

# **ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Initiative:** *Year 1 Highlights and Year 2 Future Directions*

**Jeffery J. Auletta, M.D.**

**National Marrow Donor Program**


**Advisory Council on Blood Stem Cell Transplantation**

**September 28, 2023**

# Recurring themes warrant action across our ecosystem!

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING  
THAT IS NOT RIGHT,  
NOT FAIR, NOT JUST,  
YOU HAVE A MORAL  
OBLIGATION TO DO  
SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

John Lewis



ELSEVIER

Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation


ASTCT  
American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy

journal homepage: [www.bbmt.org](http://www.bbmt.org)


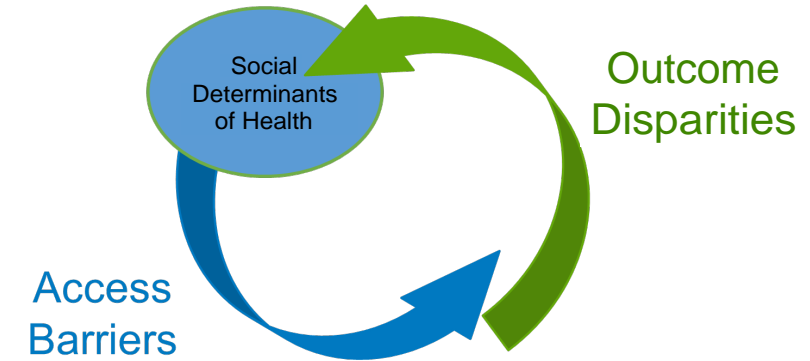
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Quality of Care

Inferior Access to Allogeneic Transplant in Disadvantaged Populations: A Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research Analysis



Kristjan Paulson<sup>1,\*</sup>, Ruta Brazauskas<sup>2,3</sup>, Nandita Khera<sup>4</sup>, Naya He<sup>3</sup>, Navneet Majhail<sup>5</sup>, Gorgun Akpek<sup>6</sup>, Mahmoud Aljurf<sup>7</sup>, David Buchbinder<sup>8</sup>, Linda Burns<sup>9</sup>, Sara Beattie<sup>10</sup>, Cesar Freytes<sup>11</sup>, Anne Garcia<sup>12</sup>, James Gajewski<sup>13</sup>, Theresa Hahn<sup>14</sup>, Jennifer Knight<sup>15</sup>, Charles LeMaistre<sup>16</sup>, Hillard Lazarus<sup>17</sup>, David Szwajcer<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Seftel<sup>1</sup>, Baldeep Wirk<sup>18</sup>, William Wood<sup>19</sup>, Wael Saber<sup>3</sup>



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Transplantation and Cellular Therapy


ASTCT  
American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy

journal homepage: [www.tctjournal.org](http://www.tctjournal.org)

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Full Length Article  
Cellular Therapy

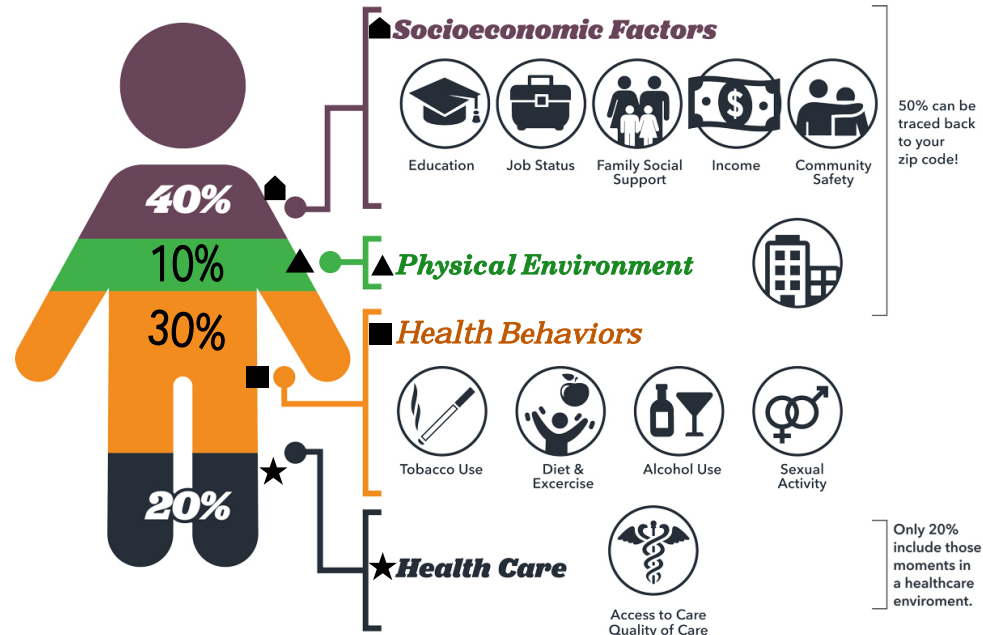
Socioeconomic and Racial Disparity in Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell Therapy Access



