CATALYST ONCOLOGY

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN ONCOLOGY CLINICAL TRIALS

THE CHALLENGE OF UNDERREPRESENTATION

Historically, the pharmaceutical industry has been challenged by underrepresentation of diverse populations in clinical trials. In a 2020 draft guidance on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in clinical trials, the FDA recommends that trial data should be "representative of the real-world population" who will use the drug once it is approved.

Yet an overwhelming majority of clinical trial participants, particularly in oncology, are of limited cultural and ethnic backgrounds. To help better prepare a drug for real world application, proactive DEI planning and intervention should start in early phase development. In addition to diversity concerns, the fact remains that less than 5% of all oncology patients participate in clinical trials.

A RENEWED FOCUS ON PATIENTS

To help spur trial involvement and enhance DEI, Catalyst has implemented a number of solutions in our oncology portfolio:

- **Remove financial obstacles by providing reimbursement for missed work, travel expenses, etc.**
- **Broaden eligibility criteria to ensure they are not unnecessarily restrictive**
- **Ease study visit burden by including a decentralized approach**
- **Select sites easily accessible to diverse populations in inner-city and rural areas**
- **Culturally adapt patient-facing study materials**
- **Organize cancer screening drives in partnership with patient advocacy groups and community leaders**
- **Monitor diversity metrics routinely throughout the study and readjust tactics as required**

We support our sponsors in taking a critical eye to their protocol and instilling a focus on the patient through approaches like these. Doing so reduces the burden on patients and their caregivers while enhancing DEI across the continuum of oncology drug development.

Visit CatalystOncology.com to learn more.