



**MULTI-REGIONAL
CLINICAL TRIALS**

THE MRCT CENTER of
BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL
and HARVARD

Achieving Diversity, Inclusion, Equity In Clinical Research

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McKinsey Roundtable

November 5, 2020

Disclaimer

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The MRCT Center is supported by voluntary contributions (www.MRCTCenter.org) and grants.



The Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center (MRCT Center)

Our Vision

Improve the integrity, safety, and rigor of global clinical trials.

Our Mission

Engage diverse stakeholders to define emerging issues in global clinical trials and to create and implement ethical, actionable, and practical solutions.



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The MRCT Center's work

Addressing emerging issues of MRCTs



GLOBAL
REGULATORY
ENGAGEMENT



ETHICS,
CONDUCT, AND
OVERSIGHT



TRANSPARENCY



CAPACITY
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<https://mrctcenter.org>

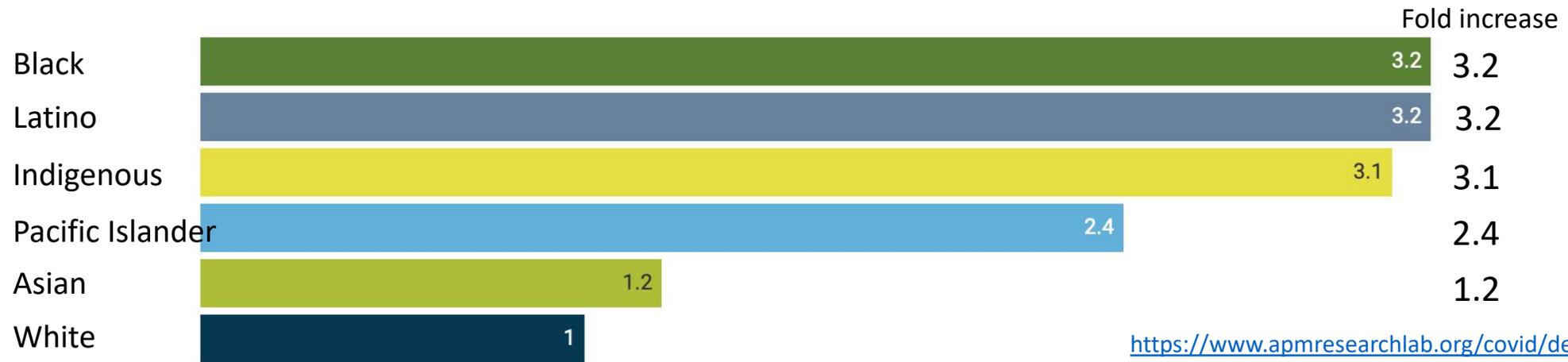
Recognizing the need to focus on and with the participant



- Post trial access to medicines
- Return of Results, Aggregate and Individual
- Health Literacy
- Diversity, Inclusion, Equity

Health disparities by race and ethnicity in the COVID-19 pandemic

Adjusted for age, race and ethnicity widens the gap in mortality compared to Whites

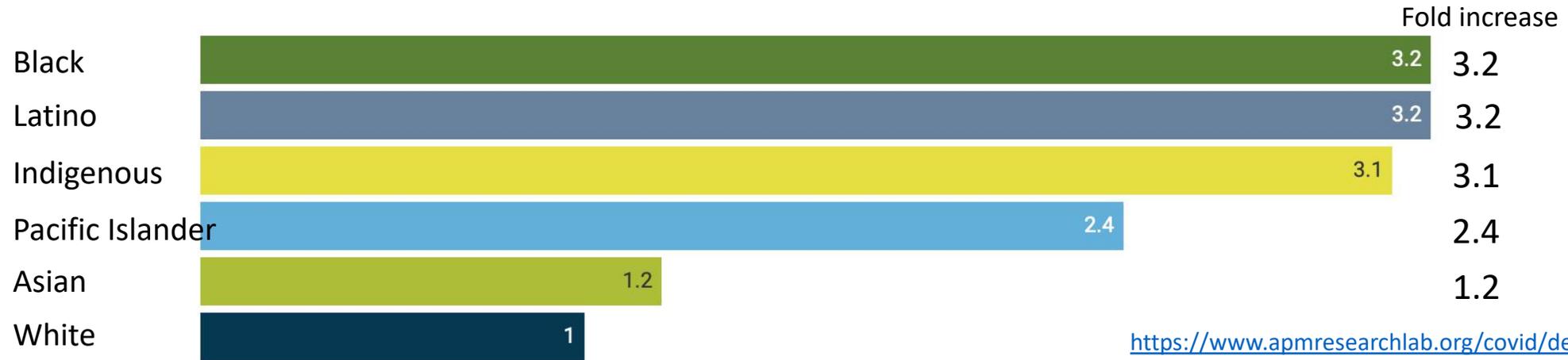


<https://www.apmresearchlab.org/covid/deaths-by-race>



Health disparities by race and ethnicity in the COVID-19 pandemic

Adjusted for age, race and ethnicity widens the gap in mortality compared to Whites



<https://www.apmresearchlab.org/covid/deaths-by-race>

But are underrepresented in research

News & Analysis



Perspective
AUGUST 27, 2020

Medical News & Perspectives

Researchers Strive to Recruit Hard-Hit Minorities Into COVID-19 Vaccine Trials

Mary Chris Jaklevic, MSJ

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2769611>

Racial Disproportionality in Covid Clinical Trials

Daniel B. Chastain, Pharm.D., Sharmon P. Osaе, Pharm.D., Andrés F. Henao-Martínez, M.D., Carlos Franco-Paredes, M.D., M.P.H., Joanna S. Chastain, Pharm.D., and Henry N. Young, Ph.D.