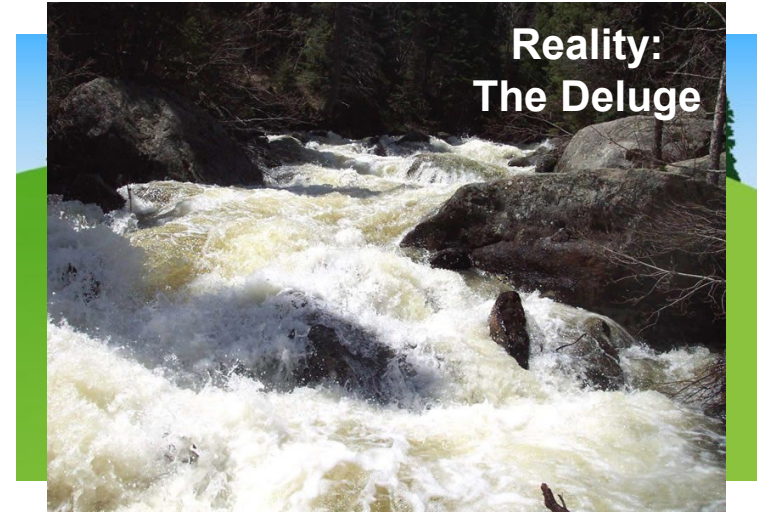
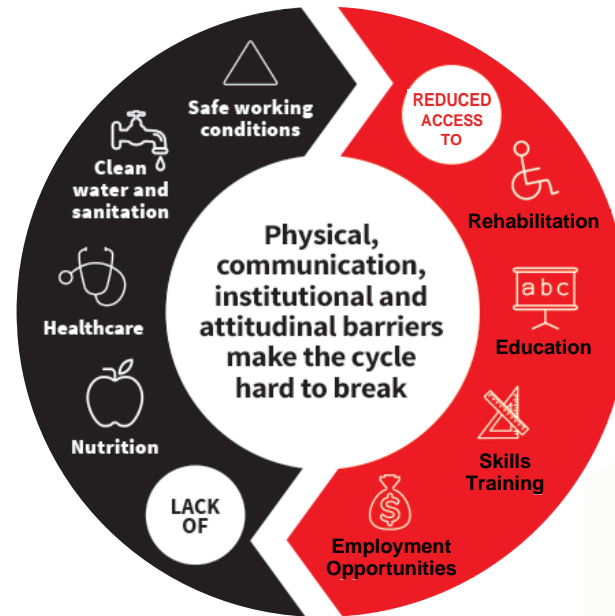
Nausheen Ahmed<sup>1,\*</sup>, Moazzam Shahzad<sup>2</sup>, Ernie Shippey<sup>3</sup>, Rajat Bansal<sup>1</sup>, Muhammad Umair Mushtaq<sup>1</sup>, Zahra Mahmoudjafari<sup>1</sup>, Muhammad Salman Faisal<sup>4</sup>, Marc Hoffmann<sup>1</sup>, Al-Ola Abdallah<sup>1</sup>, Clint Divine<sup>1</sup>, Mehdi Hamadani<sup>5</sup>, Joseph McGuirk<sup>1</sup>, Leyla Shune<sup>1</sup>

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane”

# Social Determinants of Health: Appreciating impact



**68%**  
 of patients have at least one social determinant of challenge!



# ACCESS Initiative: Purpose and Vision

- **PURPOSE:**

- To reduce barriers to hematopoietic cell therapy and transplantation through implementation of changes in practice and policy by active, sustained engagement of the cell therapy ecosystem

- **VISION:**

- To advance, measure and sustain progress toward universal access in the initial focus areas of awareness, poverty and racial inequality

# ACCESS Initiative: Focus Area Committee Goals

## Awareness

- To improve access to HCT/CT by identifying areas for increasing awareness education and intervention for the patient, physician, and transplant program

## Poverty

- To identify patients at high risk of adverse outcomes due to socioeconomic adversity and develop patient-, center-, and policy-related initiatives to improve their access and survival

## Racial Inequity

- To improve equity in access and outcomes for all HCT/CT recipients regardless of their race or ethnicity



# ACCESS Initiative: Committee Leadership

**ASTCT  
Chairs**

**Awareness**



Brenda Sandmaier

**NMDP  
Chairs**



Erica Jensen

**Poverty**



Navneet Majhail



Jessica Knutson

**Racial Inequity**



Eneida Nemecek



Rafeek Yusuf

# ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Initiative

## One Year Later

# ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Initiative



## Transplantation and Cellular Therapy

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journal homepage: [www.tctjournal.org](http://www.tctjournal.org)

### Position Statement

## The ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Initiative: A Collaboration to Address and Sustain Equal Outcomes for All across the Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapy Ecosystem

Jeffery J. Auletta<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Brenda M. Sandmaier<sup>3,4</sup>, Erica Jensen<sup>1</sup>, Navneet S. Majhail<sup>5</sup>, Jessica Knutson<sup>1</sup>, Eneida Nemecek<sup>6</sup>, Femina Ajayi-Hackworth, Stella M. Davies<sup>7</sup>, on behalf of the ACCESS Workshop Team<sup>† †</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Hematology/Oncology/Blood and Marrow Transplant and Infectious Diseases. Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio

<sup>3</sup> Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. Seattle, Washington

