2nd Annual Upshur Lecture on Public Health Ethics

Rethinking Community Engagement from Theory to Practice

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Room 108, Health Sciences Building
155 College Street

Abstract: Community engagement continues to attract attention as an important consideration in the context of research and public health interventions. Despite this increased recognition, the ethical and practical goals of community engagement remain under-developed. As a result, community engagement practice is highly variable and poorly evaluated. In this current state, the value of community engagement for research or public health interventions remains uncertain. This situation makes it difficult for researchers and public health officials to design appropriate community engagement strategies, and for funders to make sound judgements about how, and to what extent, community engagement should be funded. This lecture aims to clarify the ethical goals of community engagement and uses these goals as a basis for re-thinking community engagement practice and evaluation.