



Clinical Trials at Meharry

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Mission Statement

Meharry Medical College is an academic health sciences center that exists to improve the health and health care of minority and underserved communities by offering excellent education and training programs in the health sciences. True to its heritage, Meharry places special emphasis on providing opportunities for people of color, individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, and others regardless of race or ethnicity; delivering high quality health services; and conducting research that fosters the elimination of health disparities.

- **Established: 1876**
Historically Black Medical College (HBCU) in Nashville, TN.
Meharry, Fisk Univ. and Tennessee State Univ. form a triad of HBCUs in North Nashville.
- **Goal: Train African Americans (AAs) and underrepresented minorities in Health and Biomedical Science for Minority Health Disparities healthcare and research.**
- **Medical (MD), Dental (DDS), Graduate (PhD) and Public Health (MSPH) programs, predominantly to underrepresented minorities**

Meharry Medical College

- African Americans / Black students are ~85% of our student population
- >40% of all African American/Black Dentists in the USA were trained at Meharry
- One of the top 5 colleges awarding PhD degree in Biomedical Sciences to African American/Black Scientists
- Campus partners:
 - Nashville Metro General Hospital @ Meharry
 - Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance

Diversity in Clinical Trials & Healthcare

- Participation of Minorities is low in clinical trials in general, especially that of African American population
- Important to achieve the goal of health equity for all
- Important so we have representative data for effective analysis and solutions
- Important so we have drugs which are equally effective and safe for all populations

Clinical and Translational Research at Meharry

- **Center for excellence of Clinical Trials and Center for Women's health research:** Conducts minority focused research and focuses on enhancing enrollment of minorities on clinical trials
- **Community Engagement Core:** Conducts community engagement early on as the trial starts by outreach to the community via community engagement studios with participants from the community and community advisory
- **PCORI and SACS:** Able to bring patient centric trials and also run queries with the EMR to see eligible patients
- **DCGR:** Diversity Center for genome research to advance genomic clinical and translational research
- **AIM-AHEAD:** Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity
- **IGNITE and EMERGE**

Meharry Partnerships

- **Meharry Vanderbilt Alliance:** Researchers collaborate with each for clinical, translational and basic science
- **MVTCP(U54) Cancer partnership:** Meharry, Vanderbilt and TSU jointly has cancer partnership for addressing cancer health disparities
- **Beacon of Hope:** Novartis, Sanofi, Merck collaboration with four HBMS to enhance clinical research
- **CZI:** Chen Zuckerberg initiative funds for HBMS for building genomic researcher diversity
- **AIM-AHEAD:** Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity
- **T4C initiative:** Building genomic data base for 500,000 AA participants

Metrics of Success with Diverse Enrollments

| Trial | Number enrolled | Male/Female | Demographics |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|---|
| ADOPT | 189 | 66/123 | 2% Native American 63% African America 34% White 0.52% Middle Eastern |
| GUARDD | 500 | 195/232 | 100% African American |
| GUARDD additional recruitment | 25 | 8/17 | 100% African American |
| Preventable | 2 | 2/0 | White |
| Harbinger | 304 | 94/210 | 247 - African American 32 - Hispanic 23 - white 1- Asian 1 Pacific Islander |
| ROCHE | 10 | 6/4 | 6 – White (4 Hispanic) 4 – African American |
| EMERGE | 500 | 237/263 | 100% AA |

Successful Strategies

- In person or clinic intercept approach involving their providers early and providing updates and reminders about the trials to them on regular intervals
- Educations of participants about disease process, trial information, their rights and confidentiality
- Recruitment of Diverse staff representatives of the participants we want to enroll.
- Cultural sensitivity training of the staff
- Feedback from the community and participants to improve as we evolve through the trial process.
- Making it easier for the participants to understand the consent process and trials through simple language, cartoons, and videos.
- Approaching the participants at their free or convenient time
- Adequately compensating for the time and travel spent during their visit for enrollment

Future Directions

- Enhancing infrastructure at institutions who has built trust with communities
- Early and robust engagement with patient and provider stakeholders
- Creating more diverse health care providers from the underserved underrepresented communities
- Public private partnerships to build trust
- More investments in early diagnosis and screening trials