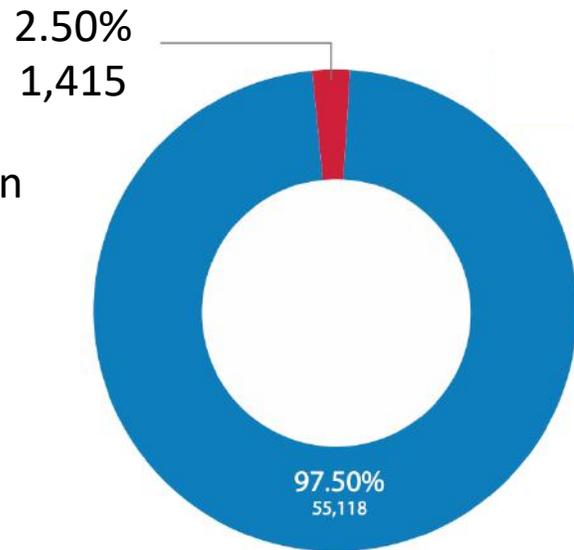


Drug Trial Snapshots: Summaries

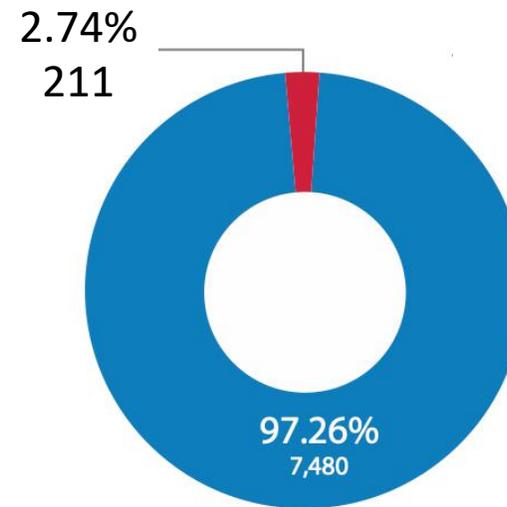


Participation of Black or African American individuals in clinical trials for oncology, cardiology, and psychiatry

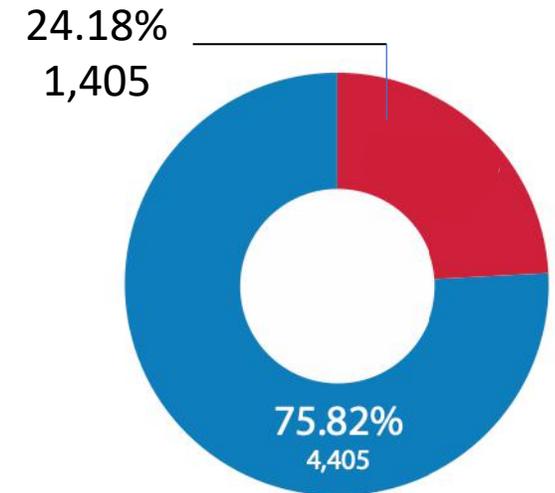
Black/African
Other race



Cardiovascular Disease
N = 92,329



Oncology
N = 7,691



Psychiatry
N = 5,810

2015-2016

<https://www.fda.gov/media/106725/download>



Background

- Clinical trials are needed to develop new treatments and new vaccines.
- Participants in trials should reflect the population affected by the disease, or those intended to utilize the intervention.
- We cannot assume that all individuals respond similarly to interventions.
- Underrepresentation in clinical trials of Black, Latinx, Asian, Native American, and other underserved populations—as well as women and individuals at either end of the age spectrum—is not new, and persists in both industry and academic trials, and across therapeutic areas.
- Race and ethnicity are not a biological determinants; social determinants of health have a real impact on biology.
- Diverse representation in clinical trials is not simply a matter of biology, but a matter of health equity, fairness, and public trust.



Leadership

- RADM Richardae Araojo, PharmD, MS, U.S. FDA
- Barbara E. Bierer, MD, MRCT Center
- Luther T. Clark, MD, Merck & Co., Inc.
- Milena Lolic, MD, U.S. FDA
- David H. Strauss, MD, Columbia University
- Sarah White, MPH, MRCT Center

MRCT Center staff:

- Carmen Aldinger, PhD, MPH
- Hayat Ahmed, MS
- Laura Meloney, MS, MPH
- Joshua Smith-Sreen, MBE

And the invaluable contributions of >50 workgroup members, representing:

- Patients, Patient Advocates
- Academia
- Pharmaceutical companies
- CROs
- Non-profit organizations
- Trade associations
- Government agencies
- Research institutes

Each serving in their individual capacity.



