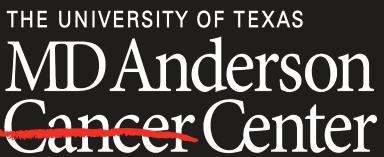


Research Navigation Program to Enhance Diversity

Loren G. Bryant, MS, MBA, Alba Calzada, BS, Patricia Villanueva, BA, CHES[®], Birnur Buzcu-Guven, PhD, Rebeca Yzquierdo, BA, CCRP, Rosa Calzada, Adaku T. Otuonye, BGS, Milka Matios, BS, Marleen Martinez, BS, Maria S Salazar, MA, NCC, LPC, Lorna H. McNeill, MPH, PhD Making Cancer History[®]

Department of Health Disparities Research, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, US; Center for Community-Engaged Translational Research



Background

Texas has significant cancer disparities and over 4.2 million people living in poverty.

- 16.6% of Texas population lacks health insurance (48.9% of Hispanics, 26.5% of Blacks, and 14.0% of Whites lacking insurance).
- These disparities contribute to
 - late-stage cancer diagnoses
 - lower survival rates
 - lower clinical trial participation due to high out-of-pocket expenses.
- Cancer clinical trials suffer from underenrollment, with less than 10% minority participation.
- Patient-level barriers—financial constraints, fear, medical mistrust, and discrimination persist.

Research Navigators provide personalized support and guidance, particularly to minority patients or those expressing financial need by:



Offering education on clinical trials



Connecting patients with hospital services and community resources like the Lazarex **IMPACT/CARE** Program

Serving as a contact for hospital support services and clinical trial participation

Prioritized clinics: Identified clinics with prominent disparities and interested in implementing program:

Most Requested Research Navigation Services





Assistance with Transportation

Lazarex Financial **Reimbursement Program** and Services



- Combining financial reimbursement with patient navigation increases patient accrual to cancer treatment clinical trials.
- Patient navigation initiatives can reduce disparities in minority participation in clinical trials.

Program Background

MD Anderson was a member of **Project EMPACT** (Enhancing Minority Participation in Clinical Trials); a national consortia formed to develop and implement a coordinated approach to address minority accrual into cancer clinical trials across multiple levels.

- Project EMPACT was modeled after University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB)'s cancer centerbased patient navigation program, aimed to provide equal access to clinical trials for lowresource and minority patients by helping them overcome barriers to participation and navigate through the healthcare system.
- The MD Anderson's Center for Community-Engaged Translational Research (CCETR) staff were trained on this patient navigation model; trained and supervised the EMPACT site patient navigator at MD Anderson.

Objective

CCETR has Research Navigation Program To Enhance Diversity aims to

• aid patients with enrolling in a new therapeutic clinical trial or continuing participation in one

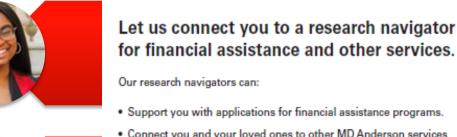








Interested in being part of a clinical trial, but need help through the process?



 Support you with applications for financial assistance programs. Connect you and your loved ones to other MD Anderson services and community resources (e.g., housing, transportation, etc.). · Offer support as a contact for general questions about clinical trial participation

> For more information, please leave us a MDAnderson voicemail at 832-750-7020 with your full Cancer Center ame, and call back number, or email us at chnavigation@mdanderson.org Making Cancer History'

Results

The MD Anderson research navigation and reimbursement program, initiated in October 2020, has shown promising results.

	50%
White (57%)	
African American/Black (26%)	
Latino/Hispanic (24%)	
Asian (10%)	
91%	Participants hold positive feelings towards the program
80% <	Patients indicate a desire to acquire more information about resources available
72%	Participants express a need for help in covering parking and other costs not paid by insurance
63%	Participants indicate a desire to acquire more information about clinical trials

Conclusion

Future efforts could focus on

- expanding the reach of the patient navigation program,
- evaluating and refining the program based on patient outcomes and feedback,
- providing sustained financial support for equitable access to clinical trials.

