The Role of Physician Communication in Accruing Diverse Patients to Cancer Clinical Trials

Friday, July 14, 2017

7a.m. – 9a.m.

Presented by Terrance Albrecht, PhD.

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Although clinical trials focused on cancer research are important for testing the safety and efficacy of promising new treatments, most cancer patients never enroll in a clinical trial. Only 2-3% of all patients with cancer ever enroll in a trial. Under enrollment is an even greater challenge for racial and ethnic minorities where recruitment to clinical trials is less than 1%.

Healthcare professionals play a critical role in facilitating or inhibiting the enrollment of diverse patient populations into clinical trials. Patient-centered communication, which requires the development of a positive interpersonal relationship, is important in recruiting patients to clinical trials. With the help of videos, this workshop will explore the barriers to clinical trial enrollment as well as communication methods that can be employed to improve patient centered care.

Terrance Albrecht PhD, will provide pertinent information for clinical trial enrollment as well as the inclusion of diverse populations. Dr. Albrecht will describe and explore

- the five elements of informed consent and informed refusal in explaining clinical trials to diverse patients and their families/companions
- distinguishing the informational and relational aspects of provider-patient communication and the effects on patient decisions to enroll in cancer clinical trials.
- use of advanced communication techniques to improve the quality of patient-centered clinical care
- at least three barriers to clinical trial accrual and ways to address these barriers with diverse patients

Terrance L. Albrecht, PhD, is Associate Center Director for Population Sciences at the Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit, Michigan, where she directs collaborative, transdisciplinary faculty research projects spanning communication science, clinical and social psychology, and genetic and social epidemiology. She holds appointments as Professor and Division Chief for Population Sciences, Department of Oncology, Wayne State University School of Medicine. Dr. Albrecht is the author of more than 175 scientific publications and has authored/edited four books. She has served on numerous NIH and NCI review panels for two decades, was Chair of the NIH/CSR Community Influences on Health Behavior Standing Study Section and has chaired several ad hoc review panels. She has been a member of five cancer center external advisory boards, including Fox Chase/Temple University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Indiana University Simon Cancer Center, University of Texas Health Sciences Cancer Therapy and Research Center, University of Hawaii Cancer Center and the Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center. Dr. Albrecht's research program in health communication has been continuously funded for more than two decades. Her longitudinal and intervention studies have demonstrated how verbal and nonverbal physician-patient communication processes affect cancer health outcomes. Using an archive of interaction data captured through a custom designed real-time video recording/editing system, she has shown in studies of over 1,500 video recordings how communication behavior influences patient clinical trial accrual, treatment decision making and other behavioral, social and health outcomes experienced by diverse, underserved populations of adult and pediatric cancer patients and their families. In community contexts, her work has included investigating perceptions of older African Americans regarding biobanking, the experience of cancer stigma in insular community populations and showing how network structures modeled over time explain the sustainability of collaborative health organization partnerships