

SIREN 2022 National Research Meeting: Racial Health Equity in Social Care

Call for Proposals

Deadline: April 22, 2022 at 11:59pm PT

Introduction

The [Social Interventions Research and Evaluation Network \(SIREN\)](#), a national research acceleration and dissemination initiative focused on health care strategies to improve social risks and social conditions, is pleased to announce a [Fall 2022 National Research Meeting](#) focused on applying a racial equity lens to social care research and practice, with the goal of improving the health equity impacts of social care.

The COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate impacts in Latinx, Black, Pacific Islander, and Indigenous communities have underscored yet again that race and ethnicity matter for health, not because of biology (as race is a social concept), but because of racism. Centuries of oppression based on race, ethnicity, and closely related factors such as immigration status, language, country of origin, and religion, have led to large racial and ethnic inequities (by which we mean unfair, avoidable differences) in access to economic resources and opportunities, such as employment conditions, housing, and financial resources. When the virus emerged, these inequities in the social determinants or drivers of health in turn impacted both people's ability to protect themselves from the virus and their outcomes if infected. However, we know that COVID is not an exception. Racial inequities exist in all aspects of health in the United States due to past and present racist biases, behaviors, practices, policies, and systems.

As health care professionals increasingly try to improve health by addressing patients' social risks and communities' social conditions, a practice that is coming to be known as 'social care,' they must both reckon with and devise strategies to counteract the racism that is built into our countries' communities, institutions, systems, and policies, including those related to health care and social services. Otherwise, instead of fulfilling its potential as a strategy to build racial health equity, social care is likely to perpetuate, or even worsen, racial health inequities. Likewise, researchers generating evidence to inform these efforts must also examine how racist beliefs, practices, and systems impact their work in order to ensure social care research advances racial health equity goals.

Meeting Objectives

The objectives of this free, virtual meeting are to:

- 1. Critically examine how racism in all forms (e.g. interpersonal, institutional, systemic) impacts social care programs and social care research; and**
- 2. Identify how social care research can become a stronger tool for advancing racial health equity.**

By *racial health equity*, we mean that people of all racial and ethnic groups have a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible and that we have repaired, healed, and accounted for the injustices and oppression inflicted on people of color. We are focusing this meeting on racial health equity because of the pervasiveness and centrality of racism, and anti-Black racism in particular. We consider discrimination and oppression based on immigration status, language, country of origin, religion and other factors that are strongly linked to race and ethnicity to be dimensions of racism. However, this focus on racial equity is not meant to diminish or ignore inequities related to other factors such as gender identity, sexual orientation, physical ability, among others.

By *social care*, we mean all the ways in which professionals attached to health care institutions work to take into account and help address patients' social needs (e.g., the ability to afford healthy foods, safe housing, and reliable transportation). This includes efforts to identify patients' social needs, help patients access resources that address their needs, and tailor patients' medical care based on social needs. Social care also includes efforts by health care professionals and organizations to address social conditions at the community-level, e.g., through grants, investments, local hiring and procurement, and policy-change efforts.

With the intention of featuring diverse perspectives and content, we are issuing an open Call for Proposals for meeting sessions and presentations.

Guiding Principles

The following principles guide our planning process:

- The work will be stronger the more it is shaped and guided by the people who are intended to benefit. We therefore seek to give particular attention and meeting space to perspectives of people with lived experience of racism and socioeconomic challenges.
- We aim to feature speakers who represent a diversity of social identities, lived experiences, perspectives, and professional roles.
- Decisions we make regarding content, speakers, process, and logistics will take as their starting point the experience of those most disadvantaged by our current systems (i.e., not just racism but also sexism, ableism, etc.).

- We must take an unflinching look at the field and ask hard questions of ourselves, in particular about the ways racism shapes both social care practice and research, and the ways in which these impacts are often invisible to those with socially privileged identities (e.g. white, male, native English speaker, heterosexual, white-collar professional, etc.).
- We will hold space, not take it up. We aim to create space for these conversations without leading them, particularly given that we are a white-led organization.

SIREN would like to acknowledge the invaluable guidance of our National Research Meeting Advisors, a racially and ethnically diverse group of advisors with lived and/or professional experience with social care, who are helping SIREN live up to these principles and whose names are listed at the end of this document.

Key dates

- **Dates of multiday virtual meeting: Thurs Sept 15, Tues Sept 27, and Wed Oct 12, 2022, from 9am-12pm PT / 12-3pm ET.**
- **Due date for abstract submissions: April 22, 2022 at 11:59pm PT**
- **Abstract acceptances sent the week of June 13, 2022**
- **Presenter confirmations due June 22, 2022**

Meeting Audience

The immediate goals of the meeting focus on improving social care research. Therefore, the primary audience for the meeting is researchers, including from both health care and social/human services research fields. However, since research should be guided and shaped by those who are the intended beneficiaries of the strategies being studied, we encourage submissions (and participation) from people with lived experience of racism and economic challenges and/or that shed light on the experiences and perspectives of people with these lived experiences. Submitters who do not have this experience are strongly encouraged to include people with lived experience of racism and economic challenges in their proposed sessions. Likewise, we welcome submissions as well as participation from social care practitioners, payers, policymakers, funders, and advocates, both in medical and human/social services sectors, as their perspectives are also key to ensuring research is addressing relevant questions.

