

STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE RECRUITMENT OF FEMALES IN RESEARCH



STUDY TEAM

- ✓ Ensure a diverse research team consisting of male and female principal investigators
- ✓ Encourage female researchers to take leadership roles in research trials to improve trust and foster female-specific considerations
- ✓ Incorporate specialist nursing teams into research recruitment to reduce selection bias



TRIAL DESIGN

- ✓ Design research that includes female-specific comorbidities
- ✓ Improving the level of comfort and the overall clinical trial experience
- ✓ Ensure recruitment considers all cultural backgrounds, uses gender sensitive language, is sensitive to the concerns of female participants, and transparent
- ✓ Inviting female patients to participate in the discussion of the design



COSTS

- ✓ Provide reimbursement for travel when required, as well as childcare/caring commitments minimising trial visits
- ✓ Regulatory bodies, funding agencies, industry and journals should set trial standards to mandate the representation of females in RCTs as a requirement for funding



MINIMISE BARRIERS

- ✓ Provide flexible participation options, virtual/home-based recruitment or data collection
- ✓ Address cultural barriers among females from the underserved communities
- ✓ Address gender-specific concerns around safety and side effects
- ✓ Translation services for those with limited English who may otherwise be excluded



AWARENESS RAISING

- ✓ Public health campaigns to educate potential participants about the importance of clinical trials
- ✓ Partnerships with organizations/healthcare providers serving high-risk female populations
- ✓ Improved reporting on gender disparities in trial demographics to highlight areas needing improvement and encourage accountability
- ✓ Train and enable primary care HCPs to routinely appraise research