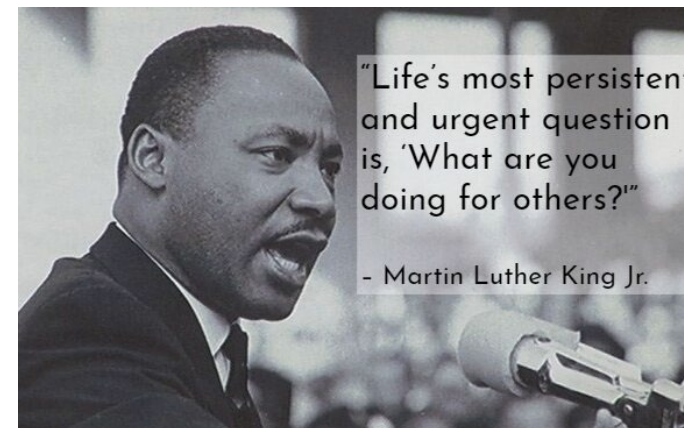
<sup>4</sup> University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Washington

<sup>5</sup> Sarah Cannon Transplant and Cellular Therapy Network. Nashville, Tennessee

<sup>6</sup> Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, Oregon

<sup>7</sup> Bone Marrow Transplant and Immune Deficiency, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Cincinnati, Ohio

The American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (ASTCT™) and the **National Marrow Donor Program** (NMDP®) formed the ACCESS Initiative to address access and outcome disparities in the hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) and cell therapy (CT) ecosystem.



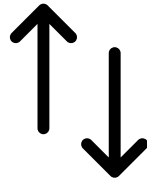
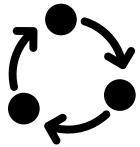
[astct.org/advocate/access-initiative](http://astct.org/advocate/access-initiative)  
*Transplant Cell Ther* 2022 28(12):802



# Program Manager



**Debbie Fernandez** *Project Manager*  
[dfernandez@francefoundation.com](mailto:dfernandez@francefoundation.com)




The  
France  
Foundation



Equal Outcomes for All



# Inaugural ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Workshop July 28 & 29, 2022 Washington, D.C.



**Georgetown | Lombardi**  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

**Intersectionality of Cancer,  
Aging and Disparities: A  
Biological Basis**

Lucile L. Adams-Campbell, Ph.D.  
Professor of Oncology  
Senior Associate Dean, Community Outreach and Engagement  
Associate Director, Minority Health & Health Disparities Research



Equal Outcomes for All

# 2023 Tandem Meetings Orlando, FL



**Staci Arnold, MD,  
MBA, MPH**

**Aflac Cancer & Blood  
Disorders Center**  
Healthcare Disparities



**Warren Fingrut, MD**

**Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center**  
Access Disparities



**Sumithira Vasu, MD**

**The Ohio State  
Comprehensive  
Cancer Center**  
Patient & Caregiver  
Advocacy

**ACCESS  
INITIATIVE  
WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, February 18, 2023**  
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM EST  
World Center Marriott - Crystal NPQ

**OF ALL FORMS OF  
INEQUALITY, INJUSTICE  
IN HEALTH IS THE  
MOST SHOCKING  
AND INHUMANE.**  
-MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

**THE ACCESS INITIATIVE  
NEEDS YOUR HELP.**

Join the American Society for  
Transplantation and Cellular  
Therapy (ASTCT™) and  
the National Marrow Donor  
Program (NMDP®) in the  
fight to increase ACCESS  
to transplant.

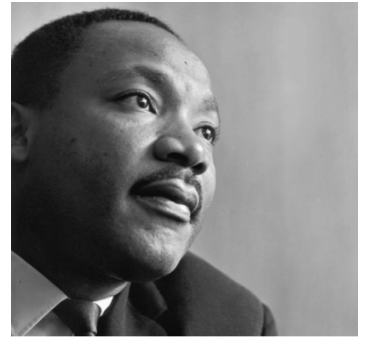


# ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Initiative

## Second Annual Workshop

Washington D.C.  
August 24 & 25, 2023

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed.”  
-- August 28, 1963  
*on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial*



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***“Out from the Gloomy Past:  
Why Achieving Health Equity Takes Trust and Guts”***