Currently, we are expanding the program to Lyndon B

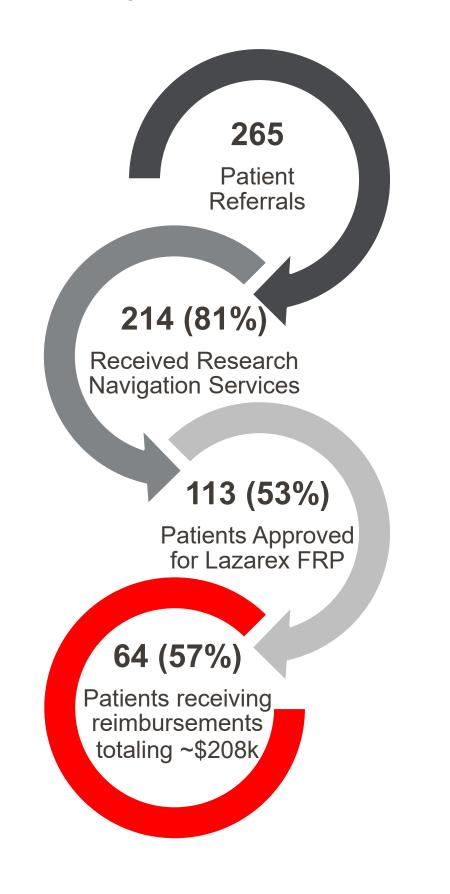
- improve patient understanding of clinical trials, facilitate access, and address post-enrollment concerns to ensure retention and completion.

Methods

We completed 16 interviews with department/ program chairs to learn more about how we can better support researchers/clinic staff in increasing racial/ethnic accrual:

- Understand how patients are put on trials, and
- Challenges/solutions they have experienced with recruiting diverse patients on trials





Johnson (LBJ) MD Anderson Outpatient Clinic.

References

- 1. Ghebre, R. G., et al., State of the science of patient navigation as a strategy for enhancing minority clinical trial accrual. Cancer, 2014. 120(7): p.1122-1130.
- 2. Murthy, V.H., H.M. Krumholz, and C.P. Gross, Participation in cancer clinical trials: race-, sex-, and age-based disparities. JAMA, 2004. 291(22): p. 2720-6.
- 3. Durant, R.W., et al., Perspectives on barriers and facilitators to minority recruitment for clinical trials among cancer center leaders, investigators, research staff, and referring clinicians: enhancing minority participation in clinical trials (EMPaCT). Cancer, 2014. 120 Suppl 7: p. 1097-105.
- 4. Swanson, G.M. and A.J. Ward, Recruiting minorities into clinical trials: toward a participant-friendly system. J Natl Cancer Inst, 1995. 87(23): p. 1747-59.
- 5. Fouad, M.N., et al., Patient Navigation As a Model to Increase Participation of African Americans in Cancer Clinical Trials. J Oncol Pract, 2016. 12(6): p. 556-63.
- 6. Langford, A., K. Resnicow, and L. An, Clinical trial awareness among racial/ethnic minorities in HINTS 2007: sociodemographic, attitudinal, and knowledge correlates. J Health Commun, 2010. 15 Suppl 3: p. 92-101.
- 7. Leiter, A., et al., Clinical trial awareness: Changes over time and sociodemographic disparities. Clin Trials, 2015. 12(3): p. 215-23.
- 8. Borno, H. T., Lin, T. K., Zhang, S., Skafel, A., Lalanne, A., Dornsife, D., Johnson, R., Spicer, D., Small, E. J., & Rhoads, K. F. (2021). Accelerating cancer clinical trial recruitment through a financial reimbursement program integrated with patient navigation: an interrupted time series analysis. Journal of cancer policy, 30, 100305.

