NED 2026

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Bilingual CRCs: A Conversation about Challenges, Opportunities, and Empowerment in Multilingual Research Communication

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Goals of this “talk”

This session will provide an opportunity to share experiences, discuss challenges and successes, and collaboratively identify best practices for supporting inclusive and effective research communication.

This is meant to be a roundtable conversation rather than a presentation.

Agenda

- 1-1:10 Introductions and group agreements
- 1:10-1:35 Discussion: language justice
- 1:35-1:50 Case discussion: translation review
- 1:50-2:00 Closing

Proposed group agreements

- Listen with respect
- Participate to the extent that you are comfortable
- Appreciate and welcome diversity of backgrounds and experiences
- Preserve confidentiality
- Be mindful about how much you speak up or step back to create space for others

Icebreaker

In your personal experience or at your institution…

- What is one thing that is working well regarding communication or translation in languages other than English?
- What is one thing that could be improved regarding communication or translation in languages other than English?

A community perspective on language justice

“Language justice is immigrant justice.”
- Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN)

Language Justice Vision Statement
At WAISN, we envision a broad movement that is led by and made up of immigrants of all languages and backgrounds. Language justice recognizes that our liberation is tied to each other.

We ALL need language justice in order to communicate, connect, and build people power for our collective freedom. We will work towards these visions by integrating language justice values into membership structure, staffing, organizing strategy, budgeting, and our day-to-day operations.

https://waisn.org

Language justice in health care

Definition:
Promoting the right for individuals to communicate in their preferred language to better address power imbalances and advance equity and social justice.

Core principles articulated by Ragavan et al.:

1. Shifting the responsibility of providing linguistically equitable services from the patient to the health care or research system
2. Providing language services throughout the health care or research experience
3. Convening a multidisciplinary language team to develop and implement processes
4. Using strengths-based, affirming language, which celebrates the beauty of linguistically diverse communities and values all languages equitably

Ragavan et al. 2025

Language justice: a personal perspective

It’s about being understood and heard.

It’s about feeling seen.

It’s about belonging.

It’s about feeling valued.

It’s about care.

Language justice discussion

- What aspects of these definitions of language justice resonate with you?
- What aspects of these definitions of language justice do not align with your views? Or what would you add?
- What best practices related to language justice would you like to share?
- What ideas do you have for improving communication and translation with language justice in mind?

Case discussion: translation review

A CRC colleague was asked to “spend a couple hours” reviewing a lengthy survey translated by an agency “just to catch errors.” When they read the translated survey, they noticed:

- Errors
- High reading level
- Awkward phrasing (grammar and sentence structure)
- Use of English expressions that were translated without consideration of cultural relevance and responsiveness

Any changes would have to be reviewed and re-certified by the translation agency, which could lead to a delay in launching the study. How would you advise them to approach this situation?

Closing: intention setting

- What is one thing you would like to try or bring back to your institution?

Resources shared by session participants

Language Access Bridge Funding at UW: Bridge Funding - Office of Healthcare Equity

The Office of Healthcare Equity launched the Language Access Bridge Funding Award in support of WA State RCW 69.78, which aims to improve participation in clinical trials from underrepresented communities.
Clinical trial researchers, with an appointment at UW, can apply for **up to $5,000** to support language access and cultural advocacy needs—such as document translation, interpreter services, and communication access real-time translation (CART) services—that will help researchers more effectively recruit and engage underserved populations in clinical trials.
Funding, up to **$5,000** paid directly by the Office of Healthcare Equity (OHCE)* to the vendor, is intended for real-time language access needs (within 30 days)—*not for past, future (e.g., grant planning, holding funds for the future, etc.), or unspecified use*—as OHCE will submit payment directly to the vendor for approved applications.

Resources shared by session participants

Community Engagement Bridge Funding at UW

Supporting researchers in advancing community engagement, cultural access, and language access in clinical trials.
The Office of Healthcare Equity is pleased to announce the **2026–2027 Community Engagement Bridge Funding Award**.
This funding opportunity supports UW researchers seeking to strengthen community engagement, cultural access, local context, and language access in research and clinical trials. Awards of up to **$10,000** are available, with funding for up to **14 projects**. Priority will be given to projects that advance inclusion of traditionally underserved populations in clinical trials and support Washington State communities.
Opportunity
Eligibility: Open to Principal Investigator (PI) eligible faculty/staff/research scientists from all University of Washington campuses, including junior faculty/staff/research scientists
Funding: UW researchers can receive up to $10,000 for their project

Resources shared by session participants

ITHS | Research Ethics Consultation Service

The Research Ethics Consultation Service is supported by Seattle Children's Research Institute and the Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS).

Our research ethics consultants offer advice to researchers, research staff, personnel involved in protection of human subjects, and research participants who have questions about any aspect of a research study. We assist when there are ethical issues that could benefit from in-depth conversation and analysis related to the development, implementation or analysis of clinical and translational research.

Research ethics consultants are all members of the Treuman Katz Center for Pediatric Bioethics and Palliative Care.

References

Ragavan MI, Migliori O, Khan A, et al. Language access to language justice: strategies to transform pediatric research and health care. *Pediatrics* 2025; 156(6);e2025073303

Thank you!

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QUESTIONS?

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