

Q5

Type of Project Grant

RESEARCH: To investigate a question and/or to develop a technology in pathology/lab medicine services that improves healthcare quality, cost, or access.

Q6

Estimate of Total Budget (no details at this time, just total value up to \$5,000 for one year)

\$5000

Q7

Short title: (<4 words)

Cervical cancer racial disparities

Q8

Full Title:

Reducing racial disparities in cervical cancer: Assessment of factors affecting human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination rates, access to cytology and HPV screening with histopathological correlation

Q9

Short Summary: (<250 words)

Black and Hispanic women have higher rates of HPV-associated cervical cancer than women of other races, possibly because of decreased access to HPV vaccination, screening tests or treatment. The causes of these inequalities are complex and reflect socioeconomic disparities and cultural differences affecting cancer risk, and differences in access to quality health care, vaccination, cytology, and molecular screening. Quantifying the factors that hinder access to preventive services is essential for guiding evidence-based care and we propose to study these factors in a diverse population. We will utilize our electronic databases of over 2 million patients (2000-2021) to identify a representative patient population of White, Black, Hispanic, and other minority women who have undergone cytological, HPV and histopathological evaluation for cervical cancer. We have strong relationships with our gynecologists who can provide clinical context and administer a questionnaire to assess the barriers hindering access to preventive services. Our objectives are 1) to assess the rate of vaccination rates, cytology, and HPV screening tests in a diverse population, 2) correlate the cytology and molecular findings with histopathology 3) to assess the barriers preventing access to preventive services using a pre-designed questionnaire. My faculty mentor and I have MD-PhD training and I have master's education in epidemiology, biostatistics, and health services research. The funding provided by this grant will be used for purchasing immunostains, data analysis software and administering questionnaires. We anticipate that our study could readily be extended to investigate the utilization of preventive services and reduce racial disparities in cervical cancer.
