WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MEDICAL RESEARCH DOESN'T INCLUDE EVERYONE?

THE PROBLEM

Did you know?

Heart attacks in women are more likely to be missed than heart attacks in men. This is just one example of what can happen when medical research doesn't include everyone.

For many years, women and other communities, such as children, older adults, people with disabilities, and racial and ethnic minorities, have been underrepresented in clinical research. When research doesn't include everyone, scientists do not have enough information to understand how a disease might present itself across different communities or how treatments may work in these communities.

Why Representation Matters

Medical research shapes the treatments, medications, and health recommendations we all use throughout our lives.

How do we know that aspirin can prevent a second heart attack?
Clinical Research.
How do we know wearing sunscreen prevents skin cancer?
Clinical Research.
How do we know that heart attacks may present differently in women compared to men?
Clinical Research.

When studies include people from different backgrounds, researcher and health care workers can better understand how diseases affect different communities and develop treatments that work for more poeple. Represenation in research helps create better treatments, earlier more accurate diagnoses, and create better outcomes for generations after us.

So Where Do You Come In?

You don't have to be a researcher to help representation.
A **Clinical Research Champion** is someone who helps friends, family, and community members learn about clnical research by sharing *accurate* information and connected people with trusted resources.
Your role is not to convice anyone to join a study.
It is to help people understand why representation in research matters and make informed decisions about whether they want to take part.

Why Community Voices Matter

People are more likely to trust information from someone they know. A conversation with a close friend, your sibling, neighbor, or faith leader can open the door to learning about clinical research and help break down common confusion about clinical research. Every conversation you have with someone has the ability to increase awareness, build trust, and help research become more representative of the community it is supposed to serve. The future of medicine depends on research that reflects how truly different and unique people are. By becoming a Clinical Research Champion, you can help make sure future treatments, medicines, and medical discoveries work for everyone.

What Clinical Research Champions Do

- Share trusted information
- Answer common questions
- Clear up common misunderstandings
- Connect people with research teams and helpful resources
- Help build trust between researchers and the community

Are you Ready to Be A Champion?

Your voice matters.
We have people ready to answer your questions and help you learn more about becoming a Clinical Research Champion. By starting these conversations and sharing trusted infromation, you can help us imporve health care for your community. When research includes everyone, everyone benefits.

Scan the QR code to learn more, find helpful resources, and explore research opportunities through NYU Langone Health's Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI).

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