

Working with the Research Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (RIDE) Council at iConquerMS

Need help collecting and integrating diverse patient perspectives into your next research project? We can help!

The iConquerMS Research Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (RIDE) Council is a group of people living with MS focused on broadening participation in research by highlighting the voices and experiences of people from traditionally underrepresented groups such as the Hispanic/Latinx, Black/African American, Asian American, rural, LGBTQ+, veteran, and disabled communities.

Ways we engage with researchers:

The RIDE Council is equipped to engage with researchers at numerous stages in the research process. Here are just a few!

- Develop recruitment plans that are effective and culturally appropriate
- Help define the research priorities of underrepresented communities
- Provide advice and direction on working effectively with participants from underrepresented communities.
- Reality-test ideas and approaches
- Provide input on cultural considerations to project design
- Review outreach materials and messaging
- Assist in the development of materials to enable participants to better understand the research process
- Develop result dissemination plans that communicate important findings and build trust
- Review clarity and cultural relevancy of research reports/findings

Examples of past engagements include:

- Focus groups to discuss how outcome measures are perceived across cultures
- Feedback on plans for an upcoming study for Black/African-Americans
- Input from Hispanic/Latinx members on research result dissemination mechanisms

For more information including cost estimates, please reach out or visit us online!

1 - 844 - 897 - 1211
ride@acceleratedcure.org
www.iconquerms.org/ride-council

Meet the Steering Committee Leading the RIDE Council



Dimika Cavalier - Co-Chair

Dimika Cavalier is a native of New Orleans, LA. She has a B.S. in Biology from Hampton University and a Master of Forensic Sciences from National University. She participates in various MS advocacy groups sharing her experience and insight, while also advocating for diversity and inclusion in healthcare and research.



Hollie Schmidt - Co-Chair

Hollie Schmidt is the Vice President of Scientific Operations at Accelerated Cure Project for Multiple Sclerosis. She co-chairs the Research Committee of iConquerMS and leads the MS Minority Research Engagement Partnership Network.



Anita Williams

Anita Williams is the Principal Strategist and owner of The Beta Pond, LLC, a management, scientific, and technical consulting agency. She was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2014. She is the Co-Chair of the iConquerMS Engagement Committee as well as its ED&I Sub-Committee.



Surachat (Chat) Ngorsuraches

Surachat Ngorsuraches is an associate professor at Harrison School of Pharmacy, Auburn University. He is a pharmacist by training. He earned his doctoral degree in Social and Administrative Pharmacy from University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has more than 25 years of experiences in teaching, conducting research and leading administrative teams.



Teresa Wright-Johnson

Teresa Wright-Johnson is a Heart Survivor and an MS Warrior serving in roles that include advocacy, inspirational speaking and authorship. Teresa's mission is to use her voice and experience, personally and professionally, to amplify disparities that exist in underrepresented populations.



Shawn Feliciano

Shawn Feliciano is a financial advisor based in Arizona, who has been living with MS since 2009. She has been an active contributor to the iConquerMS network and the Accelerated Cure Project since 2012, particularly within the areas of minority research engagement and DE&I.



Melinda Davis

Melinda has been working in behavioral health for the past three years, as a behavioral health coordinator and more recently a certified domestic violence specialist. Melinda has participated in the MS Minority Research Engagement Partnership Network for the past two years, focusing on the Native American/Alaskan Native Communities.