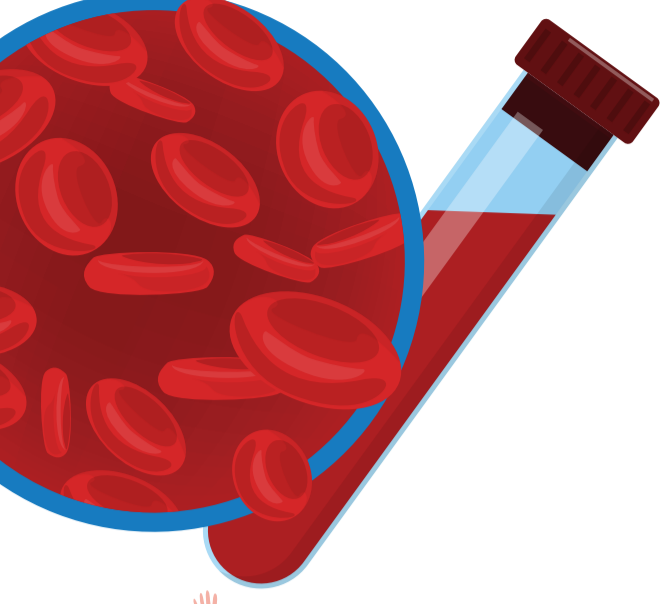


# Racial and Ethnic Diversity on Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network (BMT CTN) Trials – We Can Do Better



## WHY?

Disparities in access to and outcomes of health care among racial/ethnic groups are well-known. Patients from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups (groups other than non-Hispanic whites) considering hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HCT) face many barriers to care. The goal of this study was to assess whether there is under-enrollment of patients from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups on Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network (BMT CTN) trials.

## WHO?

Patients that participated in 9 BMT CTN trials from 2014-2021.



Observational study of BMT CTN clinical trial patient populations compared to:

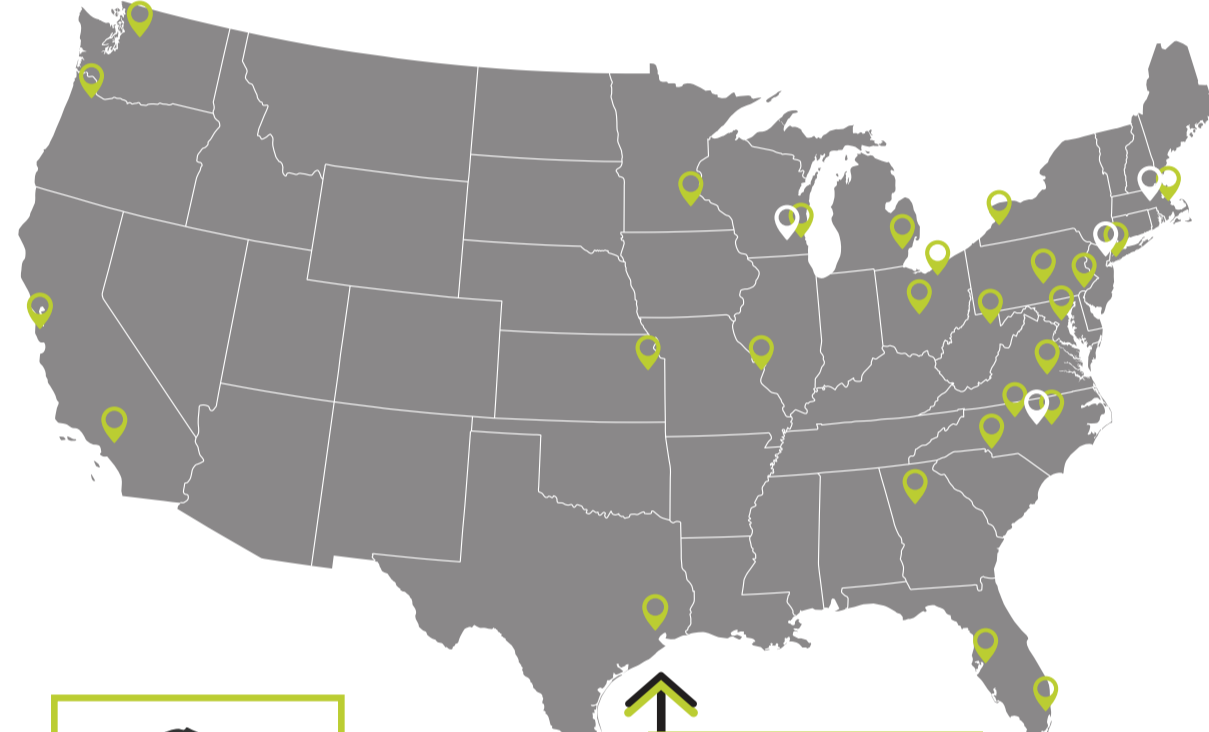
- U.S. general population based on 2020 Census Data
- All potentially eligible HCT patients treated at trial Centers during the trial enrollment period
- All potentially eligible HCT patients treated in the U.S. during the trial enrollment period