Content Areas/Themes

We invite proposals that advance the meeting objectives and guiding principles specified above. The following are examples of the types of questions we envision being important to discuss during this meeting. However, these are not meant to be exhaustive, and we welcome any submissions that advance the goals of applying a racial equity lens to social care research and practice and to identifying strategies for increasing the racial health equity benefits of social care research.

- **Where and how does racism manifest in social care programs and research?** What frameworks or models can help us think about how racism, whether individual, institutional, or systemic, impacts the availability and effectiveness of social care programs and strategies? How do racial inequities related to economic opportunity and social determinants of health intersect with the implementation and effectiveness of social care programs and associated research?
- **What do we know about the impacts of social care programs and interventions on racial health equity?** How do social interventions affect communities experiencing racism differently than racially privileged communities? How does racism affect the experience of patients receiving social care or the experiences of communities working with health care organizations on social conditions?
- **How can social care practice and research be conceptualized, designed, and implemented to better advance racial health equity?** What practice and research questions related to racial health equity and social interventions have not yet been asked? How can social care practice and research advance anti-racism and racial health equity efforts? How can research teams, study methods, and measures do better and differently to achieve racial health equity?

We encourage submissions that include examples of innovative perspectives, frameworks, approaches, study designs, funding mechanisms, practice or research tools (e.g., a new phone app or a clinical decision support tool), or outcome measures that can be used to advance racial health equity learning and outcomes.

Racial disparities and inequities in health care access, health outcomes, and health care utilization have been extensively researched and documented. In addition, there is a robust body of research on the effects of interpersonal, systemic, and structural racism on the health and well-being of those exposed. We acknowledge this crucial, foundational work and aim to build on it to improve the way that health care organizations and partners work to address social risks and conditions. Given SIREN's focus on social care, all submitted proposals should clearly relate to the application of a racial equity lens to health care's involvement in social care research and practice.

Presentation Formats

We welcome proposals for both full 50-minute sessions and individual 12-minute research presentations (that we will then assign to a multi-presentation session). Full sessions can be proposed in any format that will best achieve the goals of the session, such as panel presentations, roundtables, moderated discussions, interactive workshops, etc. Full session proposals should incorporate at least 20 minutes of audience engagement activities. We encourage you to think creatively about how to engage participants and combat "Zoom fatigue." The meeting will be conducted using the Zoom Events platform and will include the following features for audience participation: Q&A, chat, polls, and/or breakout rooms. Sessions are limited to a maximum of 3 speakers and 1 moderator. For full sessions that propose several individual presentations, the submission process will provide the opportunity to indicate whether each presenter would like to be considered for an individual presentation should the full panel not be accepted.

Selection Criteria

Submissions will be reviewed by SIREN staff and the National Research Meeting Advisors (see list) based on the following criteria:

Responsiveness: Extent to which the submission relates to and helps advance the goals of the meeting.

Lived Experience Focus: Extent to which the submission includes or features the perspectives of people and communities with lived experience of racism and economic challenges.

Actionability: Extent to which the submission provides information that can be used to improve the health equity impacts of social care research.

Innovation: Extent to which the submission provides unique information, data, or perspectives that help advance the goals of the meeting.

Methodological Rigor (for research presentations only): Extent to which the research uses valid and appropriate research design and analysis methods.

Engagement (for full session only): Extent to which the submission proposes a format that will actively engage participants.

Submission Process & Timeline

- All proposals must be submitted through [this online form](#).
- Information you will be asked to provide in the online submission form:
 - Name, email, role, affiliation for each speaker
 - Title and abstract for your presentation or session
 - Brief descriptions of how your proposal meets each of the selection criteria
 - Short lay summary of your proposal
- **(To view a copy of the form before submitting through the link above, [go here](#).)**
- You may participate in more than one submission; however, you will not be selected for more than one individual presentation or full session, except if you serve as a speaker in one session and a moderator in another.
- We do not place any restrictions or requirements on whether work is published or unpublished.
- Proposals that include original research need not be fully completed at the time of proposal submission, but enough should be known about the results to enable reviewers to gauge the contribution of the proposal to advancing meeting objectives. The research should be completed by the time of the presentation.

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National Research Meeting Advisors

SIREN would like to acknowledge the invaluable guidance of the following individuals for all aspects of planning this meeting:

- **Sharon Alexander, Patient advisor**
- **Rebekah Angove, Patient Advocate Foundation**
- **Mateo Banegas, University of California San Diego School of Medicine**
- **Pablo Buitrón de la Vega, Boston University School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center**
- **Rosy Chang Weir, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations**
- **Damon Francis, Alameda Health System and Health Leads**
- **Tiajuanna Thames Francis, Patient advisor**
- **Robyn Golden, Rush University Medical Center and Rush University**
- **Lisa Hamlett, Patient advisor**
- **Tanisha Harrell, 211 San Diego**
- **Mini Kahlon, Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin and Factor Health**
- **Rishi Manchanda, HealthBegins**
- **Michael McNear, Patient advisor**
- **Nameeta Mota, Patient advisor**
- **Kara Odom Walker, Nemours Children's Health System**
- **Linda Ann Pritchett, Patient advisor**
- **Ann Reynoso, Patient advisor**
- **Stephanie Walker, Patient advisor**

Contact us with questions about the Call for Proposals at siren@ucsf.edu.

Learn more about the Social Interventions Research and Evaluation Network (SIREN) on [our website](#).