

# EAU21 VIRTUAL

## 8-12 July

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## Accrual of African American men into prostate cancer clinical trials: collaborations to incorporate patient perspectives

Thomas Farrington,<sup>1</sup> Jake Vinson,<sup>2</sup> Keith Crawford<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Prostate Health Education Network, Quincy, MA, USA; <sup>2</sup>Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Consortium, New York, NY, USA

AM21-2121  
[www.eau2021.org](http://www.eau2021.org)



## Conflict of Interest Disclosure

I have the following potential conflict(s) of interest to report:

- Thomas Farrington is founder and President of the Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN). He currently serves as a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's (NCCN) "Prostate Cancer Treatment Guidelines Panel" and the NCCN "Prostate Cancer Early Detection Guidelines Panel." He also serves as a trustee of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and as an advisor to a number of other healthcare organizations and programs
- Jake Vinson is CEO of the Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Consortium (PCCTC)
- Keith Crawford is Director of Clinical Trials and Patient Education for PHEN

We thank Meredith Strickland from the PHEN team for analyzing the survey data. Medical writing support was provided by Annette Smith, PhD, and Ajay Mirakhur, MPH, of CMC AFFINITY, McCann Health Medical Communications and was funded by Pfizer

# Introduction & Objectives



## Introduction

- African American (AA) men are more likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer than white men and have the highest death rate from prostate cancer of any racial or ethnic group in the US<sup>1</sup>
- Patient surveys and other feedback obtained through programs at PHEN show that at least 60% of AA men with prostate cancer would consider participating in a clinical trial
- However, this interest is not converting into increased participation of AA men with prostate cancer into clinical trials



## Objectives

- This 2-year collaboration between PHEN and PCCTC aims to connect clinical trial investigators at major US cancer centers with AA men with prostate cancer in a collaborative learning effort to increase accrual of AA men into clinical trials

1. American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts & Figures for African Americans 2019-2021*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society, 2019

# Overview of the Project



- A novel approach is the group learning sessions (15-20 patients), which will:
  - give AA men the opportunity to interface directly with the clinical trial investigators to ask questions and gain more information about prostate cancer clinical trials
  - help clinical trial investigators understand key issues driving AA patients' decisions regarding trial enrollment
- PHEN carried out an initial survey of its members to explore experiences of men participating in clinical trials, and identify what information they would need to consider participating in a prostate cancer clinical trial

# Initial Survey Results



- Of 108 respondents, only 12 (11%) had participated in a clinical trial; all who had participated were satisfied and most completed the trial
- Key reasons for taking part were because it gave AA men with prostate cancer an effective treatment or diagnostic option, or the opportunity to contribute important information to medical science



- Main barriers to participation were **AA men not being asked if they would consider participating in a prostate cancer clinical trial** and a **lack of information about the benefits and risks**
- No-one expressed distrust of the healthcare system and only two men cited the USPHS Syphilis Study at Tuskegee<sup>1</sup> as their reason for not enrolling



- When asked about factors that would influence their decision to participate, AA men identified the following:
- whether or not this was an effective treatment or diagnostic option for them (52 responses)
  - minimal potential for side-effects (44 responses)
  - the potential benefit of the trial to contribute to medical science (43 responses)



- The key qualities AA men most looked for in a prostate cancer clinical trial research team were:
- staff who take the time to explain study procedures as well as the benefits and risks of participation (84 responses)
  - being confident in the skills and knowledge of the staff (54 responses)

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The US Public Health Service Syphilis Study at Tuskegee. <https://www.cdc.gov/tuskegee/timeline.htm>. Last updated April 22, 2021. Accessed June 1, 2021.



## Key Takeaways



Prostate cancer is a family disease – increased participation of AA men in clinical trials is needed to support the next generation



Those AA men participating in clinical trials are interested in furthering medical science



The number 1 reason for lack of clinical trial participation is that patients were not asked, and the second reason is lack of knowledge about clinical trials and associated benefits and risks. The Tuskegee experiment and lack of trust in medical science are not key factors in preventing AA men from participating in prostate cancer clinical trials



The insights gained will drive initiatives aimed at increasing participation of AA men in clinical trials, and guide healthcare professionals in the most effective use of 1:1 interactions with their patients