NRG Oncology Health Disparities Committee serves both NCTN and NCORP to understand and eliminate health disparities by improving cancer care and outcomes for underserved populations. The committee work focuses on these goals:

**Primary goals:**

- **a)** Develop research to address health disparities to improve cancer care and outcomes for underserved populations
- **b)** Improve access to cancer clinical trials by increasing enrollment of underserved populations to clinical trials

**To reach these goals, our objectives include:**

- a) Develop research concepts focused on development and testing of interventions to address health disparities
- b) Integrate secondary endpoints in NCORP trials and NRG Oncology treatment trials to better understand health disparities
- c) Investigate and mitigate barriers to enrollment of underserved populations on NRG Oncology and NCORP trials
- d) Advocate for clinical trial design to facilitate enrollment of underserved populations
- e) Educate NRG members on barriers to enrollment in clinical trials and actions to facilitate improved cancer care for all
- f) Mentor new investigators in health disparity research by assisting with concept development and implementation

**HDC Member Benefits:**

Benefits to membership on the HDC committee includes multiple opportunities to shape cancer research by working to support the research mission of NRG Oncology. Opportunities include collaborating with investigators to promote inclusivity in cancer clinical trials by decreasing enrollment barriers to the multi-institutional clinical trials conducted by NRG Oncology. Additionally, the HDC offers opportunities to develop health disparity focused research in the NRG NCORP Research Base in topics such as cancer prevention, control, screening, post treatment surveillance, and cancer care delivery or by adding secondary aims to active treatment trials. Benefits also include access to the cancer cooperative group infrastructure and resources as well as datasets for secondary analysis addressing health disparities topics. Furthermore, multiple opportunities exist to partner with the other NCORP committees—Both Cancer Prevention and Control Committee and Cancer Care Delivery Research Committee.

**Expertise:**

Competitive applicants will distinguish themselves as experts in health disparities, per metrics such as research or clinical educational expertise in areas including but not limited to:

**Research focus:**

- Track record of funded health disparities research
- Areas of special interest include:
  - Racial and Ethnic Minorities
  - The Elderly
  - Rural Populations

**Education Focus:**

- Evidence of expertise in best practices of accrual and retention efforts for underserved groups in research and/or community outreach and engagement
In addition—we are looking for individuals with mentorship experience to assist with workforce development in disparities, both in research and education.

**Member Responsibilities:**
Committee members are expected to attend the NRG Oncology semiannual meetings* (in person or via teleconference) and ad hoc conference calls; participation in protocol reviews, at least one HDC working group, and other HDC meetings/projects as requested. (*NRG Oncology provides no funding support for meeting attendance.)

Committee members will serve a five-year term with renewal contingent upon participation and engagement.

*Research focused* committee members will be expected to introduce or contribute to HD concept development and upon Co-Chair solicitation, serving as concept reviewers including written concept critiques or by mentoring new investigators throughout the concept development process.

*Education/clinical focused* committee members will be expected to monitor and assist investigators with enrollment barriers and recruitment challenges; assist in protocol design to minimize eligibility barriers and other challenges to accrual of diverse populations, and participate (e.g. lead, assist, coordinate, etc.) in the NRG Oncology yearly health disparities workshop at the summer NRG Oncology meeting.

The Co-Chairs will periodically assess participation, and solicit pre-term expiration resignations from committee members unable fulfill their charge.

**APPLICATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**
Committee applicants are required to submit a complete application form and packet.

*Please note: current committee members or working group members MUST re-apply for committee membership.*

*Complete applications are due no later than Friday, November 22nd.*
Applicants must submit their packages electronically to:

Committee-Nominations@nrgoncology.org

The application package consists of:
- The completed application form
- A brief NIH-type biosketch identifying only key information OR an abridged (limit 4 pages) CV ([http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm#format](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm#format))
- A one (1) page maximum cover letter stating the reasons why the applicant wishes to join the committee, contributions the applicant will make to the group, and outline of relevant past contributions and accomplishments. *Applicants may use the new NIH biosketch format in lieu of a cover letter.*