

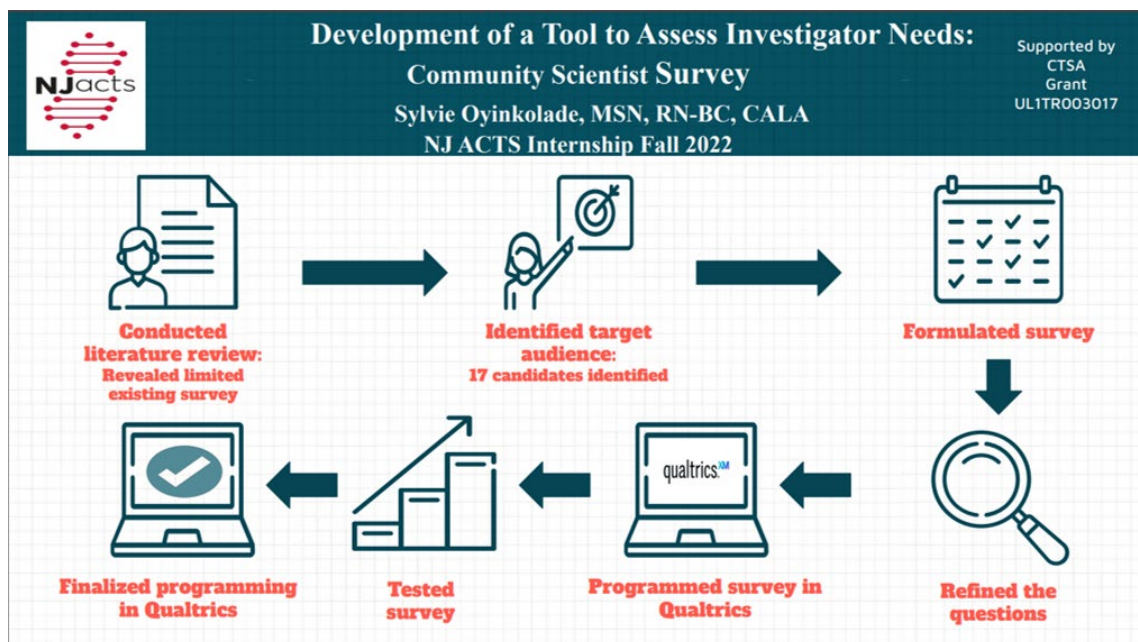


## Development of a Tool to Assess Investigator Needs: Community Scientist Survey

**Sylvie Oyinkolade MSN RN-BC CALA; Marsha Gordon MPH and Shawna Hudson, PhD**

**Background/Purpose:** The National Institute of Health (NIH) funded, New Jersey Healthcare Essential Worker Outreach and Education Study-Testing Overlooked Occupation (NJ HEROES TOO), developed strategies to reduce disparities in COVID-19 testing in NJ. It identified that Community Scientists (CS) were integral to recruitment, which was the impetus for the development of the Community Scientist Program (CSP), adapted from the University of Florida (UF). To increase the CSP enrollment, by developing a survey to assess researchers' level of interest in the CSP and their needs for current and future CS.

**Methods:** A literature review was conducted to identify existing CS surveys. Concurrently, Rutgers Career Development and pre/postdoctoral (KL2, TL1) and the Partnership and Innovation Accelerator Pilot (PIAP) awardees were identified to take the survey. Questions were (1) created (base on UF Level of Engagement model); (2) incorporated into logic model to visually depict processes, inputs, and outputs; (3) refined for respondent efficiency; (4) programmed into Qualtrics; (5) tested; and (6) revised.



**Results:** The literature review revealed limited CS assessments. Seventeen investigators were selected to receive the survey. It featured a total of 12 questions separated into 2 branches for investigators (1) currently working with community partners/CS's and those (2) not working with them and took 1-2 minutes to complete.

**Conclusion:** This internship provided the intern with experience in survey development and programming. Results are anticipated to confirm researchers' interest in engaging CS's in their research, paving the way for community partners to obtain appropriate training and experience in collaborative research.