MRCT Diversity Workgroup

Maria Apostolaros, PhRMA
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Stacey Bledsoe*, Eli Lilly and Company
Shari Bodnoff*, Novartis
Racquel Bruton , Biogen
Elizabeth Cahn, Cancer Connection
Li Chen, Amgen
Patrick Cullinan, Takeda, currently BlueBird Bio
Liza Dawson*, National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Maria De Leon*, Parkinson's Foundation
Theresa Devins, Boehringer Ingelheim, currently Regeneron Pharmaceuticals
Anthony Edmonds, Takeda
Rhona Facile, Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC)
Rachael Fones, IQVIA
Laura Gordon*, Institute for Advanced Clinical Trials for Children (iACT)
Anya Harry, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)
Melissa Heidelberg, Genentech/ A Member of the Roche Group
Quita Highsmith, Genentech/ A Member of the Roche Group
Sharareh Hosseinzadeh ,Novartis
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Aarthi B. Iyer*, Kinetiq, now Advarra
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*involvement limited in time

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Junyang Wang, Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
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Gerren Wilson*, Genentech/ A Member of the Roche Group
Crispin Woolston, Sanofi
Honghui Zhou*, Johnson & Johnson



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ACHIEVING DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND EQUITY IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

Guidance Document

Barbara E. Bierer, MD
Sarah A. White, MPH
Laura G. Meloney, MPH, MS
Hayat R. Ahmed, MS
David H. Strauss, MD
Luther T. Clark, MD



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Toolkit

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Achieving Diversity, Inclusion, Equity In Clinical Research

Guidance and Toolkit

Released 6 August 2020

mrctcenter.org/diversity-in-clinical-trials



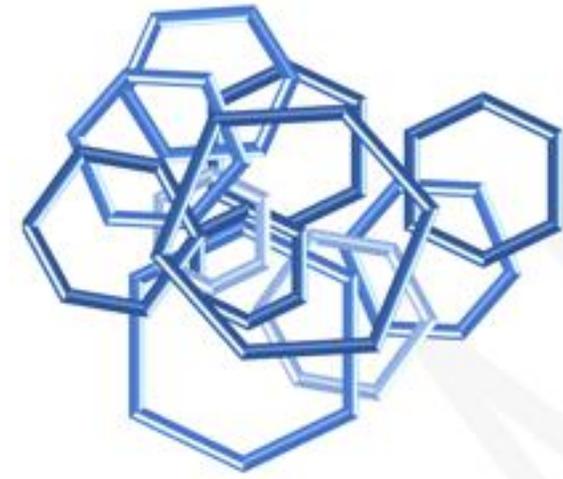
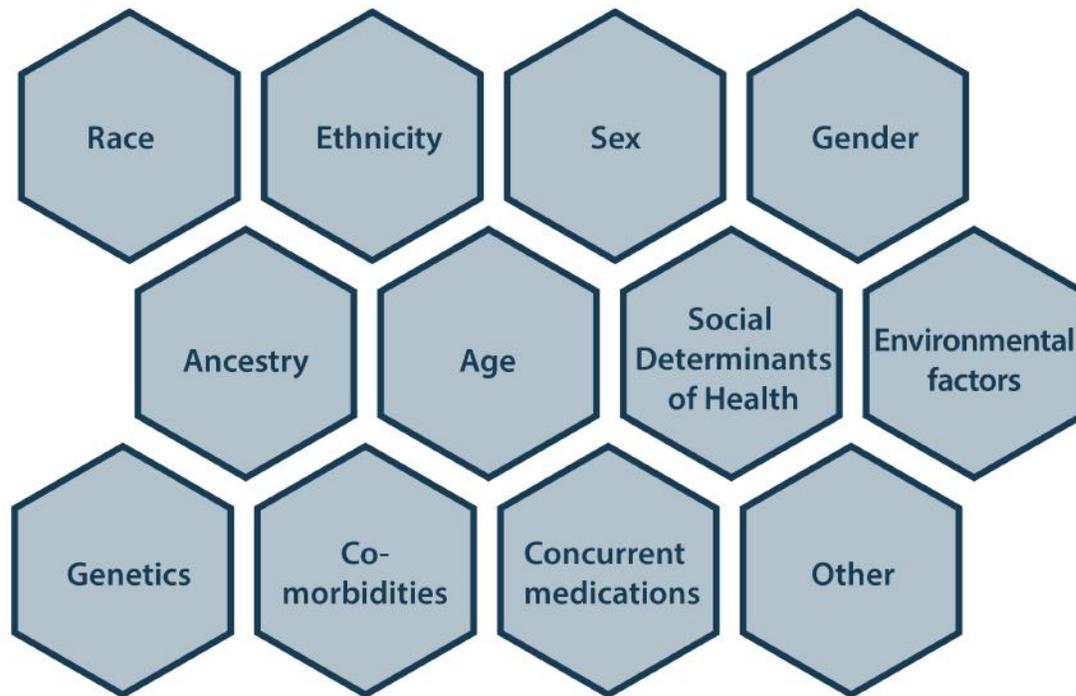
Sections of the Guidance Document

