

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

BME 2024 SPRING SEMINAR SERIES

Patient Voices, Patient Choices: Codesigning Trials to Serve Every Community



PRESENTED BY

Charles Jonassaint, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Department of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

SCHEDULE

Doherty Hall (DH) 2315

**Thursday,
February 15, 2024
(11:00-12:00PM)**

Dr. Charles Jonassaint will present the University of Pittsburgh Clinical and Translational Science Institute's efforts to improve diversity and inclusion in clinical trials, using as an example a multisite trial among adults with sickle cell disease, a primarily racial minority population less likely to participate in research. The trial compares mobile health interventions and employs innovative engagement of underserved groups that CTSI aims to apply across studies. It enrolled 359 diverse adults via partnerships with medical centers and community organizations then randomized participants to one of two, health coach supported, 12-week tailored behavioral interventions on a chatbot. The team engaged stakeholders to ensure an accessible, appealing protocol using decentralized methods and innovative approaches to reduce participation burden. Dr. Jonassaint will highlight three effective strategies. First, stakeholder involvement throughout shaped recruitment, consent, assessments and interventions to resonate with the target population. Second, leveraging innovative digital health tools and social media facilitated engagement and data collection while maintaining efficiency. Third, collaborating with community groups enabled peer-to-peer promotion and support. Attendees will learn how to meaningfully engage diverse groups and apply digital solutions to improve study participant experiences and clinical trials outcomes.



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