ASH’s Strategy to Address DEI in Hematology Clinical Trials

Alice Kuaban, MS
American Society of Hematology
The Challenge

• Ensuring hematology clinical trials reflect the epidemiology of the disease and are inclusive of the population to benefit from the therapeutic under investigation.

• Initial focus on classical hematologic diseases
  – Small numbers of patients (<100)
  – Recruitment can be difficult
  – Novel trial designs are needed to generate meaningful results
Why is this important?

Having diverse clinical trials:

– Builds trust in medical research and institutions
– Promotes fairness for potential participants and their communities
– Ensures that study findings can be generalizable*
– Advances biomedical knowledge and drives scientific innovation
ASH’s Strong Commitment to DEI

“The American Society of Hematology is committed to addressing and reversing historic inequities in hematology, supporting scientists and clinicians from backgrounds underrepresented in medicine, and elevating diverse voices across our patient and healthcare communities. ASH’s efforts in diversity, equity and inclusion apply to everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ability, national origin or other attributes.”

How is ASH Addressing this Challenge?

The ASH Roadmap to Integrate DEI in Clinical Trials
Representation in the Roadmap Initiative

- Academia, 21%
- CROs, 23%
- Govt, 23%
- Industry, 17%
- Patient Advocacy, 15%
Lived Experience Experts (LEEs) involved throughout the clinical trial life cycle (design, implementation, dissemination).

Community physicians need to be engaged in the clinical trial ecosystem and their contributions need to be acknowledged.

Sponsors need guidance on how to incorporate DEI principles throughout the trial life cycle.

DEI at each step
For rare disease, determinations about trial inclusion/exclusion criteria must be evaluated early to determine implications on diversity, accessibility, and alignment with real-world results.

Decentralized Clinical Trials options can enhance access.
Headlines from the Initiative

Institutional Review Boards
IRBs have a role to play in enhancing diversity in clinical trials.

Global Standardization
Global definitions regarding diversity and inclusivity in clinical research are needed.
ASH is Now Taking Steps To Address All The Key Headlines from the Roadmap Initiative
Developing DEI Focused Resources for the Hematology Trialist - Toolkit

(NEW!) ASH DEI TOOLKIT FOR CLINICAL TRIAL SPONSORS

This guide is designed to help trial sponsors incorporate DEI principles throughout the trial life cycle.
Exploring the Creation of a Learning Ecosystem Focused on Building Inclusive Trials

Access to DEI in Clinical Trial Resources
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE
Consultative Services for Effective Community Engagement Strategies
Peer-to-Peer knowledge sharing

CALLING ALL CLINICAL TRIALISTS
Are you interested in making a lasting impact on the future of medical research?

🌟 Your expertise matters in shaping the future of clinical trials. Take a brief survey to share your journey and insights on promoting diversity and inclusivity in research. Together, let's make a difference! Take the survey>>

American Society of Hematology
Creating Educational Resources on DEI & Clinical Trials

Submission of Manuscripts to Blood

Annual Meeting Content
Integrating DEI into Study Design at the ASH Clinical Research Training Institute

1. CRTI is a unique year-long education and mentoring program
2. Focused on the foundation, methodologies, and application of patient-oriented clinical research
3. Geared towards hematology fellows and junior faculty at academic medical centers
4. Incorporating DEI principles as new addition to the curriculum
5. Goal: To produce leaders armed with ideas for clinical hematology research and the tools and resources to make their ideas a reality
Request for Demographic Information in Clinical Trial Studies Submitted to ASH

- Demographic Information (sex, gender, race, ethnicity, age, disability, or other relevant factors of enrolled subjects) will be requested of individuals submitting and/or presenting on clinical studies:
  - **ASH Events** (including relevant Annual Meeting invited program sessions, submitted abstracts, and oral and poster presentations; small scientific and educational meetings).
  - **ASH Publications**

- If demographics are not available, the investigator will be asked to describe the limitations that prevented these data from being collected.
Questions