

Research Professionals' Experience and Perspectives on Women's Participation in Clinical Research

Anita Kurt PhD, RN

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Anita.Kurt@lvhn.org

Lauren Semler MS

Lehigh Valley Health Network, lauren_e.semmler@lvhn.org

Matthew Meyers BS

Lehigh Valley Health Network, matthew_c.meyers@lvhn.org

Bernadette Gl-Porter BS

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Bernadette.Gl-Porter@lvhn.org

Samantha Myles BS

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Samantha.Myles@lvhn.org

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlyworks.lvhn.org/emergency-medicine>



Part of the [Emergency Medicine Commons](#), and the [Nursing Commons](#)

Published In/Presented At

Kurt, A., Semler, L., Meyers, M., Porter, B., Myles, S., Dusza, S., Jacoby, J., & Smulian, J. (2016, April 14). *Research Professionals' Experience and Perspectives on Women's Participation in Clinical Research*. Poster presented at: Women's Health Congress, Washington, DC.

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by LVHN Scholarly Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in LVHN Scholarly Works by an authorized administrator. For more information, please contact LibraryServices@lvhn.org.

Authors

Anita Kurt PhD, RN; Lauren Semler MS; Matthew Meyers BS; Bernadette Gl-Porter BS; Samantha Myles BS; Stephen W. Dusza DrPH; Jeanne L. Jacoby MD; and John C. Smulian MD, MPH

Research Professionals' Experience and Perspectives on Women's Participation in Clinical Research

Anita Kurt, PhD, RN, Lauren Semler, MS, Matthew Meyers, BS, Bernadette Porter, BS, Samantha Myles, BS, Stephen W. Dusza, DrPH, Jeanne L. Jacoby, MD, John C. Smulian, MD, MPH
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA

Background

Despite continued focus and federal funding requisites, significant gender and racial disparities persist in clinical research participation. Although understanding regarding research professionals' perspectives about barriers to minority participation has improved, their perspective regarding women's enrollment remains understudied.

Objective

To identify research professionals' attitudes, barriers and potential facilitators to enrolling women in clinical research.

Hypothesis

Investigator bias has a tangible effect on female participation in clinical research.

Methods

We conducted an anonymous and voluntary nationwide survey of research professionals whose institution received NIH and/or AHRQ funding in 2013 to conduct clinical research. Research professionals were surveyed regarding factors perceived as barriers deterring women from participation versus factors deterring research professionals from enrolling them (7 questions each) on a 5-point Likert-type scale ranging from "strongly disagree" (score=1) to "strongly agree" (score=5).

Results

Out of 13,541 recipients, only 1,007 (7.4%) responded. After excluding those 374 who were not involved in enrolling patients, 633 surveys were analyzed. Of these, 409 (64.6%) were from investigators, 473 (74.7%) were enrolling in federally funded studies, and 335 (52.9%) were female (Table 1).

Fear of unknown side-effects and unavailability for follow-up visits were the most significant perceived patient barriers to women's participation, both with a median score of "4" (IQR=1) (Table 2a). Respondents were neither hesitant nor listed any factor as significant barrier to enrolling women (all with a median score of "1," IQR=1) (Table 2b).

Women over child-bearing age were considered more likely to participate in research (median "3," IQR=0). A majority indicated that DVDs demonstrating how to approach female candidates might be useful in enrollment training (median "3," IQR=1) (Table 3).

| Variables | Coding | N (%) |
|--|-----------------------------|------------|
| What is your role in clinical research? | Investigator | 409 (64.6) |
| | Coordinator | 92 (14.5) |
| | Research Nurse | 22 (3.5) |
| | Research Associate | 16 (2.5) |
| | Research Assistant | 7 (1.1) |
| | Other | 22 (3.5) |
| | Combination | 64 (10.1) |
| What type of institution do you currently work at? | Academic hospital | 445 (70.3) |
| | Community hospital | 35 (5.5) |
| | Academic Community hospital | 85 (13.4) |
| | Government / VA hospital | 6 (1) |
| | Other | 34 (5.4) |
| Number of studies you enrolled for within the last 5 years | None | 8 (1.3) |
| | 1-5 | 371 (58.6) |
| | 6 or more | 254 (40.1) |
| Were any of the studies federally funded? | Yes | 473 (74.7) |
| | No | 146 (23.1) |
| | Don't know | 13 (2.1) |
| | Missing | 1 (0.2) |
| What is your gender? | Female | 335 (52.9) |
| | Male | 191 (30.2) |
| | Missing | 107 (16.9) |
| What is your current employment status? | Full time | 498 (78.7) |
| | Part time | 25 (4) |
| | Per diem | 1 (0.2) |
| | Other | 3 (0.5) |
| | Missing | 106 (16.8) |

