

Embedding a Community Advisory Board to Advance Equitable Recruitment in ADRD Biomarker Research: The DREAM-LA Study

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Take Home Message: Community Advisory Boards functions as implementation partners that operationalize trust/trustworthiness, strengthen community engagement, and support biomarker research improving early detection of AD/ADRD among Hispanic/Latinx, Black, and Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities.

INTRODUCTIONMETHODSRESULTSCONCLUSIONSKEY REFERENCES

DREAM-LA Study

Hispanic/Latinx, Black/African American, and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities remain substantially underrepresented in biomarker research, limiting the development of equitable early detection prediction models.

Successfully enrolling historically underrepresented communities into intensive biomarker research requires implementation strategies that build trust, improve research literacy, and reduce participation barriers.

OBJECTIVE

To evaluate the early implementation outcomes of embedding a multi-ethnic Community Advisory Board (CAB) within DREAM-LA.

To examine how CAB engagement contributed to equitable enrollment into a complex ADRD biomarker study.

Figure 1. DREAM-LA Study Design

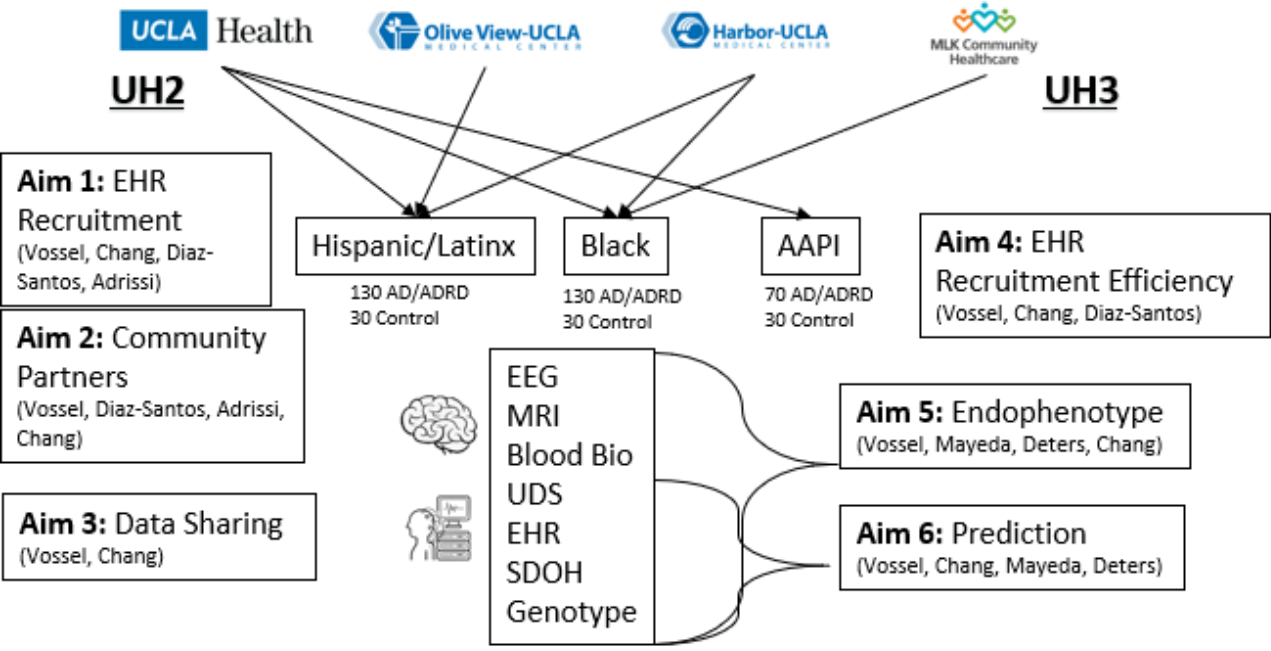
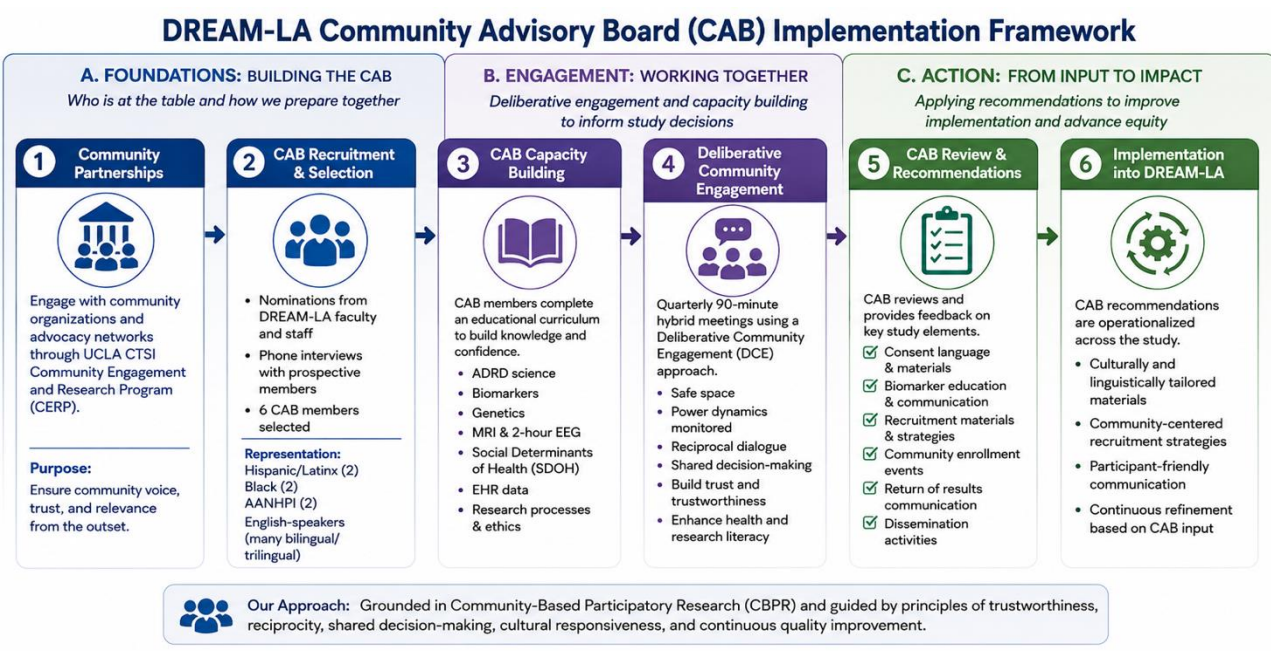


