

P4HE Summit: On The Front Lines of Equity & Justice

Plenary Session Overview

The Partners for Advancing Health Equity Collaborative hosted the 2022 Summit, *On the Front Lines of Equity & Justice*, December 4-6, 2022. The Summit brought together leaders in health equity and justice foster collaboration across sectors, and to promote action in advancing health equity in research, practice, and policy. This report provides a synthesis of key takeaways from the opening plenary session, *Conversations with Thomas LaVeist and Alonzo Plough*, hosted by Sheldon Watts.

Session Voices



Dr. Alonzo Plough, VP
Research-Evaluation-
Learning and Chief Science
Officer, [RWJ Foundation](#)



Dr. Thomas LaVeist, Dean,
[Tulane School of Public
Health and Tropical
Medicine](#)



Sheldon Watts, Program
Officer, [RWJ Foundation](#)

Key Takeaways

The path to health equity requires collaborative transformation. The path to health equity requires [transformed public health data](#), research methodology, knowledge building practices, and [community engagement approaches](#). Addressing inequities requires questioning methodological canons and conventional approaches and shifting away from the idea that academia is the only place knowledge can be validated. This includes acknowledging that [powerful dissemination](#) takes place in monographs, well-placed op-eds, and within the hands of community partners, not just within peer-reviewed journals.

Collective knowledge generation and authentic partnership are key to sustainable change. Collective knowledge generation and strategic collaboration across academia, community, philanthropy, government, and the public sector are needed to move the needle forward. The compartmentalization of knowledge results in unique vocabularies which limit communication and collaboration. P4HE supports the harmonization of these efforts through [webinars](#), [podcasts](#), [resource sharing](#), and [live engagements](#) which seek to enhance communication and increase trans-sector partnerships. [Authentic community partnerships](#) prioritize collaboration and shift towards power building rather than problem-oriented framing. Sustainable change requires a shift from viewing participatory action research as a novel approach to an essential methodological approach.

Universities should be leveraged for change. Leverage university power beyond knowledge generation – view universities as community partners and employers with the largest partnership opportunities. To effectively leverage universities for change, [more health equity minded academics need to hold positions of power](#). These individuals can shape institutional priorities including the formation of trans-disciplinary programs and collaboration efforts, faculty-reward systems and promotion criteria, and community partnerships.

Share your thoughts!

What did you think of this topic? Would you like to hear more from these speakers? Do you have any resources you would like to share with us? [Email us!](#)