Children's Hospital of Philadelphia PolicyLab

Pilot Grants

Identifying Best Practices for Conducting Antiracist Pediatric Research

Health Equity

Statement of Problem

Too often, research has contributed to systemic racial inequities in health. Research can play a role in creating or perpetuating racist beliefs by failing to address research questions that predominately affect people of color and indigenous populations, misinterpreting racial and ethnic data, incorrectly attributing racial and ethnic differences to biology, using non-representative research samples and under-prioritizing research that might mitigate the impacts of racism.

Antiracist research attempts to right these wrongs. Antiracist research is conducted by a researcher who believes that racial and ethnic groups are equal, that no single racial or ethnic group needs developing, and who supports policies to reduce racial inequities. Most importantly, antiracist research contributes to the creation, implementation or evaluation of programs, policies or interventions aimed at deconstructing racial health inequities and the structural forces that drive them. Antiracist research practices should be sought by all researchers, not just those who work in the health equity space.

While many researchers aim to conduct inclusive research that abides by these practices, many more would be capable of doing so if they had adequate tools and training.

Learn more about the need for anti-racist research and what inspired this project in this video.

Description

We reviewed existing literature to identify best practices for conducting antiracist research, and to elevate the voices of scholars who have been writing about these topics for decades.

Using this literature review, our team of multi-disciplinary experts developed and published consensus guidance through a modified Delphi process for antiracist practices for each stage of the research process. We developed practical, actionable guidance to arm researchers with the tools to help ensure their own research does not contribute to racist study designs or racist data interpretations, but rather helps to reverse long-standing trends in scientific racism.

You can find a both comprehensive and abridged sets of the guidance, along with full references, here.

Next Steps

We hope to develop a suite of resources, including a checklist for researchers, presentations and research trainings. We hope that disseminating these tools will help funders, regulatory agencies, journals and researchers elevate their standards to promote more equitable, antiracist research.

Suggested Citation

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Project Leads

Kate Wallis
Kate Wallis
MD, MPH
Faculty Member

Team

Diana Montoya-Williams
Diana Montoya-Williams
MD, MSHP
Faculty Member
Sarah Wozniak-Kelly
Andrea Duncan, MD, MS
Nia Heard-Garris, MD, MSc
Kristine Andrews, PhD
Sherry Morgan, PhD, MLS, BSNEd, RN
Fahmida Sarmin
Tala Allababidi

Funders of Project

PolicyLab
Clinical Futures

Project Contact

Kate Wallis

WALLISK@chop.edu