

Discover & Deliver: The Case for Clinical Trial Diversity



It is no secret that the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted communities of color. According to [new data from the Lancet Commission](#), the mortality gap between Black and white Americans has increased by more than 50% since the onset of the pandemic.

Why it matters: Given that communities color have borne the brunt of the virus' impact, the Chamber believes it is essential that COVID-19 treatments and vaccines are tested among diverse populations.

What's happened? This week, the Chamber released the second part of "[The Case for Clinical Trial Diversity](#)" video series, featuring a conversation with Quita Highsmith, Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at Genentech, and Nick Kenny, Chief Scientific Officer at Syneos Health.

Key takeaways:

- **We must break down barriers to encourage more diverse clinical research.** These barriers range from the health system's failure to serve different demography's to more simple issues like transportation and parking at clinical trial sites.
- **To address these obstacles, we must be bold and intentional about clinical trial design.** Kenny noted that a passive approach to clinical trial design—where you simply expect people to show up wherever the trial is located—is particularly problematic. To help facilitate participation, we must bring the trials to the people in their local communities.
- **Business community-driven solutions can help promote inclusive research.** To start, companies can put in place policies to allow patients to participate in clinical research. Over the long term, the business community must also support a more diverse workforce

in science and medicine by creating partnerships with universities and the scientific government agencies.

Learn more: [Join us on February 16th at 1:00pm \(ET\)](#) to discuss clinical trials diversity and addressing vaccine hesitancy in underrepresented communities.

—Kelly Anderson, Senior Director, Health and Drug Policy, Global Innovation Policy Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

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