**O. N. Ray Bignall II, MD  
Chief Diversity and Health Equity Officer  
Nationwide Children’s Hospital  
Columbus, OH**

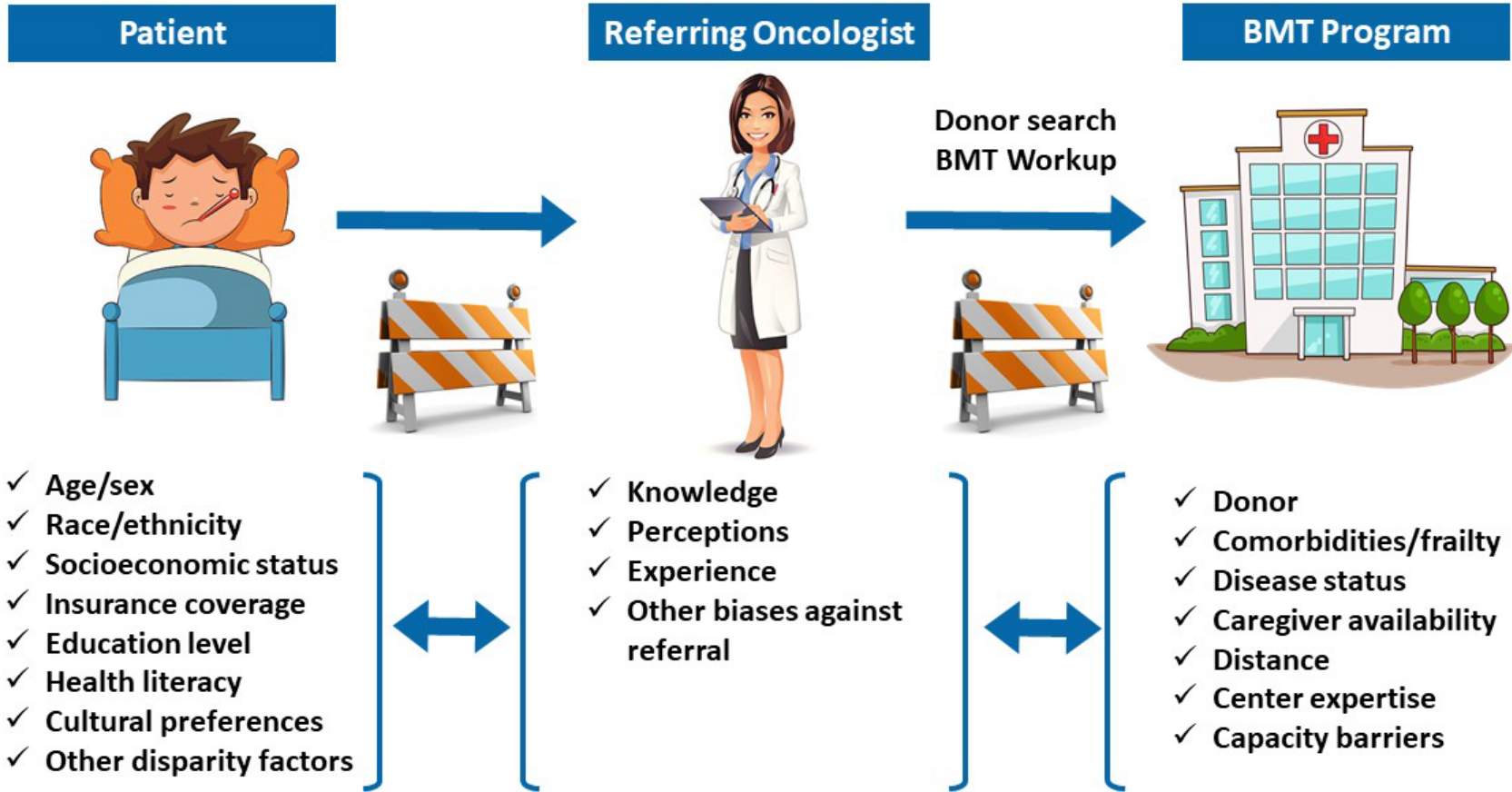




# ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Initiative

## Awareness Committee

# Barriers to HCT/CT: Patient, Physician, & Institution



*Biol Blood Marrow Transplant 2010;16(8):1070  
ASH Education Program 2021;1:275*

# Awareness Committee

Accomplishments	Future Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed Community Case-Based Physician Exchange in NY/NJ/GA SCD Summer 2022 MDS/Adult Fall 2023</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of Case-Based Physician Exchanges to focus on Multiple Myeloma, AML and MDS</li> <li>Identify Fellows and provide education resource as key audience (grow future community awareness)</li> <li>Assess American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) collaboration for fellow education/community</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created Updated Information for Physician Reference (UpToDate/NCCN) for Timing, Determining Eligibility, Donor Source information, GVHD treatment/outcome data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore Myeloma/Auto transplant update with collaboration with ASTCT Education committee.</li> <li>Explore highlights at ASTCT for diversity and access initiatives</li> <li>Explore Nucleus content generation for awareness.</li> <li>Explore co-publication with other Oncology societies</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed Collaboration with American Cancer Society (ACS) for Community physician support/patient awareness resources</li> <li>Developed partnership with Leukemia Lymphoma Society (LLS) for outreach in Hispanic/Latino populations</li> <li>Developed relationship with Sickle Cell Transplant Advocacy and Research Alliance (STAR) for alignment of advocacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore education/coordination of standardized treatment roadmaps for amplification of message through collaborations</li> <li>Increase collaboration efforts with industry for greater highlights in search engine etc.</li> <li>Explore collaboration with other societies for policy on telemedicine to increase referrals</li> </ul>









# ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Initiative

## Poverty Committee

## Poverty in the United States: 2022

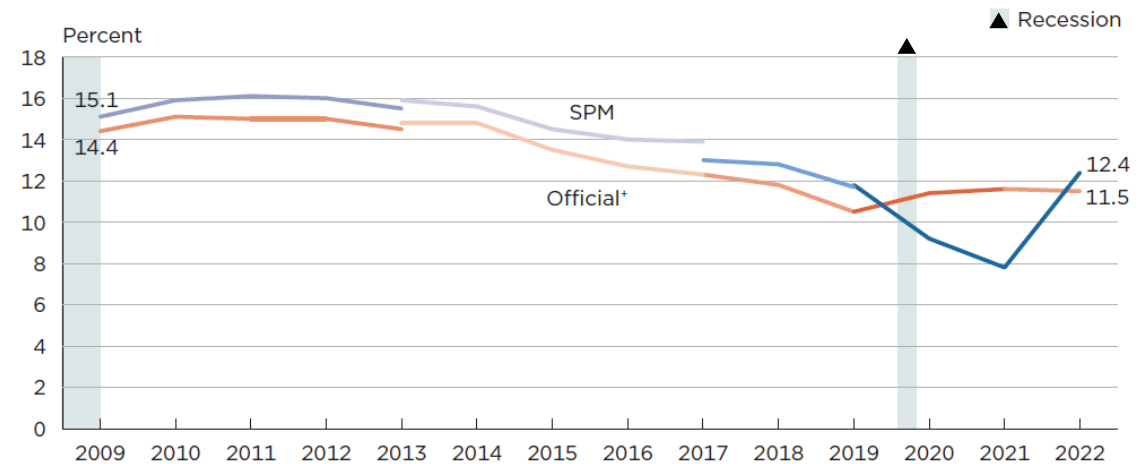
### Current Population Reports

# Measuring the Nation's Social and Economic Well-Being

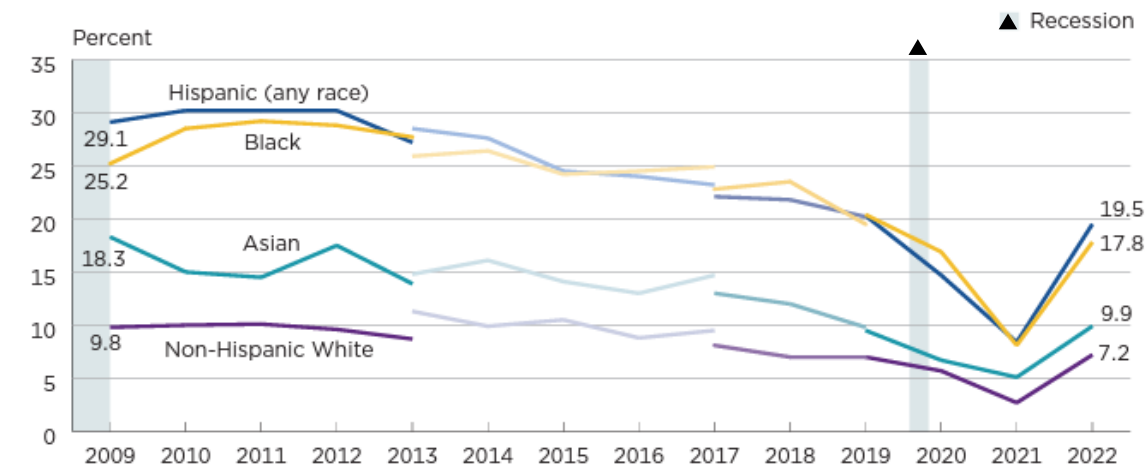
	2021	2022
 <b>Median household income</b> (in 2022 inflation-adjusted dollars) 	\$76,330	\$74,580
 <b>Percentage of people in poverty</b> 	11.6%	11.5%
 <b>Supplemental Poverty Measure</b> 	7.8%	12.4%
 <b>Percentage of people without health insurance</b> 	8.3%	7.9%

— Indicates that change is not statistically significant.

Poverty Rates Using the Official\* and Supplemental Poverty Measures: 2009 to 2022



Child Supplemental Poverty Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2009 to 2022

