

ADDRESSING **Disparities** IN CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS

A one-day summit for Georgia's oncology community

FRIDAY, Sept. 30, 2022 • 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Mercer University • University Center (President's Dining Room)
1501 Mercer University Drive • Macon, GA 31207



8:00 AM

COFFEE AND NETWORKING

8:30 AM

WELCOME

8:40 AM

KEYNOTE – DEFINING THE PROBLEM AND EVIDENCE BASED INTERVENTIONS (EBIS)

9:10 AM

PANEL DISCUSSION: CURRENT EFFORTS FOR DIVERSITY IN CLINICAL TRIALS

Topic Description: Twenty years ago, Georgia's leaders made cancer research and clinical trials a priority for the state. There has been an eight-fold increase in the number of clinical trials since then, but barriers to participation remain. This panel of experts will discuss current availability of clinical trials, the types of trials available and initiatives to increase the reach of these trials, and the advances that have been made relating specifically to diverse populations.

10:15 AM

PANEL DISCUSSION: BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS

Topic Description: Studies have shown, and the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated, that there are barriers to participation in clinical trials. A deficiency of information and access to clinical trials is heightened for Black, Asian, Hispanic, and other ethnic and racial minorities. Rural residents also suffer from diminished access to cutting edge research and treatments. This panel of experts will discuss the impediments they see in their practices and hospitals to increased equity to cancer clinical trials.

11:15 AM

BREAKOUT SESSION

1.) *From the Beginning: Educating and Empowering Patients at Initial Diagnosis*

Session Description: Are patients being informed of potential clinical trials at initial diagnosis? How can this be done effectively and compassionately? In this session, participants will discuss practical ideas to include the introduction of the possibility of clinical trials in these initial interactions.

2.) *Increasing Accruals through Improving the Consenting Process*

Session Description: After a patient shows interest in participating in a clinical trial, there are often process centered barriers, healthcare system barriers and, patient barriers such as language or cultural impediments that make it difficult to accrue and retain diverse patients on a clinical trial. Session attendees will discuss these difficulties and potential improvements in the consenting process that could yield a more diverse patient population.

3.) *Easing Socioeconomic Barriers to Participation*

Session Description: Patients who are socioeconomically disadvantaged may have multiple barriers to participation including transportation, housing/hoteling, absences from work, or home health care. This session will explore data about socioeconomic disparities and engage in a discussion about potential actions to alleviate some of these barriers.

- 12:15 PM **LUNCH PRESENTATION: BLUE BUTTON PROJECT: INNOVATIONS IN DATA SHARING/MATCHING SERVICES**
- 1:15 PM **THE PATIENT'S PERSPECTIVE**
- 1:45 PM **BREAKOUT SESSION 2**
- 1) *Dispelling Myths in Communities of Color***
Session Description: Many of us may think we know why communities of color have a lower rate of participation in clinical trials, but do we really? And what can be done to dispel myths and focus on real impediments to participation in these communities? Attendees in this session will identify the myths and discuss how to work with members of communities of color to heighten participation.
- 2) *Converting the Masses: Encouraging Physicians to Accrue to Clinical Trials***
Session Description: A recent NIH study found that only 10 to 20% of physicians inform their cancer patients about clinical trials. This session will focus on practical ways healthcare systems and providers can encourage and support community physicians in their efforts to refer patients for clinical trial participation.
- 3) *Expanding Rural Access and Outreach***
Session Description: Many of Georgia's rural communities have limited access to cutting-edge clinical trials and treatments. In this session, participants will identify barriers for rural residents and seek to identify solutions for this population.
- 3:00 PM **BREAKOUT GROUP REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS**
- 3:45 PM **CLOSING REMARKS**

Speaker confirmations in process and will be announced by September 1.