For example, what are the knowledge, skills, attitudes and competencies needed to lead partnerships and mobilize action? What experiences and mentoring are needed to be an effective social change leader and advocate? How do we support leaders so they don’t “burn out” and that leadership transition plans are in place so the work isn’t dependent on one particular position?

6. Fostering Interdisciplinary & Intersectoral Collaborations – This Issue Thrash is intended for conference participants who seek to leverage the many assets of communities and higher educational institutions, break down the disciplinary silos that can exist within institutions and overcome the fragmentation and duplication of work in communities. For example, how do we ensure that strategic connections are made between different groups in a community working on a similar issue? How do we bridge the gap that can exist between those involved in service-learning and those involved in community-based participatory research? How do we strategically link the economic roles of universities to community development goals (e.g., their roles as real estate developers, as employers, as businesses)?

7. Developing & Sustaining International Partnerships – This Issue Thrash is intended for conference participants who seek to strengthen and support partnerships that are working across multiple countries or nations, such as international community-based research collaborations and international service-learning programs. For example, how do we synthesize and act on knowledge gained through partnerships around the world? How do we ensure that global partnerships acknowledge and address power and resource differentials, attend to cultural and language differences, are equitable and mutually beneficial, build capacity and achieve sustainable outcomes? This discussion builds from CCPH’s membership in the Global Alliance for Community-Engaged Research and the International Collaboration on Participatory Health Research.

8. Maximizing the Benefits of Service-Learning – This Issue Thrash is intended for conference participants who seek to ensure that service-learning maximally benefits the communities, students, faculty and institutions involved. For example, what program components, policies and infrastructure are needed to ensure that communities benefit from their involvement in service-learning? What conditions are needed to sustain service-learning? This discussion builds from a successive series of CCPH service-learning initiatives, beginning with the Health Professions Schools in Service to the Nation service-learning demonstration program that helped to launch CCPH, a recently completed ten-year follow-up evaluation of the program and over a decade of summer service-learning institutes.

9. Supporting a Growing Movement – This Issue Thrash is intended for conference participants who seek to support and advance the growing movement of community-campus partnerships and ensure its focus on social justice. What is holding the movement back and what can help propel it forward? How can those both new to partnerships and those with years of experience best be supported? How can innovations and promising practices in community-campus partnerships be widely shared so others can benefit from them? What should CCPH’s role in all of this and what should be its strategic priorities? Who (people, organizations) needs to be engaged that isn’t currently at the table?

Each 2-part series will be led by 2-3 facilitators selected because they are:

- Deeply involved in the topic of the Issue Thrash
- Willing to play a leadership role in any Issue Thrash-identified actions to be taken after the conference
- Skilled in facilitating diverse groups
- Able to participate in a pre-conference planning call, a planning meeting at the start of the conference, a check-in meeting during the conference, and a debriefing call after the conference

The discussion, major points, recommendations and actions of each session will be documented on worksheets provided for this purpose. A summary will be prepared by CCPH staff and volunteers between the first and second session to help re-orient participants (and orient any new participants) at the start of the second session. These summaries, and worksheet notes from the second session, will be edited to include in the conference proceedings. The proceedings will be disseminated widely and used by CCPH and the conference co-sponsoring organizations to inform program, policy and advocacy efforts.

At the closing conference session, a representative of any Issue Thrash that plans to continue its work in some way after the conference will be given an opportunity to announce its plans and how interested participants can get involved