



# Remuneration and Reciprocity in Research with Marginalized Populations

Quinn Boyle<sup>1,2</sup>, MSc & Judy Illes<sup>1</sup>, CM, PhD

Neuroethics Canada, Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine, University of British Columbia<sup>1</sup>  
Division of Social Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of British Columbia<sup>2</sup>



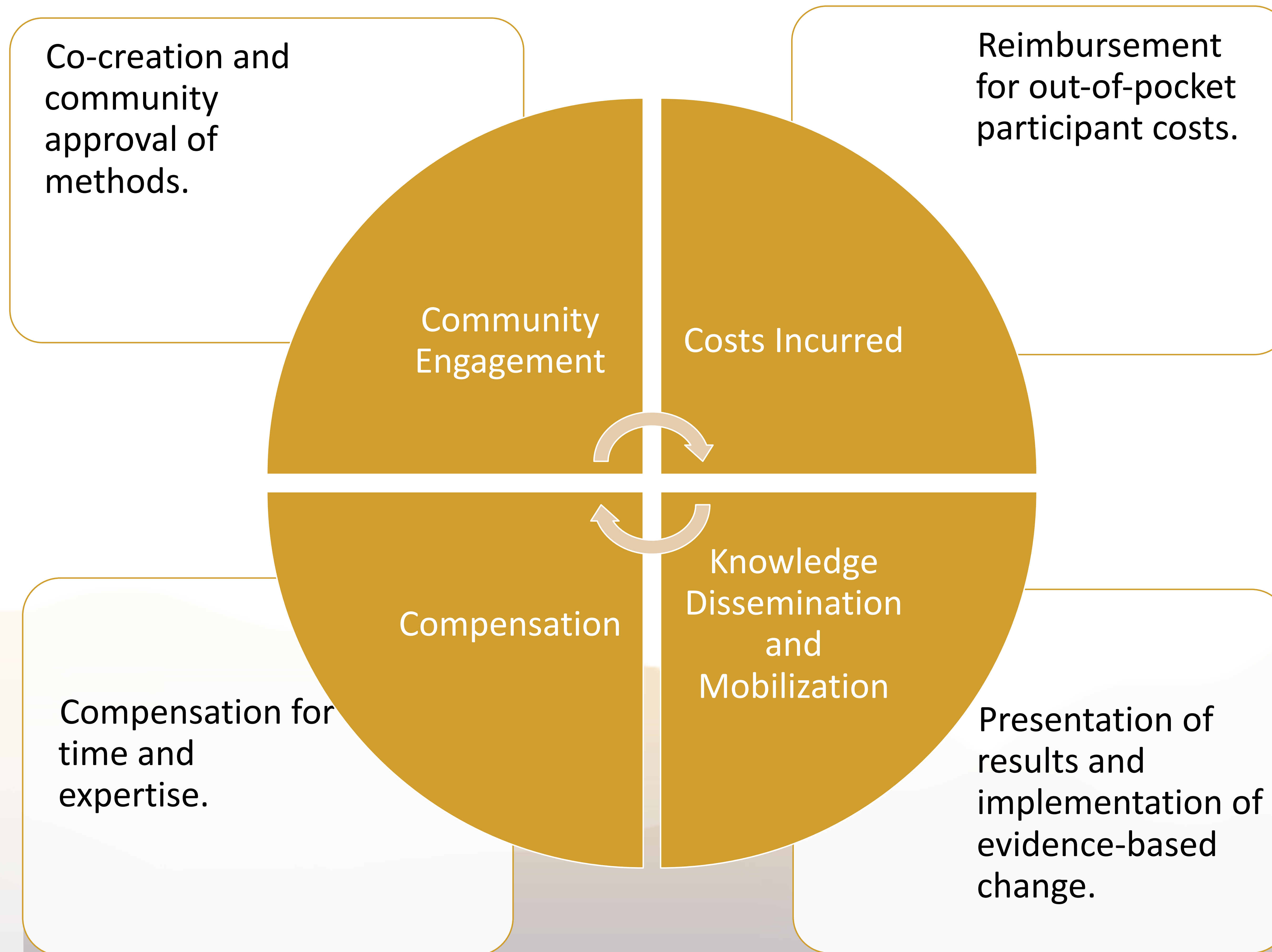
## OBJECTIVE

To suggest best practices for reciprocity and ethical remuneration for research with marginalized populations and adults with altered capacity.

## ARGUMENTATION

- Framing human participant research as a partnership of mutual benefit is central to key principles of ethics, equity and justice.<sup>1</sup>
- Exact value of remuneration and other means of reciprocity should be context-specific and ideally co-created by the researchers and the community being researched.
- Reciprocity extends beyond remuneration and emphasizes the importance of community benefit throughout and beyond research involvement.<sup>2</sup>

## COMPONENTS OF ETHICAL REMUNERATION AND RECIPROCITY



## REMUNERATION

- **Prioritize** cash compensation for all participants commensurate with project goals and risks.
- **Integrate** community voices in determining compensation for the time, effort, and expertise offered by participants.
- **Incorporate** non-traditional means of compensation (e.g., refreshments, Indigenous gift-giving).

## RECIPROCITY

- **Establish rapport** with community partners prior to recruitment of participants.
- **Co-create and seek community approval** of research methods prior to REB approval.
- Host **Knowledge Dissemination** events for the researched community.
- **Implement** meaningful change based on research results.

**Acknowledgements:** Neuroethics Canada, UBC 4-year Doctoral Fellowship (QB); North Family Foundation (JI) Rubin, M., Young, M. ... Boyle, Q., Illes, J ... , Equity in clinical care and research involving persons with disorders of consciousness (In prep).

### References:

1. Boilevin et al., Research 101: A Manifesto for Ethical Research in the Downtown Eastside, 2019
2. Das et al., *Front Commun*, 2022.
3. Wertheimer A, *Routledge Companion to Bioethics*, 2014