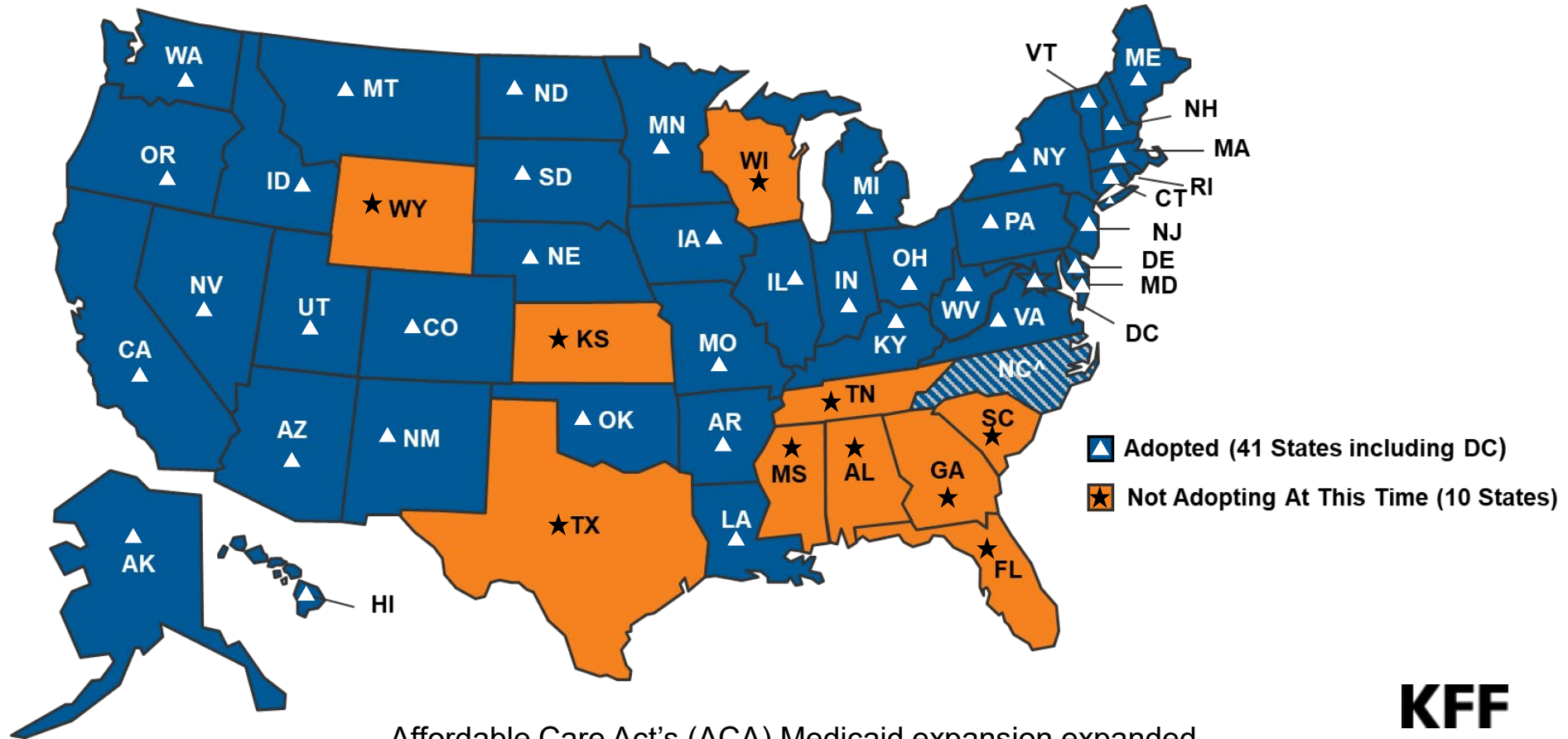


**SPM = Supplemental Poverty Measure**  
(adjusts for post-tax income, geography, government programs)

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# Status of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions



Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Medicaid expansion expanded Medicaid coverage to nearly all adults with incomes up to 138% of the **Federal Poverty Level (\$20,120 for individual in 2023)** and provided states with an enhanced federal matching rate (FMAP) for their expansion populations.

*Data as of September 22, 2023*

**KFF**



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# Transplantation and Cellular Therapy

journal homepage: [www.astctjournal.org](http://www.astctjournal.org)

# ASTCT

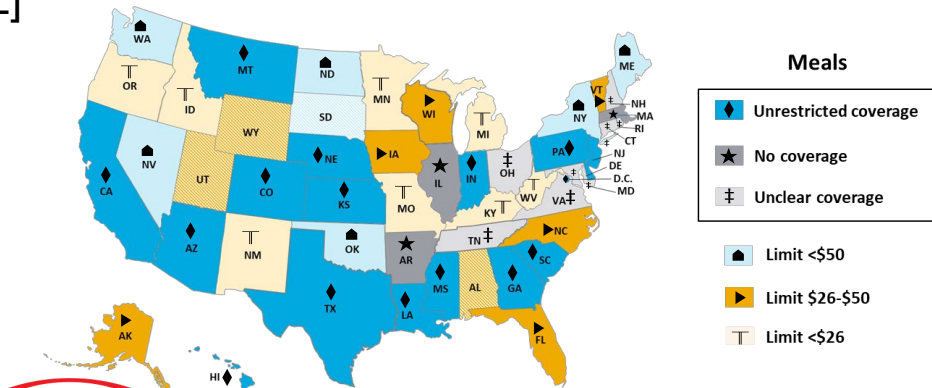
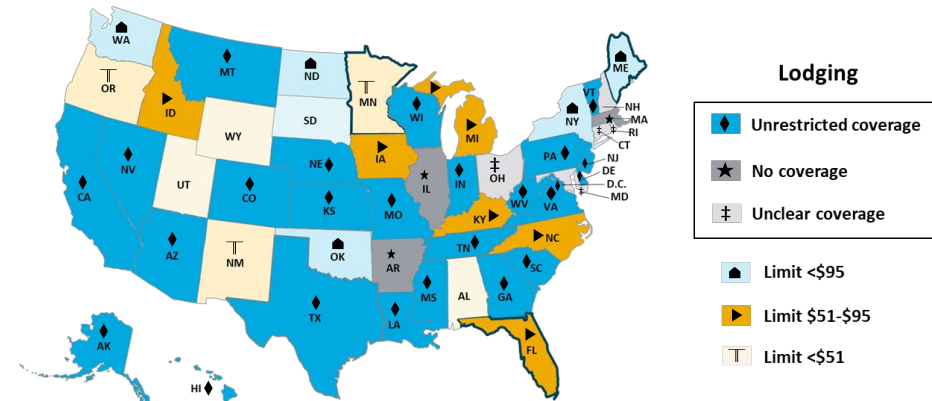
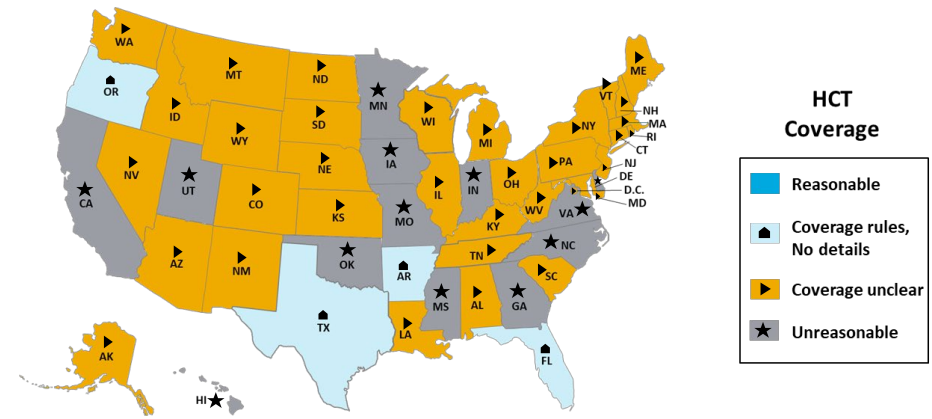
American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy

## Report

### Assessing Medicaid Coverage for Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation and Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell Therapy: A Project from the American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy and the National Marrow Donor Program ACCESS Initiative

Jeffery J. Auletta<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Nandita Khera<sup>3</sup>, Patrick DeMartino<sup>4</sup>, Amar H. Kelkar<sup>5</sup>, Rafeek A. Yusuf<sup>1</sup>, Stella M. Davies<sup>6</sup>, Jessica Knutson<sup>1</sup>, Ellie Beaver<sup>1</sup>, Alycia Maloney<sup>7</sup>, Navneet S. Majhail<sup>8</sup>

- **Medicaid fee-for-service analysis for 50 states with following objectives:**
  - To define beneficiary coverage for allogeneic [ALL, AML, MDS] and autologous [MM, Lymphoma] HCT and chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy [Yescarta®: LBCL, Carvykti™: MM, Kymriah®: peds B-ALL]
  - To define support for travel, temporary lodging, and meals for both beneficiaries and caregivers; and
  - To determine search and cell acquisition payment procedures
- **Summary (May 2023):**
  - Variability and restrictions (diseases, health issues) in coverage
  - Inequities in patient/caregiver support



# Poverty Committee

## Accomplishments

- Created workgroups to study access barriers in Medicaid fee-for-service care populations of HCT/CT patients.
- Identified state-level variations in Medicaid coverage for HCT and CAR-T therapy and published the results.
- Developed a plan to access and analyze data from the National Transplant Services (NTS) at Kaiser Permanente to examine access to HCT for AML and Plasma Cell Disorders (PCN) based on social determinants of health.

## Future Directions

- Continue to identify factors to implement targeted support, outreach and advocacy efforts and resource allocation to address socioeconomic challenges to improve the equity in receipt of HCT/CT.
- Year 1: Complete state-level Medicaid scan and acquire NTS data on comprehensive sociodemographic, disease, and treatment-related information for patients.
- Year 2: Disseminate and validate Medicaid scan findings; Update and formalize national standards; Pilot targeted policy interventions to improve coverage in 4-8 states; Publish analysis of NTS data for AML and PCN.
- Year 3+: Develop a framework for continued use of NTS data to investigate more questions related to access and outcomes of HCT for specific diseases or for specific populations; Develop targeted advocacy to encourage states to update and improve coverage policy for Medicaid patients.

# ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Initiative

## Racial Inequity Committee

# Accomplishments



1. Expansion of the project to include NMDP Health Equity team
2. Initial assessment of transplant center needs & interest to engage in the project
3. Completed **health equity survey** and development of toolkit for centers
4. Plan to launch Health Equity in Practice pilot project with selected centers

Stakeholders: Transplant centers, NMDP Health Services Research & Provider Team, Poverty committee



# FY24 Next Steps: Health Equity Toolkit



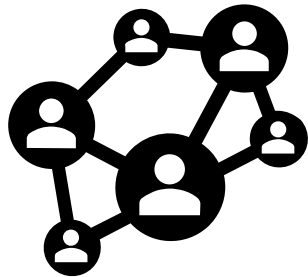
Increase TCs' access to data and resources to reduce capacity to drive health equity projects.



Increase TC knowledge of their patient demographics, community population and barriers to transplant.



Support TC in building relationships with community, community providers and NMDP.