- Preface
 - Part A – Building the Case
 - Part B – Background, Ethical Principles, Regulatory Directives
 - Part C – Broadening Engagement
 - Part D – Data Standards and Analysis
 - Part E – Study Design, Conduct, and Implementation
 - Part F – Stakeholder Commitments and the Future
 - Part G – Appendix
- Key Summary
 - Recommendations
 - Tools
 - Case Examples

Toolkit

Diversity exists across many dimensions

A broad definition of diversity



Intersectionality:

- Dimensions of diversity are not independent variables

Barriers: Every stakeholder has responsibility



Sponsors/Institutions/Sites/Regulators

- Lack of engagement
- Lack of diverse workforce
- Trial time and cost
- Variable regulatory expectations



Data Collection/Data Analysis

- Lack of data standards
- Data collection and reporting variable
- Analyses inconsistent



Investigators/Referring Physicians/ Staff

- Uncertain scientific utility of inclusion
- Eligibility criteria limiting
- Site feasibility inaccurate
- Inadequate staffing and time constraints
- Recruitment and retention challenges
- Lack of cultural competence and diverse staff



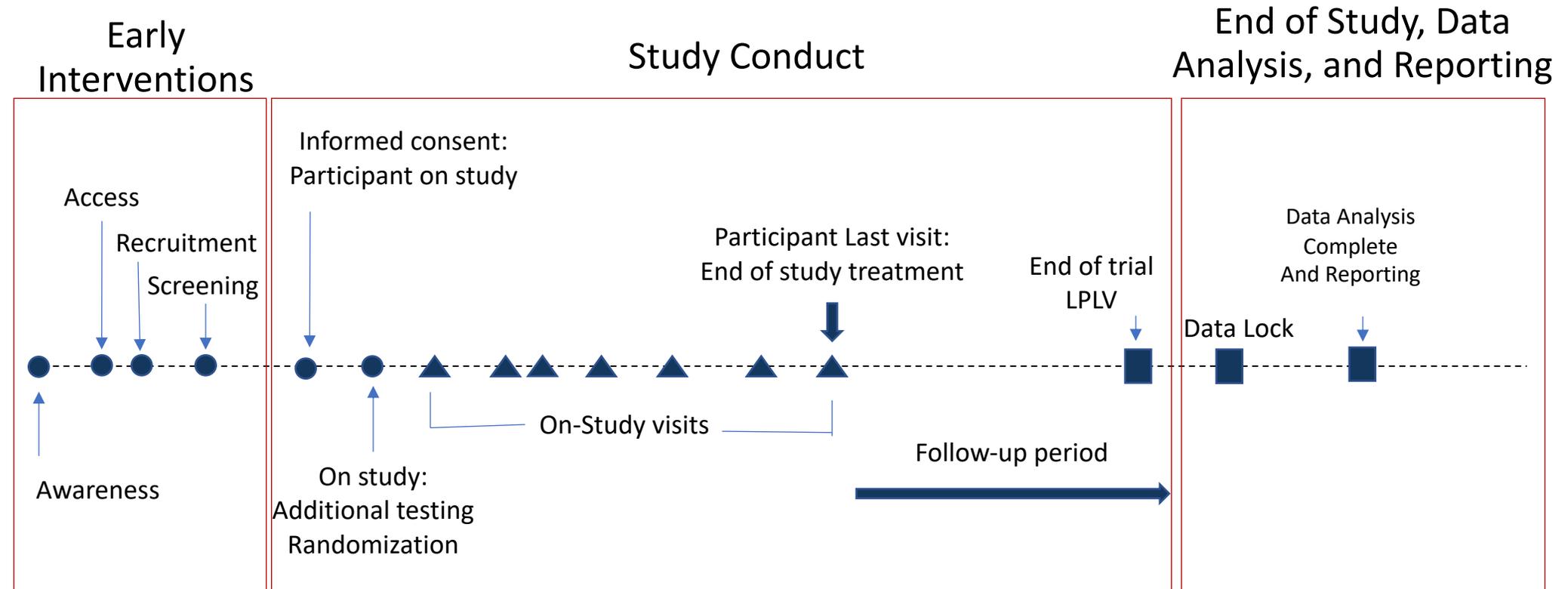
Patients/Advocates/Communities

- Lack of awareness
- Lack of access
- study design and research procedures burdensome
- Outcomes of uncertain value
- Logistics of trial conduct
- Payment and other concerns
- Mistrust