Figure 2. CAB implementation strategy within DREAM-LA. The DREAM-LA Community Advisory Board (CAB) was embedded to ensure community perspectives informed recruitment, participant education, communication, and study implementation through structured training and deliberative engagement.



We have enrolled 242 participants. Reflexive thematic analysis of Community Advisory Board meetings identified five interconnected implementation themes—building reciprocal partnerships, community-responsive implementation, trust-building, addressing structural barriers, and sustaining engagement.

Quantitative Finding	Qualitative Theme Explaining the Finding	Interpretation
242 participants enrolled across community and clinic settings, successfully transitioning into the UH3 phase.	Community-Responsive Implementation	Continuous refinement of recruitment strategies, enrollment events, and workflows enabled successful study implementation across diverse community settings.
25% of study visits completed in Spanish and Hispanic/Latino enrollment exceeded recruitment targets.	Trust as the Foundation for Research Participation	Bilingual coordinators, culturally responsive communication, and trusted community partnerships fostered engagement among Spanish-speaking participants.
Balanced racial/ethnic representation across Hispanic/Latino, Black/African American, and AAPI communities.	Building Reciprocal Community–Academic Partnerships	Long-term relationships with community organizations and an active CAB supported equitable recruitment across multiple populations.
Most participants enrolled in the highest-intensity (Tier 1) protocol (~70%) despite requiring multiple visits, MRI, and EEG.	Building Reciprocal Community–Academic Partnerships and Trust as the Foundation for Research Participation	Participants’ willingness to complete demanding research procedures appeared to be facilitated by trust, transparency, and ongoing relationships with the research team.
Recruitment disparities remained for men and individuals with cognitive impairment.	Addressing Structural Barriers to Equitable Participation	CAB members identified transportation, trusted recruitment venues (e.g., churches, VA), caregiver support, and structural barriers as priorities for future implementation.
Successful community enrollment days (approximately 17–24 participants per event).	Community-Responsive Implementation	Investigators iteratively improved logistics, scheduling, staffing, and community partnerships after each event, increasing efficiency and participant satisfaction.
Participants remained engaged beyond enrollment through genetics disclosure, research seminars, and ongoing feedback activities.	Sustaining Engagement Beyond Enrollment	CAB discussions emphasized engagement as a long-term partnership rather than a one-time recruitment strategy.

DREAM-LA Study

Scientific goal: Develop inclusive datasets for predictive models of early AD/ADRD detection.

Implementation challenge: Recruiting historically underrepresented communities into a biomarker-intensive protocol.

Implementation strategy: Embed a sustained, culturally grounded Community Advisory Board.

Early implementation outcomes: Diverse enrollment, participant understanding, adaptive recruitment, and trust-building.

Long-term impact: More representative biomarker datasets that can support equitable endophenotype discovery and predictive modeling for earlier AD/ADRD detection.

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