## WHAT?

## WHEN?

# 2014 through 2021



St. Louis, MO  
Houston, TX  
Duarte, CA  
Cleveland, OH (2)  
Boston, MA  
Durham, NC  
Seattle, WA  
Milwaukee, WI  
Baltimore, MD  
New York, NY (2)  
Tampa, FL  
Atlanta, GA (2)  
Buffalo, NY  
Stanford, CA  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Lawrence, KS  
Minneapolis, MN  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Richmond, VA  
Winston-Salem, NC  
Coral Gables, FL  
Hackensack, NJ  
Charlotte, NC  
Portland, OR  
Philadelphia, PA  
Morgantown, WV  
Columbus, OH  
Worcester, MA  
Detroit, MI  
State College, PA

## WHERE?

United States  
BMT CTN Centers



## RESULTS

**8/9 trials** (all trials except 1502 focused on haploidentical related transplants for Aplastic Anemia) had a lower proportion of participants from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups than the general US population

**3/9 trials** had a lower proportion of participants from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups than potentially eligible HCT recipients in the US at the time the trial was open

**6/9 trials** had a lower proportion of participants from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups than potentially eligible HCT recipients at centers participating in each trial at the time the trial was open

## IMPACT / FINDINGS

These data suggest that the major barrier for patients from underrepresented groups to enroll on a BMT CTN trial is **able to access HCT as a therapy, on trial or not**. The BMT CTN is developing a multi-faceted plan to address the latter issue.

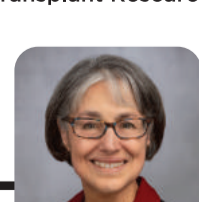
People are more likely to enroll in a clinical trial when a provider they trust at an institution they trust asks them to participate. Providers and providers must prioritize all eligible patients if they are interested in participating in a clinical trial. This includes facilitating, developing, promoting and nurturing trust.

It's imperative that we increase hematopoietic stem cell clinical trial participation by people in underrepresented racial/ethnic groups so we can learn more about how to help all patients. The onus is on institutions and providers to invest time and energy into developing strategies, relationships and a physical presence to provide clinical trial opportunities to all. We can and must do better in this regard.

## FROM THE EXPERTS

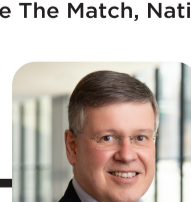
Understanding the barriers is a first step in planning initiatives to ensure that all patients have the opportunity to participate in clinical research. The Network is already implementing several initiatives informed by the findings of this study.

— Dr Mary Horowitz; Robert A. Uihlein, Jr. Chair in Hematologic Research, Deputy Cancer Center Director, Medical College of Wisconsin, Scientific Director Emeritus, Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research\* | Milwaukee Campus



Increasing access for all to innovative clinical trials in hematopoietic cell transplantation and other forms of cellular therapy is a major goal of the NMDP and of the nation as a whole. These data from the BMT CTN demonstrate we have a long way to go but provide important benchmarks for all of us to improve upon.

— Dr Steven Devine, MD; Chief Medical Officer, Be The Match, National Marrow Donor Program



Learn more at [BeTheMatch.org](https://www.BeTheMatch.org)