

Projects and Publications

Project Title: Communicating about COVID-19 Testing to Underrepresented Populations.

Collaborators: Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation (CERSI) and The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

In late October 2020, in combination with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the PATIENTS Program set out to talk to six underrepresented populations to understand their attitudes around testing for COVID-19 and if they would share their data in national databases.

This project gave the FDA rich information about the thoughts and attitudes about COVID-19 testing in African American, Hispanic, older adults, adults with chronic conditions, adults with varying health knowledge and adults who did not have symptoms but live with someone who has or had COVID-19.

These six populations were recruited by a team of three recruiters. Over about eight weeks, two community partners and the PATIENTS Program's senior engagement specialist worked with the community to take part in the project.

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Communicating about COVID-19 Testing to Underrepresented Populations (continued)

About 95 people were engaged, 76 were scheduled to take part, with a total of 63 final participants.

Community members took part in face-to-face focus group talks of up to five people using Zoom in a 90-minute interview session. Keeping the groups small gave each person taking part enough time to share their thoughts and opinions openly. Each group was asked questions about COVID-19 testing in general, if they wanted to be tested, and how they felt about adding their data to national databases. The face-to-face discussion group format using Zoom gave a chance to safely interact and give more information about each person's comments during a pandemic.

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Communicating about COVID-19 Testing to Underrepresented Populations (continued)

After months of hearing information communicated to the public via media outlets and respected medical sources, this project gave the community a chance to actively express their voices, their fears, and concerns, perceived benefits and barriers about COVID-19 testing and their diverse thoughts on sharing of their data.

Through the dynamic discussion from this project, the FDA and other researchers will be better able to create specific tailored communication tools and will be well-informed on how to focus their outreach efforts to the African American, Hispanic, older adults, adults with chronic conditions, adults with varying health knowledge and adults who did not have symptoms but live with someone who has or had COVID-19 populations.

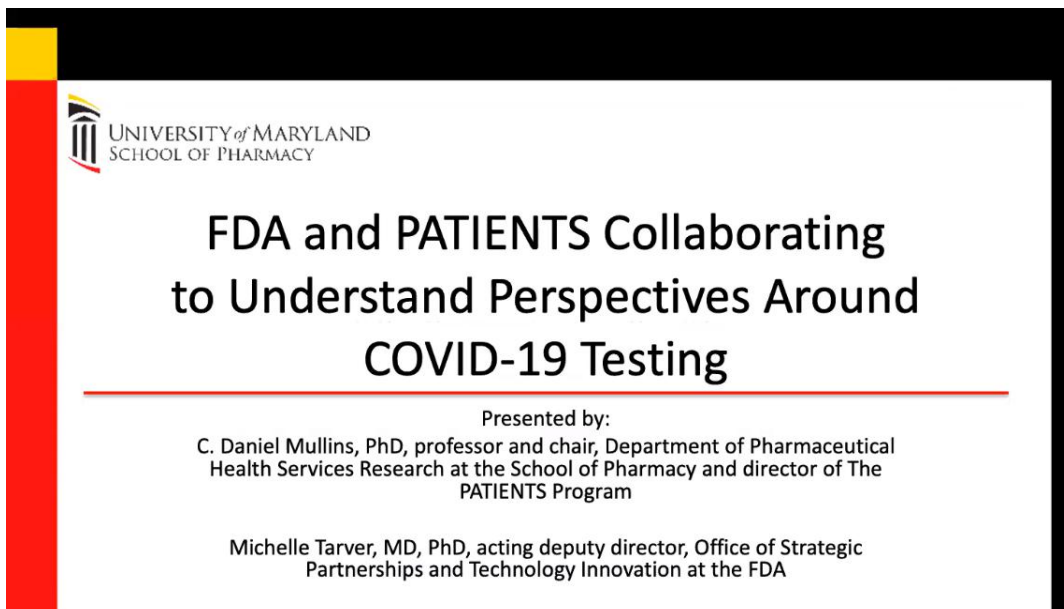
We thank our community partners and all of those who took part in this project.

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Communicating about COVID-19 Testing to Underrepresented Populations (continued)

In addition, Dr. Daniel Mullins and Dr. Jasmine Cooper, both of the PATIENTS Program along with Dr. Michelle Tarver, acting deputy director of the Office of Strategic Partnerships and Technology Innovation at the FDA presented to the university community at large as part of the university's "Timely Topics" forum. The presentation spoke to the importance of their collaborative work for the West Baltimore community as well as the nation.

To view the presentation, please [click here](#) to access the link. The passcode needed to view the presentation is **UMSOP1841***



The slide features a white background with a black border. On the left side, there is a vertical bar with a yellow top section and a red bottom section. The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy logo is in the top left corner. The title is centered in bold black text. Below the title is a red horizontal line. The presenters' names and titles are listed below the line.

 UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

**FDA and PATIENTS Collaborating
to Understand Perspectives Around
COVID-19 Testing**

Presented by:
C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Pharmaceutical
Health Services Research at the School of Pharmacy and director of The
PATIENTS Program

Michelle Tarver, MD, PhD, acting deputy director, Office of Strategic
Partnerships and Technology Innovation at the FDA