

Minority Accrual to Therapeutic Clinical Trials

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1. Background

The demographics of newly diagnosed cancer patients in the catchment of the University of Illinois Cancer Center (UICC) is 24% African American and 11% Hispanic. Nationally, treatment clinical accrual to these two groups is very low with 6% for African Americans and 3% for Hispanic populations. UICC strives to have therapeutic accrual demographics at least as diverse as the demographics of cancer patients in the UICC catchment area, with a goal to match the diversity of UICC's patient population.

2. Goals

In 2016, the UICC clinical trials office enrolled 29% African American and 15% Hispanic patients into therapeutic clinical trials. Though nationally the demographics of clinical trial participants is far less diverse than the population diagnosed with cancer (Duma N, et al. Representation of Minorities and Women in Oncology Clinical Trials: Review of the Past 14 Years. Journal of Oncology Practice, January 1, 2018), UICC's goal is to enroll a proportion of participants into our therapeutic clinical trials at least as diverse as our patient population.

3. Solutions and Methods

Strategies implemented to increase the diversity of UICC's therapeutic clinical trial population include:

- Maintaining a diverse workforce, including native Spanish speakers
- Providing transportation to study visits
- Selecting and designing trials appropriate for the characteristics of UICC's patient population:
 - Greater proportion of latter stage disease
 - Finding trials for specific types of diseases (more triple negative breast cancer, etc.)
 - Not taking studies with limits on comorbidities/life style issues which do not significantly affect study outcomes (HIV, upper age if otherwise healthy, etc.)
- Development and implementation of clinical trial education materials specifically highlighting the importance of the diverse participation in clinical trials.

4. Outcomes

In 2016, the participants enrolled into UICC therapeutic clinical trials was 22% African American and 20% Hispanic. By 2019, the proportion of African American therapeutic clinical trial participants increased to 41% and Hispanics had increased to 27%, which exceeds the diversity of newly diagnosed cancer patients in our catchment area (24% African American and 11% Hispanic) and approximates the diversity of UICC newly diagnosed cancer patients (42% African American and 18% Hispanic).

5. Lessons Learned

- Ensure that we are picking the right trials for our population

Category: Trial Recruitment & Community Outreach and Engagement – Work In Progress

- Continue and expand clinical trial education efforts
- Ensure proper support of non-English speaking patients including multi-lingual clinical trial staff and other resources
- Shift focus to increasing the retention