

Connecticut State Innovation Model (SIM) Project
Healthcare Innovation Steering Committee & Workgroups
Office of the Healthcare Advocate, Hartford CT
June 11th 2015

My name is Supriyo B. Chatterjee and I reside in West Hartford Connecticut. I would like to submit my comments for your consideration. In November 2014, I attended the Health Equity Forum at the Hartford Public Library where I heard panelist, Alphonse Wright (Chair of the Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission), make a profound statement – “even now African-Americans distrust health agencies due to the Tuskegee Experiments.” It is well over 8 decades since those experiments commenced, and ~35 years since the Belmont Report Commission made recommendations about research ethics and Institutional Review Boards. It’s about two decades since President Clinton made a public apology for the Tuskegee wrongdoings. The ongoing lower participation by African-Americans in pharmaceutical clinical trials is still a source of health disparities. Quite simply, it is imperative to have a Code of Ethics because CT SIM programs are in the arena of Public Health and Health Equity. A Code of Ethics brings more than an equitable way of conducting business without conflicts of interest – it lays the foundation of restorative trust and an understanding of the fiduciary duties of CT SIM program participants. These programs make up the public good to be delivered – the innovative healthcare model with the goals of Better Health, Eliminating Disparities, Quality Care, and Lower Costs.

Recently, I made a request to the US Health & Human Services - Office of Minority Health and the CT Department of Public Health for copies of the two ‘Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services’ (CLAS) reports with its disclosure Declaration Statements of Conflict-of-Interest; these were published by CT Multicultural Health Partnership in April 2012 & April 2015. This disclosure is a requirement under ‘Responsibility of Applicants for Promoting Objectivity in Research for Public Health Service Funding’ regulations. It is also a fiduciary responsibility showing diligence and integrity that helps restore trust.

I would like to close with a quote from Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health and of the Human Genome Project - "The public trust in what we do is just essential, and we cannot afford to take any chances with the integrity of the research process."

Thank you.

Supriyo B. Chatterjee MBA, MSc, MA (Econ)
West Hartford CT 06107

REFERENCES - Supplement to Public Comment

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<http://minoritynurse.com/trust-the-barrier-between-minorities-and-clinical-research/>

Minority populations in clinical trials (July 2013)
<http://www.researchamerica.org/news-events/news/new-poll-shows-minority-populations-support-clinical-trials-improve-health-others>

Betancourt, JR et al, Addressing Disparities and Achieving Equity: Cultural Competence, Ethics, and Health-care Transformation. *Chest*. 2014;145(1):143-148.
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Prior CT SIM Public Comments:

CT SIM - Practice Transformation Task Force Meeting June 9th (under Public Comment)
http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/lib/ohri/PublicComment_PTTF_Chatterjee_06092015.pdf

CT SIM - Equity and Access Council Meeting May 28th (under Public Comment)
http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/lib/ohri/work_groups/equity_access/2015_05_28/ctsim-may28.pdf

CT SIM - Practice Transformation Task Force Meeting May 19th (under Public Comment)
http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/lib/ohri/work_groups/practice_transformation/2015-05-19/ctsim-may19.pdf

CT SIM Healthcare Innovation Steering Committee Meeting May 14th (under Public Comment)
http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/lib/ohri/sim/steering_committee/2015-05-14/comment_chatterjee_clas_05142015.pdf

CT SIM - Practice Transformation Task Force Meeting April 28th (under Public Comment)
http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/lib/ohri/work_groups/practice_transformation/2015-04-28/publiccomment_pttf_chatterjee_04282015.pdf

CT SIM - Equity and Access Council Meeting April 23rd (under Public Comment)
http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/lib/ohri/work_groups/equity_access/2015_04_23/ctsim-apr23.pdf

CT SIM Healthcare Innovation Steering Committee Meeting April 9th (under Public Comment)
CT SIM - Equity and Access Council Meeting April 9th (under Public Comment)
http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/lib/ohri/sim/steering_committee/2015-04-09/public_comment_chatterjee_04092015.pdf