Enhancing Research to Address Cancer Health Disparities

WORKING GROUP
CO-CHAIRS

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NCI Equity and Inclusion Program
Working Group 1
Working Group Purpose and Charge

Develop research recommendations to determine the precursors to cancer disparities and implement research programs to eliminate disparities and promote health equity

- Facilitate both short- and long-term research activities to advance prevention, intervention, and implementation initiatives
Working Group Goals and Activities

Goal 1: Landscape Analysis and Stakeholder Interactions

Goal 2: Develop and prioritize research recommendations

Goal 3: Promote and implement research activities
Immediate Actions

- Publish two RFIs seeking stakeholder input on how to 1) enhance cancer disparities research and 2) increase diversity and inclusion in the cancer research workforce
  - NOT-CA-21-066, deadline June 25, 2021
  - NOT-CA-21-067, deadline July 15, 2021
  
  Note: These RFIs are specific to NCI and distinct from the UNITE Initiative

- Host a multi-stakeholder summit on “Increasing Inclusion and Health Equity in Cancer Clinical Research and Clinical Trials”
  - Planning underway, more details pending
Immediate Actions

- **NCI Intramural Trainee Awards for Cancer Disparities and Minority Health Research**
  - Awarding both postdoctoral fellowships and research projects with a goal of expanding disparities research within NCI’s Intramural Research Program.

- **Connecting Underrepresented Populations to Clinical Trials (CUSP2CT)**
  - Designed to implement and evaluate outreach and education interventions to increase referral of racial/ethnic populations to NCI-supported clinical trials.

- **Reissue/re-imagine NCI initiatives focused upon enhancing cancer disparities research**
Ongoing and future activities

- **Landscape analysis, underway**
  - Extract key information from published reports (i.e., critical gaps, research opportunities, recommendations)
  - Identify what overlaps and what is unique to help inform future WG priorities

- **Promote and Implement Research Activities**
  - Conducting a survey and analysis to evaluate telemedicine usage in NCI clinical trials before and after COVID-19
  - Soliciting P01 applications proposing cancer control research in persistent poverty areas *(NOT-CA-21-071)*
Persistent Poverty Areas

- **Persistent poverty (PP) area**: A county that has had poverty rates of 20% or more in U.S. Census data from 1980, 1990, and 2000.

- Current categorization includes ~10% of U.S. counties
  - Most in the rural South.

- Working with USDA to expand the definition to the census tract level (*more granular*)
  - Each of the 50 states, including District of Columbia, has a PP area.

Efforts to advance research in Persistent Poverty Counties

- **Administrative Supplements, R01 grants**
  - NOT-CA-20-035
  - Targeted R01 grants to address cancer control research in “geographically underserved areas”.
  - Six awards made in 2020

- **Administrative Supplements, P30 CCSG grants**
  - Targeted P30 Cancer Center Support Grants (CCSGs) to advance research in persistent poverty areas
  - Awards pending, September 2021

- **Notice of Special Interest (NOSI), P01 grants (new)**
  - NOT-CA-21-071
  - Soliciting new P01 applications proposing cancer control research in persistent poverty areas
Looking ahead

- Coordinating and synergizing across NCI and NIH
  - NIH UNITE Initiative
    - Committee N: New research on health disparities, minority health, and health equity
  - NCI Cancer Disparities Activities Committee (CDAC)
  - Open solicitation for new, innovative ideas across NCI
# Working Group Members

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