Hey Community Engagers,

This seems like good news ...

**NCATS Is Focus of Congressional Hearing**

“Despite phenomenal progress in basic science, we still lack effective treatments for far too many diseases, and this translational pipeline to get there is long, 14 years on the average, and it’s leaky,” said NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins during congressional testimony on March 20. Both Collins and NCATS Acting Director Dr. Thomas Insel testified on the President’s FY 2013 budget request before the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, chaired by Rep. Denny Rehberg (R-MT). The hearing focused on both the NIH and NCATS budgets and featured panel discussions about the many opportunities that exist for NCATS to work in synergy with private industry to improve the translation process. Collins also restated NIH’s commitment to fund basic biomedical research as its highest priority. Insel showcased NIH’s Clinical and Translational Science Awards program, saying “80 percent of [the NCATS] budget is the CTSA program” and that in the next five years, the goal is to increase “engagement of communities, not only as a source of patient volunteers, or research volunteers, but increasingly to get them in at the front end to help define what the research problems need to be, and to bring them in as a full partner.”

Our CCTSI Community Engagement core sent in a three-page response on March 28th to NCATS' Request for Information (RFI): Enhancing the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program, Notice Number: NOT-TR-12-003. We appreciate the comments you provided. Besides advising that Community Engagement be a required core function of all CTSA, other recommendations were around engaging the community, engaging primary care, and supporting communities of solution. Contact Montelle Tamez (montelle.tamez@ucdenver.edu) for a copy of the document.

The PACT Outreach and Communications Committee members and staff are in the throes of final preparations for upcoming Community Engagement Research & Networking Forum. Be sure to join us on April 12, 5:00-8:00pm, for some good conversation, good food, and good information. University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus, Research 2 building (12700 E. 19th Ave, Aurora), Trivisible room 2100. To date, we’ve received 155 RSVPs and 32 posters -- looking to see you there!

Thank you to those who completed the Community Engagement website survey! Your thoughtful feedback is very helpful. For those who have not yet completed the survey, we still want to hear from you! We will officially close the survey next Friday, April 13th at 5 pm.

http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22ESDLC3G3W
In the News...

Surgeon General Highlights 'Power of Prevention,' New Wellness Center
More than 100 members of the campus and local communities join U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin and leaders of the new Colorado Center for Health and Wellness on a walk across Anschutz Medical Campus to celebrate National Public Health Week. Jim Hill, Executive Director of the Colorado Center for Health and Wellness (as well as CCTSI PACT Council member) strapped on his tennis shoes to enjoy the sunshine along with Dr. Benjamin.
http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/Surgeon-General-highlights-power-of-prevention.aspx

Kempe Named Big Shot of the Year -- Congratulations, Ally!
Allison Kempe, MD, MPH, professor, School of Medicine and Colorado School of Public Health (and CCTSI PACT Council member), will receive the Big Shot of the Year award from the Colorado Children’s Immunization Coalition (CCIC) at their annual SOUP! (Shots Offer Unrivaled Protection) on April 26th.
http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/ourcolleagues/Pages/Kemp-03-18-2012.aspx?source=today

Have a great weekend!
Jack Westfall