The Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC) Diversity in Clinical Trials Training Program: A novel approach to improving inclusivity and generalizability of clinical research
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BACKGROUND
• While clinical trials are essential to improving health outcomes, lack of diversity among participants limits generalizability of research and perpetuates disparities
• New FDA requirements aim to align study demographics with overall population, but other approaches are needed
• Future trialists need explicit training in recognizing and mitigating barriers to access at every step of a clinical trial, from design to publication
• Under the Columbia/Pfizer Initiative for Clinical Trial Diversity, the creation of the Diversity in Clinical Trials Training aims to address these needs

OUTCOMES (Cont.)
Participants were at different stages in their career:
• 39% clinical fellows and faculty
• 47% staff
• 13% being participants from other institutions
• 32% reported no formal training in clinical trials, though 48% had some “on-the-job” research experience

Significant barriers to becoming a clinical investigator (reported through the pre-program survey):
• 81% said limited opportunities for a comprehensive clinical trial training program
• 77% reported time constraints due to other clinical, research and/or teaching responsibilities
• 58% reporting financial barriers

Post-program survey reports:
• 70% would like interactive workshops
• 60% want to see a library of resources
• 55% would like information session in a future iteration of our training program

Demographic Information:
*Race and gender: Self identified, adds up to >100%
*Out of the 19 who answered the demographic questions

OUTCOMES
• 88 total participants (38 participants attended the required five out of eight sessions across 16 departments)
• 58% were from Oncology, 16% from Medicine, 11% from Pediatrics, 9% from Psychiatry

LESSONS LEARNED/FUTURE DIRECTION
• Feedback indicates this program addresses an unmet education need
• Plan to expand the program’s reach to regional academic institutions
• Plan to address regional disparities (i.e., rural and native populations)
• Add sessions on barriers to LGBTQ involvement in trials and sessions on authorship and publication
• Collect long-term data on our participants to understand what percentage ultimately pursue a career in clinical research