Introduction



Assessment



Data



Community Engagement



Quality Improvement



Education and Training Resources



Evaluation Tools

# Racial/Ethnic Inequity Committee

Accomplishments	Future Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expand membership, abilities, capabilities, capacities, and competencies of the Racial/Ethnic Inequities Committee</li><li>• Administer health equity survey and needs assessment to transplant centers.</li><li>• Develop the Health Equity in Practice assessment &amp; toolkit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engage, train, empower, and collaborate with different stakeholders within the TCT ecosystem</li><li>• Year 1: Launching of Health Equity in Practice pilot with selected transplant centers across the U.S.</li><li>• Year 2: Analysis of pilot data and revise toolkit based on pilot evaluation findings.</li><li>• Year 3+: Extend Health Equity in Practice project across other transplant centers</li></ul>

# ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Initiative

## Junior Faculty/Trainee Initiative



# Junior Faculty/Trainee Initiative

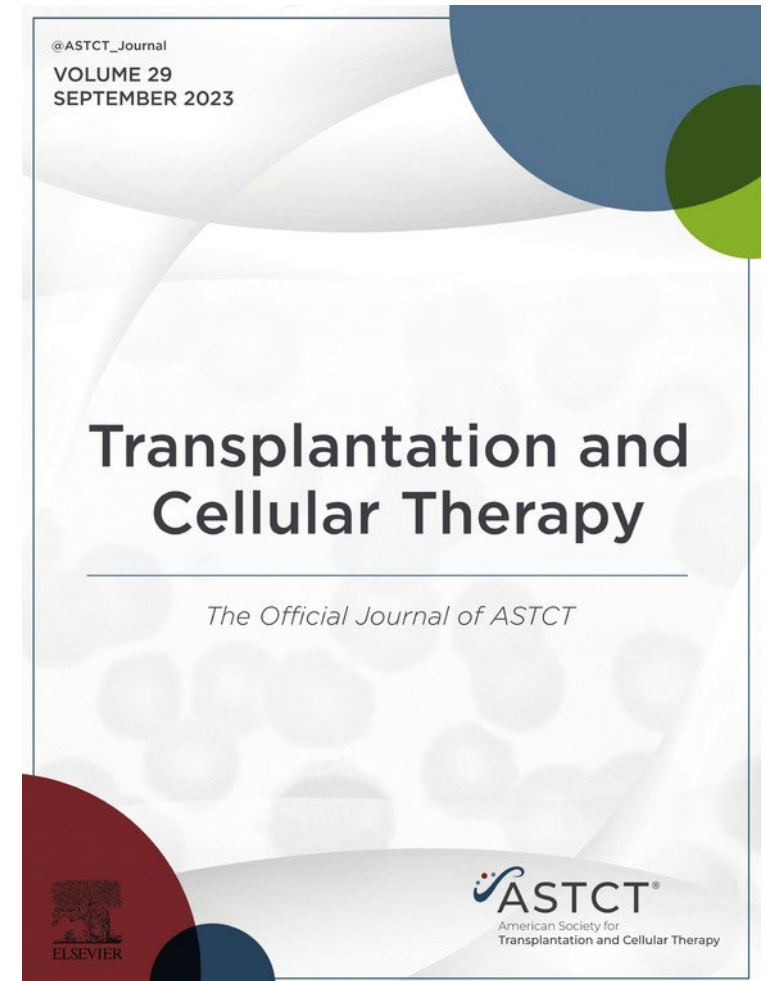
Description	Future Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creation of the Junior Faculty/Trainee Initiative</li><li>• Recruitment of 6 junior faculty/trainees, 2 for each subcommittee, under the direct mentorship of the chair/co-chair of each subcommittee</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inaugural meeting during Tandem 2024</li><li>• 2-year term training in health services research and advocacy efforts</li><li>• Direct involvement of the members within the projects of each subcommittee</li></ul>

# 2023 Second Annual ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Initiative Workshop Proceedings

## Proceedings of the 2023 Second Annual ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Initiative Workshop

Jeffery J. Auletta<sup>1,2</sup>, Jennifer Holter-Chakrabarty<sup>3</sup>, Tania Jain<sup>4</sup>, Emily Ward<sup>1</sup>, Nandita Khera<sup>5</sup>, Alexandra Gomez-Arteaga<sup>6</sup>, Anurekha Hall<sup>7</sup>, Eneida Nemecek<sup>8</sup>, Delilah Robb<sup>1</sup>, Rafeek A. Yusuf<sup>1</sup>, and Stella M. Davies<sup>9</sup> on behalf of the ACCESS Workshop Team Members\*

*Submitted, September 25, 2023*



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# 2024 Tandem Meetings

## San Antonio, TX

- **ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Symposium**  
-- Wednesday, February 21 3:30-5:00
- **ASTCT Special Interest Groups (SIG)**  
-- Aging, Biobehavioral, Social Work



*In-Person and Virtual Programming*

## TANDEM MEETINGS

Transplantation & Cellular Therapy Meetings  
of ASTCT® and CIBMTR®

**February 21-24, 2024**  
Henry B. González Convention Center | San Antonio, TX

# We have a personal responsibility to instigate positive social change!



**REDUCE**  
Cell Therapy  
Barriers &  
Disparities



“We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back.”

-- Martin Luther King, Jr., August 28, 1963



# Together, we will...



Equal Outcomes for All

# Acknowledgements

- Amy Ronneberg, CEO NMDP
- Andre Williams, Executive Director ASTCT
- NMDP Foundation
  - Joy King, Angie Fitzgerald, Amy Connor
- ASTCT
  - Angie Dahl, Alycia Maloney
- NMPD Government Affairs and Public Policy
  - Jessica Knutson, Ellie Beaver
- France Foundation
  - Debbie Fernandez