Individuals must be invited



Participant's Clinical Trial Journey



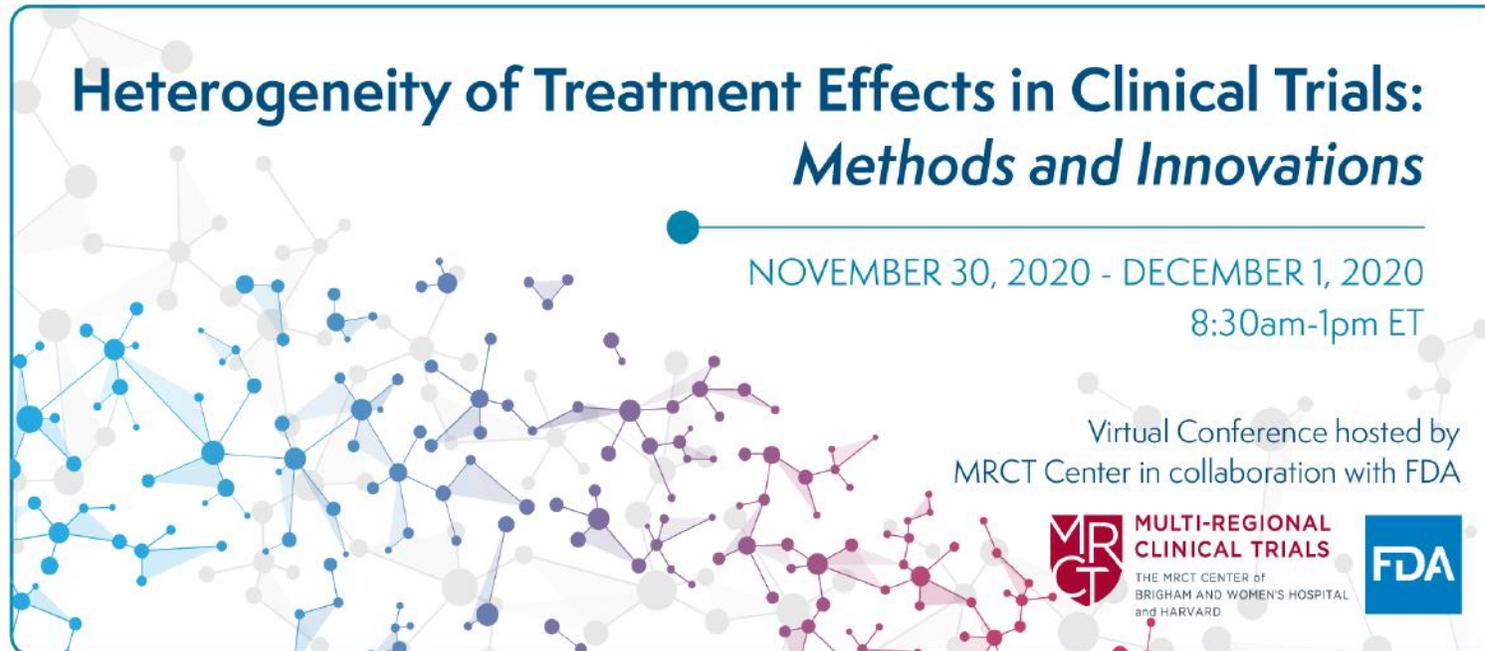
Patient and
Community Engagement
Education & Health Literacy
Feasibility Assessment
Eligibility Criteria

Study Design
Informed consent simplification
Logistical issues
Decentralized trials
Payment, transportation, childcare, etc.

Standardized data collection
Post-trial access to medicines
Return of results
Referring physician engagement

