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Community-based participatory research in palliative care: a social justice imperative

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We appreciate Jason Mills and colleagues' Comment in *The Lancet Public Health* on public health partnerships and community participation.¹ The palliative care field could benefit from using community-based participatory research (CBPR) approaches to ensure provision of equitable care and address the social determinants of health amid serious illness, particularly for vulnerable and excluded groups.

CBPR is a social justice tool that engages the community as an equal partner and is crucial to identifying community-specific care needs, values, preferences, and priorities.² Ensuring that community-based wisdom grounds our collective science could inform practice implications with integrity and pragmatism. Palliative care investigators can leverage CBPR approaches to identify and dismantle structural barriers that sustain inequities. Further, CBPR is key to decolonising cross-cultural palliative care initiatives to drive contextually appropriate palliative care programmes and policies.

Over the past 5 years, we have used CBPR principles to create the first culturally concordant palliative care intervention,³ and have developed a training programme for palliative care clinicians to provide culturally appropriate care.⁴ We have also conducted training in CBPR for palliative care clinicians and researchers from throughout the USA (appendix).

Although multiple CBPR initiatives are underway, these approaches could be adopted more rapidly to equitably advance palliative care.⁵ Long-term, community-based partnerships and sustainable infrastructures adaptive to people's needs during life-limiting illnesses are needed. CBPR can help advance social justice in the face of serious health-related suffering.

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We declare no competing interests.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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