We encourage **researchers, institutions, and trial sponsors** to embed community engagement at the core of their work. This means involving communities early in the process, recognising their contributions as valuable expertise, and supporting their active participation in decision-making processes. Inclusive research results in more relevant and ethically sound outcomes.

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We urge **policymakers and funders** to develop policies and funding structures that prioritise community engagement. This includes allocating resources for engagement activities, providing fair compensation to community contributors, and ensuring participation is accessible to individuals from diverse backgrounds.

We urge **public health agencies and regulators** to improve transparency and open communication. Building trust takes time and care. Communities need to be part of that dialogue, not only during a crisis but throughout the research process.

We call on **everyone involved in biomedical research** to recognise that lived experience is a form of knowledge. Communities should not merely be invited to participate — they should be regarded as equal partners, co-creators in research.

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