Data standards
Data analysis
Results reporting
Community outreach





Heterogeneity of Treatment Effects in Clinical Trials: *Methods and Innovations*

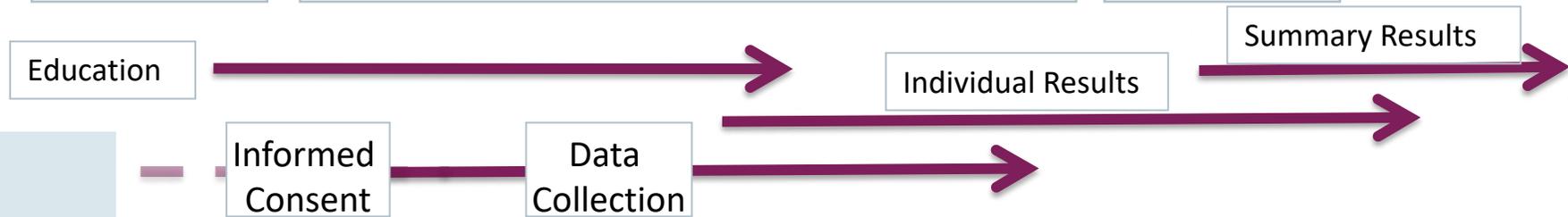
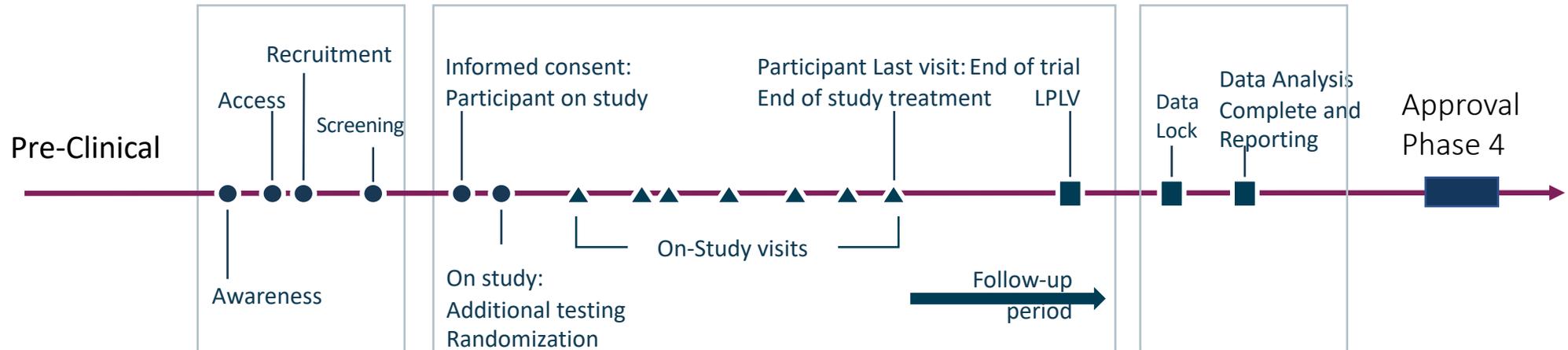
NOVEMBER 30, 2020 - DECEMBER 1, 2020
8:30am-1pm ET

Virtual Conference hosted by
MRCT Center in collaboration with FDA



<https://mrctcenter.org/news-events/heterogeneity-of-treatment-effects-in-clinical-trials-methods-and-innovations/>

Clear communications throughout the product development program



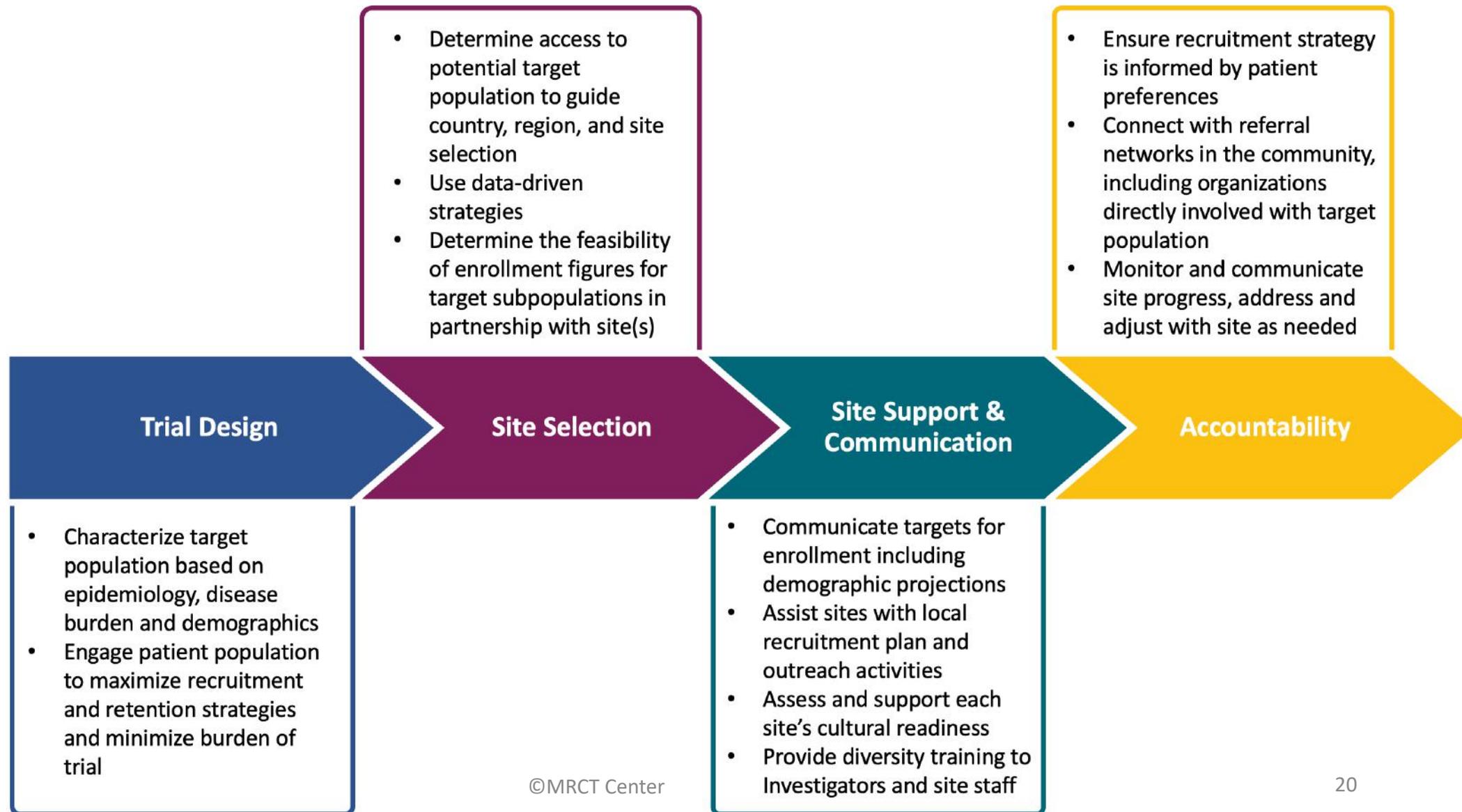
- Plain language
- Numeracy
- Visualization
- Clear design
- Cultural considerations
- Interactive techniques
- Teach-back