| | N | Mean | SD | Median (IQR) | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|--|-----|------|-----|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Their distrust in doctors | 550 | 2.7 | 0.9 | 3 (1) | 37 (6.7) | 219 (39.8) | 173 (31.4) | 110 (20.0) | 11 (2.0) |
| Their fear of unknown side effects | 544 | 3.5 | 1 | 4 (1) | 19 (3.5) | 76 (14.0) | 123 (22.6) | 273 (50.2) | 53 (9.7) |
| Their fear of unknown pregnancy | 549 | 2.6 | 0.9 | 3 (1) | 59 (10.8) | 178 (32.4) | 242 (44.1) | 62 (11.3) | 8 (1.5) |
| Their fear of risk to fetus | 545 | 2.9 | 1.1 | 3 (2) | 56 (10.3) | 124 (22.8) | 213 (39.1) | 110 (20.2) | 42 (7.7) |
| Opposition from their spouse | 549 | 3.1 | 0.9 | 3 (2) | 25 (4.6) | 124 (22.6) | 210 (38.3) | 170 (31.0) | 20 (3.6) |
| Their unavailability for follow-up visits | 549 | 3.7 | 0.9 | 4 (1) | 8 (1.5) | 61 (11.1) | 137 (25.0) | 247 (45.0) | 96 (17.5) |
| Their unavailability for follow-up phone calls | 548 | 2.9 | 0.9 | 3 (2) | 27 (4.9) | 172 (31.4) | 207 (37.8) | 119 (21.7) | 23 (4.2) |

| | N | Mean | SD | Median (IQR) | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|-----|------|-----|--------------|-------------------|------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| I hesitate to enroll women | 524 | 1.3 | 0.6 | 1(0) | 406 (77.5) | 89 (17.0) | 25 (4.8) | 4 (0.8) | 0 (0.0) |
| My religious beliefs | 525 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 1(0) | 447 (85.1) | 56 (10.7) | 20 (3.8) | 2 (0.4) | 0 (0.0) |
| My fear for their unplanned pregnancy | 524 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 1(1) | 369 (70.4) | 98 (18.7) | 50 (9.5) | 7 (1.3) | 0 (0.0) |
| My fear that they might withdraw because of unplanned pregnancy | 524 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 1(1) | 363 (69.3) | 104 (19.9) | 47 (9.0) | 9 (1.7) | 1 (0.2) |
| Their unavailability for follow-up visits | 523 | 1.5 | 0.9 | 1(1) | 340 (65.0) | 112 (21.4) | 47 (9.0) | 22 (4.2) | 2 (0.4) |
| Their unavailability for follow-up phone calls | 525 | 1.5 | 0.8 | 1(1) | 349 (66.5) | 118 (22.5) | 39 (7.4) | 17 (3.2) | 2 (0.4) |
| Their dependence on their family's approval | 525 | 1.5 | 0.7 | 1(1) | 352 (67.1) | 120 (22.9) | 42 (8.0) | 9 (1.7) | 2 (0.4) |

| | N | Mean | SD | Median (IQR) | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|--|-----|------|-----|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Women over child-bearing age are more likely to participate. | 576 | 3 | 0.8 | 3 (0) | 18 (3.1) | 113 (19.6) | 304 (52.8) | 123 (21.4) | 18 (3.1) |
| DVD demonstrating how to approach female candidates would be helpful to me in enrolling women. | 528 | 2.7 | 1.1 | 3 (1) | 94 (17.8) | 119 (22.5) | 188 (35.6) | 116 (22.0) | 11 (2.1) |

Conclusion

Research professionals perceive that women over child-bearing age are more likely to participate in clinical research than younger women. Although they expressed no hesitance in approaching women for participation, a majority responded that DVDs demonstrating how to approach women for research might improve their comfort with enrolling women.



Acknowledgement:

Grant funded by the Anne and Carl Anderson Trust, a non-profit, philanthropic trust.

© 2016 Lehigh Valley Health Network

A PASSION FOR BETTER MEDICINE.™

610-402-CARE LVHN.org

