BLACK WOMEN SPEAK SYMPOSIUM
Session 2

How Healthcare Provider Communication Can Impact Clinical Trial Enrollment
Dr. Adaeze Nwosu Iheme

Breaking Barriers, Building Trust and Finding Solutions

black-women-speak.org
Breaking Barriers
Building Trust
Finding solutions...

Adaeze Iheme, MD
Assistant Professor, Breast Medical Oncology
MD Anderson Cancer Center
A Percentage of patients enrolled in FDA drug approval trials by race

Loree et al, Jama Onc 2019

Duma et al...JOP 2018
Having Breast Cancer while Black...

- Mortality rate 40% higher in BW even though Black women = White women in rate of developing cancer.

- BW twice more likely to get an aggressive form of breast cancer.
Barriers

**Health Provider**
- Poor Physician and Team Communication
  - Physician – patient Bias
- Cultural Differences and Diversity in Workforce
- Provider not aware of potential trials

**Patient**
- Distrust/Broken Trust
- Socioeconomic factors
Rates of agreement to participate if asked...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Studies</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of studies</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate, %</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate in white patients, %</td>
<td>.88</td>
<td>.48</td>
<td>.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Unger et al. JNCI 2021**

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State of Workforce in Oncology 2021

**DIVERSITY IN ONCOLOGY**

- **4.7%** Oncologists who are Hispanic or Latino
- **3%** Oncologists who are Black or African American
- **0.1%** Oncologists who are American Indian or Alaska Native
- **35.2%** Oncologists who are female

**GEOGRAPHY**

- **11.2%** Oncologists who practice in a rural area

**Black Representation in the Oncology Workforce**

People who are Black comprise:

- 13.4% of U.S. Population
- 11% of Recent College Graduates
- 8.4% of Recent Medical School Graduates
- 6.2% of Internal Medicine Residents
- 6.2% of Oncology Fellows
- 3.9% of Oncologists
- 3% of Oncologists

Not to scale.

JCO OncPractice 2021
Patient Barriers...

1. Distrust/Broken Trust
   - Ask family/advocates for recommendations/referrals to providers they trust
   - Seek a second opinion (trust your instincts)

2. Socioeconomic factors
OTHER BARRIERS...

- Trial access

- Limited Eligibility
Time-based washout periods should be removed from eligibility criteria in most cases. 
2. Relevant clinical and laboratory parameters should be used in place of time-based washout periods to address safety.

| Washout periods | Time-based washout periods should be removed from eligibility criteria in most cases.  
2. Relevant clinical and laboratory parameters should be used in place of time-based washout periods to address safety. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant medications</td>
<td>Only an exclusion factor if known drug-drug interactions exist or potential toxicities will impact efficacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior therapies</td>
<td>Not an exclusion unless it potentially interact with a prior therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory reference ranges and test intervals</td>
<td>should only be used as exclusion criteria when scientifically justified and when abnormal test results confer safety concerns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance status</td>
<td>Patients with reduced PS should be included unless there is a scientific and/or clinical rationale for exclusion justified by established safety considerations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendations from ASCO'S Road to Recovery

- Allow more local/remote administration of treatment
- Make trials equitable/accessible and realistic
- Trials should be designed in a way that it can be easily integrated into routine clinical care.
- Limit collection of research biospecimens
Financial Barriers...Big deal

Nonmedical costs
Medical costs
Increasing Racial & Ethnic Diversity in Cancer Clinical Trials

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) jointly released recommendations to engage the entire cancer clinical trial ecosystem in expanding the participation of underrepresented individuals in research that advances progress against cancer and increases the equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) of cancer clinical trials.

**ASCO-ACCC Recommendations**

**IMPROVE ACCESS**
Every person with cancer should have the opportunity to participate in clinical trials, as an integral component of high-quality cancer care.

**EQUITY FOCUSED DESIGN**
Trials should be designed with a focus on reducing barriers and enhancing EDI and work with sites to conduct clinical trials in ways that increase participation of underrepresented populations.

**PARTNERSHIPS**
Clinical trial sponsors, researchers, and sites should form long-standing partnerships with patients, patient advocacy groups, and community leaders and groups.

**EDUCATION & TRAINING**
Those designing or conducting trials should complete recurring education, training, and evaluation to demonstrate and maintain cross-cultural competencies, mitigation of bias, effective communication, and a commitment to achieving EDI in clinical trials.

**INVEST IN EDI**
Research stakeholders should invest in programs and policies that increase EDI in clinical trials and in the research workforce.

**SHARING DATA & STRATEGIES**
Research stakeholders should collect and publish aggregate data on racial and ethnic diversity of trial participants when reporting the results of trials, programs, and interventions used to increase EDI.

**CLINICAL TRIAL ECOSYSTEM**
Active participation and collaboration of multiple stakeholders is fundamental to changing the infrastructure of cancer clinical trials and advancing EDI goals. Stakeholders include:

- Academic Medical Centers
- Non-Academic Clinical Practices
- Healthcare Organizations
- Research Sites
- Clinicians & Investigators
- Clinical & Research Staff
- Community Leaders & Groups
- Patients & Patient Advocates
- Trial Designers
- Trial Sponsors
- Contract Research Organizations
- Site Management Organizations

Learn more and read the full research statement in the Journal of Clinical Oncology: [asco.org/asco-accc]
Thank you.