

#ResearchOnResearch – A Research Training Initiative for Clinical Research Professionals

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1. Background

Opportunities for independent research by non-physician clinical research professionals (CRPs) from the 12 cancer research teams of the Abramson Cancer Center Clinical Research Unit (ACC CRU) have been limited. No abstracts for independent research by ACC CRU CRPs had been submitted to research conferences, until launching of the #ResearchOnResearch initiative in April 2022. #ResearchOnResearch leverages the clinical research expertise of ACC CRU CRPs, to empower ACC CRU CRPs to pursue and to develop research projects derived from their clinical research experiences and academic interests, and to provide research training and career development opportunities for ACC CRU CRPs.

2. Goals

- Discuss research ideas and mentor ACC CRU CRPs in developing research projects
- Provide training sessions to ACC CRU CRPs on activities supportive of research, e.g., formulating research questions, designing research projects, writing research abstracts, creating research posters, formulating podium presentations, and publishing research
- Identify prospective research conferences for submission of abstracts for poster, podium, and roundtable presentations
- Provide a forum for research collaboration among ACC CRU staff

3. Solutions and Methods

The 14th Annual Conference of the International Association of Clinical Research Nurses (IACRN) in October 2022 stimulated the development of #ResearchOnResearch. Ongoing performance/improvement projects developed by ACC CRU CRPs were identified. Three individuals were contacted and provided intensive training on abstract writing over a two-week period by Terease Waite, as well as two-month intensive training in poster development/writing after acceptance of their abstracts. Maria Hendricks and Terease Waite were trained in the development of abstracts and posters.

4. Outcomes

All four abstracts to the IACRN conference were accepted:

- Evan Anderson (Airways Research Group): “Tracking Physician Attestation of Clinical Research Staff Documentation Using Electronic Health Record Reporting Tools”
- Maria Hendricks (Central CRU): “Clinical Research Scorecard – Performance Metric”
- Philip Seger/Alexandra Torres (DVL Research Group): “Use of Pre-screening Demographic Data to Target Recruitment Resources for Underrepresented Populations”
- Terease Waite (Central CRU): “Creation of an Ethics Journal Club for Clinical Research Staff”

The “Clinical Research Scorecard – Performance Metrics” abstract/poster was accepted to the 31st Annual Society of Clinical Research Associates (SOCRA) in the category of Clinical Research Management in September 2022. “Use of Pre-screening Demographic Data to Target Recruitment Resources for Underrepresented Populations” won third place in the IACRN 14th Annual Conference Poster Contest. Also, the posters by Evan Anderson, Maria Hendricks, and Philip Seger/Alexandra Torres were submitted

Category: Training, Career Development, and Staff Retention – Completed Project

and accepted to the 10th Annual Penn Medicine Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice Conference. The first #ResearchOnResearch training session, titled “What is Research,” occurred on November 4, 2022. Subsequent training sessions have included: “Quantitative Research” and “Five Phases of Quantitative Research.” Through #ResearchOnResearch, three abstracts have been submitted to the 2023 Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) conference.

5. Lessons Learned and Future Directions

#ResearchOnResearch’s success has resulted in the identification of forthcoming annual research conferences for submission of abstracts and more rapid identification of ongoing quality/performance improvement projects. The training sessions will continue with an initial focus on quantitative research and research methods. The projects underlying the IACRN abstracts have continued data collection and have plans for publication of their results.

Figure



Use of Pre-screening Demographic Data to Target Recruitment Resources for Under-represented Populations

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WHAT WE LEARNED

This on-going performance improvement project collects research participant demographic data to enable leveraging of recruitment resources from our tertiary, academic cancer center (Cancer Center) and to increase inclusion of under-represented populations in cancer clinical trials (CCTs).

BACKGROUND

- The Cancer Center views inclusion, diversity, and equity as fundamental qualities for the provision of clinical research.
- Health equity research indicates that women, minority/ethnic populations, and lower socio-economic individuals are under-represented in CCTs.
- Our Phase I/Phase II portfolio contains CCTs which tend to enroll participants who are well-resourced and not members of under-represented populations.
- Collection of demographic data focusing on self-reported gender, self-reported race/ethnicity, zip code, and cancer diagnosis enables identification of potentially inequitable CCT recruitment and justifies utilization of recruitment resources provided by the Cancer Center.

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure inclusive and equitable participation of under-represented populations in our CCT portfolio by collecting data:
- (1) identifying CCTs which are deficient in under-represented populations, and
 - (2) justifying use of targeted recruitment resources in the Cancer Center

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Figure 1. Distribution of Patients per County in Pennsylvania

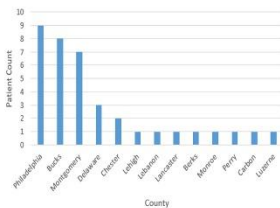
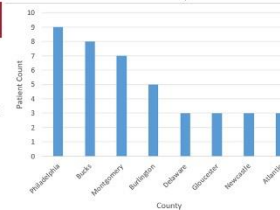


Figure 2. Distribution of Patients per County (Top 5 Across all States)



*Atlantic, Newcastle, Gloucester and Delaware Counties (tied-3)

Figure 3. Distribution of Patients by Race

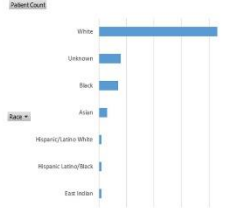
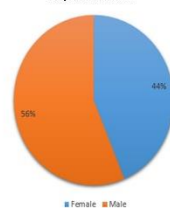


Figure 4. Distribution of Patients per Self-Reported Gender



METHODS

- The Demographic Data are
 - 1) collected at pre-screening,
 - 2) stored on EXCEL spreadsheets, and
 - 3) evaluated using non-parametric statistical analysis.
- Data collection and analysis began in January 2022 and was completed in September 2022. Targeted recruitment resources will be identified by February 2023.

RESULTS

Preliminary analysis of the Demographic Data indicates our Phase I CCTs are deficient in under-represented populations. As data collection continues, the research team will begin investigating recruitment resources targeting under-represented populations for utilization in February 2023.

DISCUSSION

- This project has been successful in identifying Phase I/Phase II CCTs deficient in under-represented populations. Trialing of this process in other Cancer Center research groups will enable identification of CCTs requiring utilization of targeted recruitment resources in the Cancer Center.