

## Let's talk: health literacy and cultural competency researchers working together

Increasing recognition of well-documented disparities in health status, access and service delivery have fueled calls to better prepare future health professionals to address these challenges. The culturally competent healthcare professional must not only respect the patient's culture and beliefs, but also his or her ability to understand the health information being provided. However, there are many under-answered research questions as to how and when this training should occur, and what it should contain. There is a paucity of research that links successful outcomes of health professions education to patient-centered outcomes. This panel will address: commonality between health literacy and cultural competency learning objectives and research questions; a conceptual framework for conducting research on the impact of cultural competency education on patient outcomes; lessons learned by researchers engaged in cultural competency and health literacy curriculum development; and incorporation of health literacy in CLAS standards and what that means for future practice and research.

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