

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RECRUITMENT OF MINORITY CONSUMER PEER REVIEWERS

Terry-Koroma B¹, Young-McCaughan S¹, McCall L¹, Alciati MH², Amende L³, Bisceglia P⁴, Breslau ES⁵, Valadez A⁶, Andejaski Y⁷ ¹United States Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP), ²United Information Systems, Inc., ³Management Solutions for Health, Inc., ⁴Science Applications International Corporation, ⁵Academy Associates, Inc.

BACKGROUND

Breast Cancer Research Program

Philosophy

- * Expedite and facilitate breakthroughs in research
- * Support innovative, high risk/high gain research

Highlights

- * New science management model
- * Two-tiered review
- * Consumer participation
- * Congressionally directed

Inception

Established in 1993 by Congress in response to grassroots advocacy efforts

Goal

To eradicate breast cancer

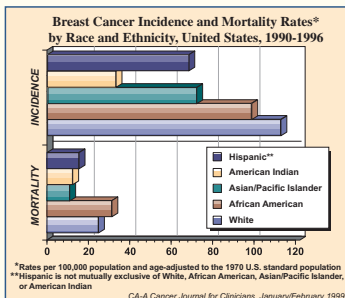
Priority

To support research that will impact upon the health of individuals with breast cancer

Special Populations Program

Established in 1997 to increase research that addresses disparities in incidence, prevalence, morbidity, and mortality rates of cancer or disease among underserved and underrepresented populations.

SEER Data on Breast Cancer Incidence and Mortality



Examples of Population-Specific Research Funded by the Breast Cancer Research Program

Program Year	Project Title
1993/94	Breast Cancer Information System Designed to Foster Increased Proactive Prevention Activities among Minority Populations
1995	Dietary Intake, Alcohol Consumption, and Menopausal Status: a Comparison of Hispanic and Non-Hispanic White Women Delays and Refusals in Treatment for Breast Cancer among Native American and Hispanic Women with Breast Cancer
1996	Primary Care and Regular Breast Cancer Screening among Underserved Minority Women The Discovery of New Antimicrotubule Agents from Hawaiian, Polynesian, and Asian Ethnobotanical Sources
1997	Obesity, Hormone Receptor Status, and Breast Cancer Occurrence and Survival in New Mexico Hispanic and Non-Hispanic White Women
1998	National and Native American Breast Cancer Survivor's Network
1999	Adequacy of Chemotherapy Dose Intensity among African American Women with HER-2/Neu-Positive Breast Cancer

Consumer Inclusion in Peer Review

Goals and Objectives

The Goal is to provide an opportunity for consumers and scientists to work together on scientific peer review.

The Core Objective is to ensure that the entire process is fair and impartial by:

- * Recruiting a broad representation of consumers,
- * Treating all participants equally,
- * Orienting all participants to the process,
- * Educating all participants about their roles, and
- * Evaluating the peer review process.

Definition of Consumer

Breast cancer survivor nominated by and representing a group of breast cancer survivors.

METHODOLOGY

Consumer Recruitment Strategies (1995-1999)

General Recruitment

- * Consumers recruited to serve on basic, clinical, and behavioral science panels and tasked to review scientifically detailed proposals.
- * Consumers recruited from various age, geographic, educational, and cultural backgrounds.
- * Nominations solicited from grassroots breast cancer and health-related organizations nationwide. No self-nominations.
- * Nominees submit a resume and a personal statement describing education and involvement in breast cancer.



Minority Recruitment

Minority Recruitment Efforts by Program Year

Program Year	Recruitment Activities
1995	Initiated nationwide efforts to solicit consumer nominees by mail.
1996	Focused effort to increase consumer reviewer ethnic diversity utilizing limited resources to identify minority individuals and advocacy groups.
1997	Launched BCRP Minority Initiative with formal outreach to minority health-related scientific and consumer groups. Consumer group leaders selected minority consumer reviewers.
1998/99	Hired Ph.D. scientist as full-time Special Populations Program Manager. Developed extensive database of minority health-related advocacy groups. Improved awareness of opportunities for consumers to participate through presentations at professional meetings. Networked annually with advocacy group leaders by telephone. Screened nominations in standard manner. Assessed advocacy group-identified barriers to participation in peer review.

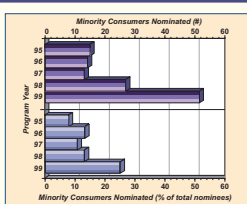
Current Selection Strategy

- * Formal evaluation of applications.
- * Brief telephone contact to ascertain willingness to serve.
- * Eligibility based on rank order of initial screening scores.
- * Assignment of one mentor (previous participant in the DoD scientific peer review) and one novice to each panel.
- * Participation as lay representatives.

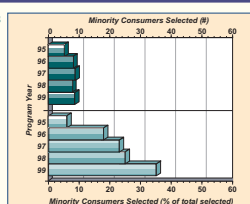


RESULTS

Minority Consumers Nominated to Serve on Peer Review Panels by Program Year



Minority Consumers Selected to Serve on Peer Review Panels by Program Year



Year	Total		Minority	
	Nominated	Selected	Nominated	Selected
1995	192	83	15	5
1996	107	87	14	8
1997	118	81	17 ¹	13 ²
1998	216	63	27	8
1999	197	50	50	9

¹Thirteen of the 17 minority consumers recruited in 1997 nominated by standard processes.
²Nine of the 13 minority consumers recruited in 1997 were screened by standard processes.

CONCLUSIONS

- * Recruitment strategies to identify survivors required expanded outreach to health-related advocacy organization.
- * Current consumer recruitment efforts have been tailored to increase participation of ethnically diverse consumer reviewers on peer review panels.
- * Efforts are ongoing to refine current consumer recruitment strategy and broaden representation of minority consumers.