

A Recruitment Consulting Program To Improve Enrollment Goals

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Problem Statement

Recruiting research participants can be challenging, with many studies not reaching their recruitment goals. Under-recruitment into clinical trials is a common and costly problem that undermines medical research.

Recruitment Challenges

Barriers to successful recruitment include:

- > Study feasibility issues
- > Narrowly defined eligibility criteria
- Unrealistic recruitment goals
- Lack of recruitment expertise
- Lack of clinical support
- IRB/regulatory constraints

Strategy

One of ITHS's aims is to develop and disseminate methods to successfully meet research enrollment goals. To accomplish this, we created the ITHS Recruitment Support Services (RSS) as a consulting program to provided project-specific recruitment assistance to study teams at the UW and partner institutions.

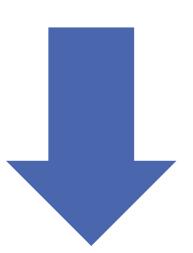
What Happens in a RSS Consult?

For ongoing studies

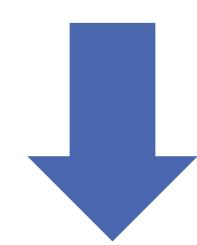


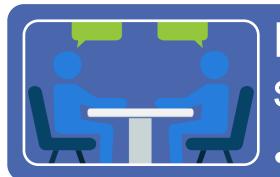
Pre-study (grant proposal, protocol development)

- Recruitment plan development
- Participant accrual support
- Regulatory support
- Recruitment materials design/review
- Feasibility analysis
- Study design consult
- Statistical plan
- Study budget review
- EHR cohort assessment
- Bioethics consult



18 investigators supported to date





Discuss recruitment challenges + solutions

Informal and formal options available

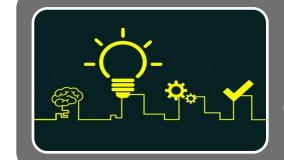


Review relevant documents (e.g., study protocol, consent forms, budget)



Provide formal consultation with written recommendations

Core review team + outside stakeholders



Include novel approaches to recruitment challenges



Follow-up with study team to evaluate results of input

RSS Case study

Study presented

- A study wants to enroll 90 amputees and 45 non-amputee controls to evaluate the use of ultrasound to identify nerve endings and neuromas
- In 12 months, 28 amputees and 23 controls were enrolled
- The RC had a list of amputee patients from the PI's practice, and posted flyers on campus and at HMC
- The RC exhausted the list of eligible in-clinic patients
- Recruitment of controls was slower than expected

Recommendations

- ➤ Perform an electronic health record (EHR) search for eligible patients who are amputees at HMC
- > Post study on participateinresearch.org
- > Identify settings to target amputees
- Increase availability for visits to accommodate participant schedules

Discussion

- A multi-pronged approach that targeted strategies for different groups proved successful
- The study team increased the number of available visit slots
- The posting on participateinresearch.org captured controls plus
 2 amputees that were not in the HMC system

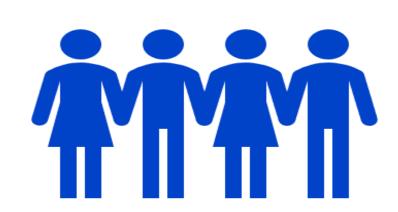
47%

After use of the RSS program, the study team enrolled **24 amputee participants** in only 3 months, an increase of 47% compared to the first 12 months of study recruitment.

40%

In the same time period, the study team enrolled an additional 18 control participants, an enrollment increase of 40% compared to the initial recruitment efforts.





Connect volunteers with researchers www.ParticipateInResearch.org