Written Materials
Verbal Communications

In a language understandable to the participant



Opportunities: What can we do?

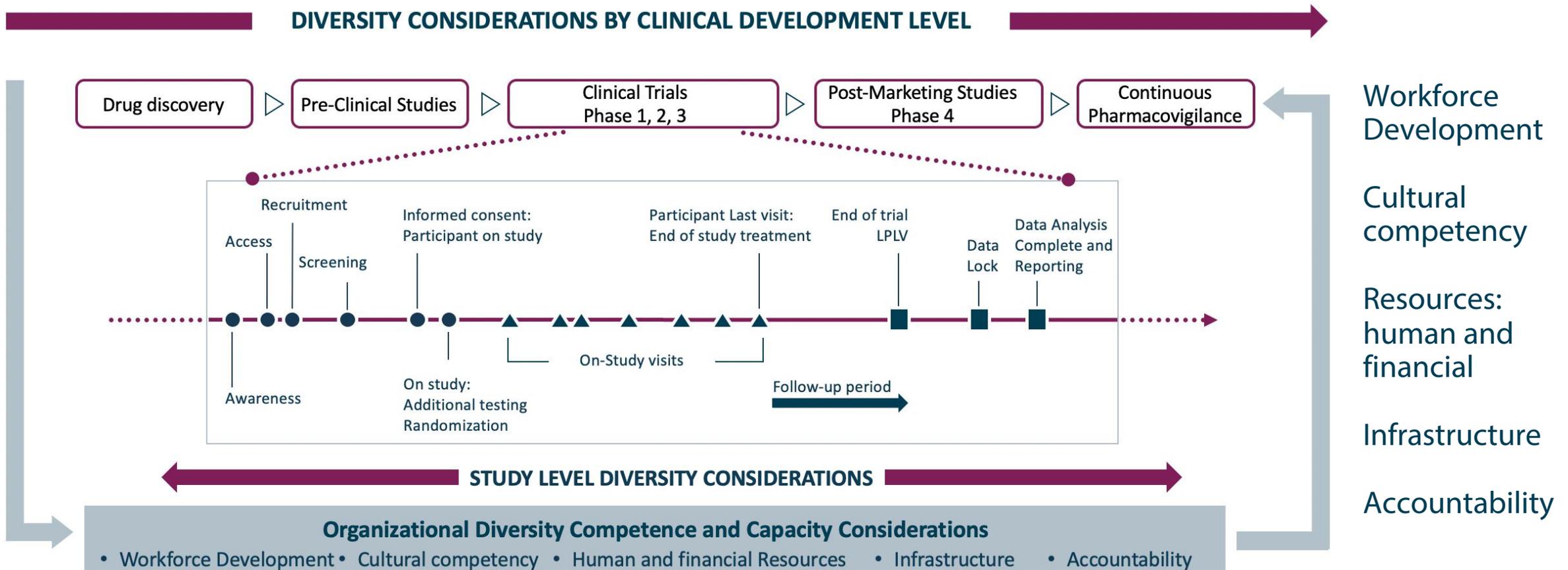


Solve for logistical challenges

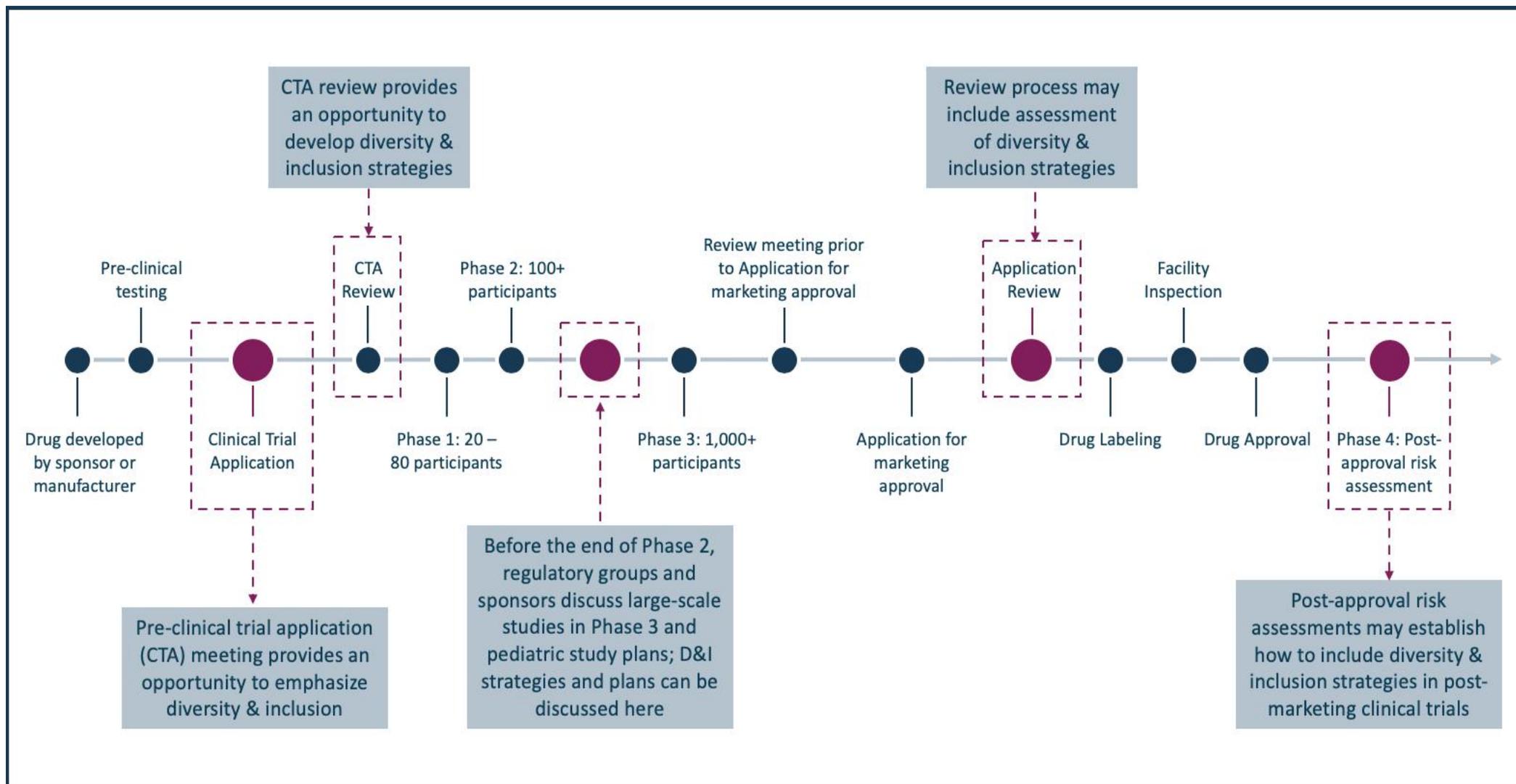
- Easy and quick reimbursement processes
- Compensation for time, burden, possibly missed work/caregiver support
- Flexible, extended site hours (after work hours and weekends)
- On-site childcare and eldercare
- Provide transportation or assist with arrangements
- Health literate study information in the language of the participant
- Culturally competent and linguistically-capable staff
- Decentralized and virtual trials
- Digitally-enabled trials



Product Development Pathway



Diversity and inclusion during the product approval process



Key Opportunities & Future Actions

- Patient and Community Awareness, Access, Engagement, and Participation; Trust, Trustworthiness
- Workforce Diversity
- Eligibility and Study Design
- Logistics and Flexibility
- Data Standards and Analyses
- Innovation
- Genetics
- Diversity in data sources and databases; RWE



Accountability in Partnership



Holding ourselves and one another accountable

- Metrics
- Transparency
- Dialogue

The work ahead

- What can each of us do now?
- Targeted recommendations for special populations
- Additional tools and resources
- Need for local, national, and international focus going forward

“...the real work of change is done year by year, month by month, and day by day, by all of us, by each of us...”

mrctcenter.org/diversity-in-clinical-trials



Practical Approaches to Improving Diversity in Clinical Trials

Wednesdays
11AM – 12noon ET



LEANING IN: A WEBINAR SERIES

Recording available	Community Awareness, Access, Knowledge
October 28, 2020	Workforce Development
November 18, 2020	Study Design, Eligibility, Site Selection & Feasibility
December 9, 2020	Study Conduct (Recruitment, Retention)
January 13, 2021	Data Standards and Analysis
January 27, 2021	Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities
February 10, 2021	Role of Data in Diversity: Genetics & Real World Data



DEI in Clinical Research Roundtable: in Planning

- Vision
- Coordination of ongoing efforts and initiatives
- Begin with information sharing
- What is missing
- What we can achieve collectively

Steering Committee:

- Alliance
- AAMC
- BIO
- FDA
- NIH
- NHC
- PhRMA

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Discussion and Questions Thank you

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