



SYMPOSIUM

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# Session 4

The Role of Patients and  
Caregivers in Clinical Trial  
Decisions

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WO(MEN)  
SPEAK**



SPEAKER

# Emily Gentry

**BSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, OCN**

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Exploring the Role of Nurse Navigators in  
Clinical Trial Education and Accrual

[black-women-speak.org](http://black-women-speak.org)

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WOMEN  
SPEAK**



## Exploring the Role of Nurse Navigators in Clinical Trial Education and Accrual

Emily Gentry, BSN, RN, HON-ONN- CG, OCN  
Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators

# Navigation & Clinical Trials

## Navigation and Clinical Trials

Sharon Gentry, RN, MSN, CBCN, ONN-CG

Case Study by Linda Burhansstipanov, DrPH, MSPH

### Abstract

Patient navigation can be a means to positively influence oncology clinical trial participation. With a navigation focus on minority and underserved populations, this care concept promotes a trusting relationship among the research staff and the patient population served. A historical perspective of clinical trials and current mandates are reviewed. A background of known barriers to clinical trial participation is disclosed since this is a common focal point of the navigation development in disparate communities. With respect to the individuality of a healthcare system's focus on increasing oncology clinical trial participation, different avenues of navigation are explored to promote success on this objective. A common foundation for each avenue to increase clinical trial participation is built on the trusting relationship that the navigator establishes with each patient. The logistics of navigation training with standardized metrics that can apply to any navigation program engaged in clinical trial promotion is described. Patient navigation can be employed as a reasonable way to increase oncology clinical trial participation.



The image shows the front cover of a report. The title 'Proposal for Navigation Professional Enhancement' is prominently displayed in a large, purple, serif font. Below the title, the subtitle 'Key Findings and Recommendations from the 2022 AONN+ Midyear Conference' is written in a smaller, teal, sans-serif font. A navigation menu is located below the subtitle, listing sections: 'TOC', 'Introduction', 'Key Findings', 'Navigators in Clinical Trials', 'Proposal for Education', 'Navigator Certification', and 'Acknowledgements'. The cover features a purple background with a central graphic of a compass rose surrounded by circuit-like lines. At the bottom, the logos for the 'Academy of Oncology Nurse &amp; Patient Navigators' (AONN) and the 'Foundation for Learning' are displayed.



# Why Navigators ?

“Clinical Trial Navigator”


*This is an emerging position that speaks to the need*

*The navigator can be one of the first people the patient will speak to after diagnosis*

*They are the constant throughout the patient’s journey*

*They understand the patient’s clinical and psychosocial needs*

*They know the practical barriers to care delivery*



## **Mobilization of the Navigator to Increase Identification of Eligible Patients for Trials and Provide Continuous Support Once Enrolled**

- Build trust
- Assess eligible patients for recruitment
- Facilitate access to clinical trials and care
- Enhance understanding and communicate the patient's desires, preferences, and values to the healthcare team- empower the patient
- Advocate for culturally appropriate and inclusive care
- Assess patient literacy and understanding: Optimize patient education resources
- Assist with financial and logistical constraints
- Direct patients to care measures to improve retention
- Refer to multidisciplinary team members, community and national programs and services

# Thank you.

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