

Guiding Questions

Health Effects Institute Workshop | October 20–21, 2022

New Science to Inform Environmental Justice

Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, 165 Courtland Street NE, Atlanta, GA

Thursday, October 20

Breakout Session 1: “Identifying EJ Priorities and Concerns: A View from Various Sectors”

1. How do you define effective and successful EJ research? a. What are the outcomes you want to see from EJ research?
2. What would be more impactful in effecting change: a holistic approach to EJ research, or addressing specific factors individually (e.g., social, economic, environmental)?
3. What are your priorities (ultimate goal) for EJ research or projects?
4. How do your priorities conflict or align with others from similar or different groups? a. Have you had to balance your priorities with others and how did that process work?
5. What role do you think policymakers, community organizations, and academic researchers can or should play in advancing EJ in environmental health? a. What can a research funding organization do to support these roles?
6. What are the benefits and drawbacks of collaborating with partners from other stakeholder groups, including citizens among the general public, when doing your own research?
 - a. How do you like to engage with other stakeholders?
 - b. What do you see as an ideal collaboration?
 - c. How can expectations be managed when concerned citizens/stakeholders/activists are actively engaged in the work?

Breakout Session 2: “Identifying EJ Priorities by Research Topic”

1. What are some urgent and important EJ issues or needs specific to the “breakout topic”?
 - a. What are some specific EJ issues or needs in your regions or communities?
 - b. What is the role or value of citizen science in research?
2. What are the future directions of EJ research specific to the “breakout topic”?
 - a. Solution-oriented (e.g., accountability study, interventions) or descriptive research?
 - b. Development of method or policy tools?
 - c. What are realistic timelines for tangible progress, and can research be organized such that near-term benefits are achieved from the perspective of multiple stakeholders and funders?
3. What are some components of EJ research that can increase the success and reduce possible harms?
4. What are some existing funding barriers for research under this specific topic?
 - a. What would be some ideal funding models for future EJ research on these topics? Have you seen some real-world examples?
 - b. Are there funding opportunities available to promote transdisciplinary research?

Panel Discussion: “What Are Barriers to and Opportunities for Conducting Effective EJ Research?”

Moderator: Christina Fuller

Topic 1: Components of effective and successful EJ research. Consider the challenges that these approaches are meant to overcome.

1. How do you form ethical and equitable partnerships between and among academic researchers and community organizations?
2. What successful models exist for data ownership, sharing, and management?
3. How do you measure or define success?
4. How do you maintain a balanced power dynamic over time so that research can progress?
(Time permitting.)

Topic 2: Financial resources needed to support communities and institutions addressing EJ issues.

1. What level of funding, duration, and delivery would be most supportive of EJ work?
2. How can we develop flexibility in funding mechanisms that can adjust to community priorities?
3. Describe a funding stream that would support new topics and approaches.

Friday, October 21

Breakout Session, Round 1: “Identifying Solutions and Promoting Future Collaborations”

Topic Round 1: Identifying future EJ research topics and potential collaborations.

1. What promising ideas or initiatives have you seen for EJ research?
2. What’s your plan and vision for your team or organization in the next few years?
 - a. How did you define your vision and identify your strategies?
 - b. What type of skills or collaborations do you need to facilitate your goal or plan?
 - c. What challenges to your EJ work do you foresee in the future, and how can we prepare for them?

Breakout Session, Round 2: “Identifying Solutions and Promoting Future Collaborations”

Topic Round 2: Potential solutions for challenges encountered in study logistics and forming sustainable partnerships.

1. What would be some suggestions you have for funding agencies for future EJ fundings?
2. What are some important lessons that you have learned over the years working on EJ that you would like to share with others?
3. Can you provide some examples of the partnerships you know that worked well, why they worked well, and why partnerships are important?
 - a. What do you see as an ideal collaboration, and how do you like to engage with others?