

MaineHealth

Research – May 2023 (continued)



Cancer Moonshot Biobank Community Engagement Project has been awarded phase 3 supplemental funding!

In Phase 2, we are investigating the extent to which these insights for rural patients are applicable to immigrant communities in the Portland metro area. Following regulatory approval of this second phase of work, we continue to actively engage community partners focused on access to and provision of cancer care among regional immigrant and refugee cancer patients. Through the support of these partners, we are continuing to recruit key stakeholders for one-on-one interviews regarding limitations, barriers, and facilitators to CMB and related precision oncology trials. To date we have:

- Contacted and partnered with community-based organizations in Maine with community health workers who support immigrant populations in Southern Maine to facilitate recruitment of key informants.
- Completed interviews with 30 of a planned 35 key informants, including physicians, clinical trial coordinators, community health workers, interpreters and social workers.
- Interim key findings:
 - Refugees receive Medicaid to pay for cancer treatment; whereas asylum seekers only have *Freecare* which limits treatment to hospital-affiliated sites.
 - The medical community believes immigrants have access to cancer care, though some community health workers were unaware of this access.
 - One oncologist insisted that there are no barriers to research participation unique to immigrants.
 - Language translation for consent forms identified as a barrier.

Our efforts are ongoing and in the next two months:

- We are continuing to recruit and interview key informants.
- We are having recorded interviews transcribed for analysis
- We are using preliminary information from meetings with partners and interviews to develop a map-to-cancer-care for immigrants in southern Maine.

The principal goal of this third round of funding is to implement and assess the impact of a proposed *CMB Community Champion Program* in developing Phase 1-informed solutions to CMB recruitment/enrollment barriers with an initial focus on rural and socioeconomically disadvantaged patients.

[Learn more about Cancer Moonshot Biobank](#)