

15 December 2022

## Dear Participants and Registrants of the 2022 Good Participatory Practice (GPP) Implementation Symposium,

Thank you for attending the GPP Symposium hosted by Wits RHI (Reproductive Health Institute) and AVAC (AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition) on 6-8 December 2022. Please click here to access the recordings for [DAY 1](#), [DAY 2](#), and [DAY 3](#). Below we summarise each day's proceedings, share contributor profiles, highlight future discussion topics, lessons or activities, share additional resources and participation benefits.

### Day 1: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI): 168 registrants, 61 participants

THULI MJWARA ushered in our keynote speakers, [CINDRA FEUER](#) and [LEIGH-ANN VAN DER MERWE](#) who introduced the “NO DATA NO MORE” MANIFESTO that aligns HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) prevention research with trans and gender-diverse realities. Symposium participants argued that credible biomedical research must include gender-diverse people for scientific and ethical reasons. Participants also noted how language and sub-text need to evolve to acknowledge gender diversity fully.

In his flash talk, [MIGUEL A. BLANCARTE JNR](#) shared how inclusive programming increased black and brown LGBTQIA+ participation in a Chicago monkeypox vaccine-a-thon by intentionally mitigating identified barriers to access. [BLOSSOM MAKHUBALO's](#) Discover, Dream, Design, Deliver and Sustain (DDDDS) model highlighted effective methods for including older persons in public health interventions. [MARIE MERCI NIYIBESHAHO](#) from the [MATRIX](#) Next-Gen Squad shared support measures to include young women's diverse needs, preferences and lived experiences in community engagement.

#### *Key EDI themes and actions that emerged from the plenary discussion, moderated by [Ntando Yola](#):*

- Contribute to the Community Engagement body of knowledge through public science communication
- Define culturally appropriate messaging
- Integrate trans and gender-diverse people in biomedical study teams
- Facilitate ResearchER literacy
- Combat tokenism in community engagement
- Build reciprocity into community engagement in clinical trials
- Balance optics and politics with meaningful access
- Move research objects and subjects to agents
- Apply trans and gender-diverse guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures for effective formative research
- Link global advocacy to local community engagement

### Day 2: Effective practices/models of engagement: 149 registrants, 49 participants

[NEETHA MORAR](#) facilitated our keynote note discussion with speaker [DR ROSEMARY MUSESENGWA](#), who explored what determines the effectiveness of community engagement, and how we might more optimally describe levels, attributes, activities and measures of good community engagement.

[LAIA RUIZ MINGOTE](#) shared how the [TB TRIALS CONSORTIUM \(TBTC\)](#) works globally through a systemic approach deployed by the [COMMUNITY RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP \(CRAG\)](#), directing the research agenda and ensuring it aligns with communities' needs. In his flash talk, [CLEVER CHILENDE](#) showed how an “outside-in” or CSO-led engagement addressed gaps in traditional engagement mechanisms and proved beneficial in building broader support for the [POPART STUDY](#). The Eita model pioneered by [PROJECTPREP](#) was shared by [NAKITA SHOEBALAK](#) and demonstrated how meaningful engagement with caregivers of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) can overcome barriers to effective PrEP (Pre Exposure Prophylaxis) use.

#### *Key tactics and practices for enhanced community engagement that emerged from the interactive session, moderated by [Bartholomew Wilson](#):*

- Be transparent with community stakeholders
- Use a mix of community engagement tactics – Community Advisory Boards, participant groups, community-led stakeholder fora
- Collaborate to strengthen and standardise SOPs, work instructions and engagement methods
- Scrutinise and hold each other accountable for upholding ethics in research practices

## Day 3: Creative monitoring and evaluation of GPP strategies: 132 registrants, 37 participants

Moderator [ANNA MITI](#) drew on the experience of Keynote speaker [DR GARY HICKEY](#), who proposed descriptors for good community engagement: Adaptable to local or nuanced contexts, sensitive to culture and broader social norms and ensuring real benefits for participants.

In his flash talk, [DENIS KIBUUKA](#) illustrated how community organisations can lead community engagement using participatory methods such as community mapping, transect walks, and in-depth interviews. [ZINHLE SOKHELA](#) showed how “no-one-size-fits-all” in study recruitment and demonstrated, in her flash talk, how progress monitoring revealed that different recruitment strategies yield different results in various disease areas. In the final flash talk of the symposium, [ABIGAIL WILKINSON](#), showed how ethics committees, researchers and advocates consider emPowerment, Partnership, and Protection – the 3 P’s of community engagement - to be critical determinants of success.

### *Key monitoring and evaluation lessons, facilitated by [Barbra Ncube](#):*

- Community Engagement is increasingly expected as an integrated part of trial conduct
- Monitoring elevated to research governance
- Publish results to influence the narrative
- First collect, then use data to determine effective community engagement strategies

## Participants in the GPP Implementation Symposium self-reported the following benefits:

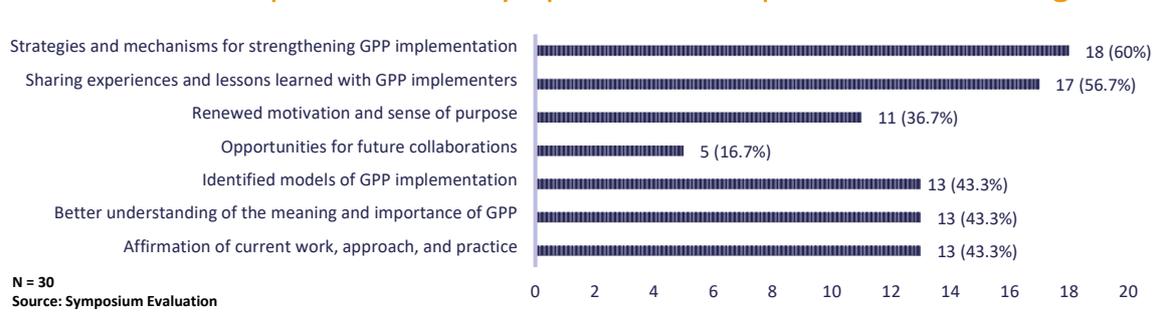


FIGURE 1: RESPONDENTS' SELF-REPORTED BENEFIT GAINED FROM ATTENDING THE 2022 GPP SYMPOSIUM

## Additional Resources:

- <https://www.prepwatch.org/global-prep-learning-network/>
- <https://mailchi.mp/prepnetwork/december8plninvitationresend?e=aa75654512>
- <https://forms.gle/bPHPdiBjim4Kk7PU7>
- <https://www.hptn.org/research/studies/hptn091>
- <https://bmcmethics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12910-017-0236-3>
- <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1556264618769002>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8830293/>
- <https://www.rds-se.nihr.ac.uk/podcasts/>

## Next Steps: 2023

### January 2023

- Round 1: GPP Symposium participants will receive the Symposium Workbook with expanded materials
- Round 1: Presenters will receive a request to collaborate on a manuscript
- Round 2: Abstract call for April/May 2023 will be circulated

### February 2023

- Round 2: Abstracts will be reviewed and selected
- Round 2: Call for registration will be shared widely

### *For more information, feel free to contact your hosts:*

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