Team Progress Updates

SU2C Health Equity Breakthrough Team:

"DISRUPT: Diversity & IncluSion in Research Underpinning Prevention & Therapy Trials"

That Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) experience worse cancer outcomes is well known. Despite years of progress in cancer research and treatment, most research is done primarily in white populations leaving uncertainty about the best approaches to treat BIPOC with cancer. There is low participation in Clinical Trials (CT) in the United States at 8% for many reasons including the healthcare system, the availability of CTs, and the patient's other illnesses; these factors more often affect BIPOC patients from low-income communities. Right now, most approaches to increase diversity involve approaching individuals after cancer is found. The Team proposes doing something entirely different and starting much earlier in the process so that when someone gets cancer, it won't be the first time that they hear about CT.

The SU2C Health Equity Breakthrough Team brings together multidisciplinary teams from four New York City institutions charged with reducing the cancer burden that affects approximately two million people living in some of the most diverse and underserved communities in the United States. The intent of this collaborative research is captured by its acronym, DISRUPT: Diversity & IncluSion in Research Underpinning Prevention & Therapy Trials. The Team proposes a different approach to start much earlier and to work with community partners to introduce CT into discussions at community health centers. The team targets the care delivery system's approach to find trials for patients. They focus on scientists and researchers, training them in the importance of diversity, social determinants of health and conducting community-relevant work research. This DISRUPT proposal lays the groundwork to change the way cancer is treated and find new treatments for cancer including the cancers that have the greatest burden in the communities served, namely, breast, prostate, and liver cancer.

This is a new team, and progress notes will be reported after its first review.