



Center for Translational & Policy Research on Personalized Medicine

Improving Precision Medicine for Breast Cancer in Latinas: Enhancing Access to Genetic Testing

TRANSPERS Sub-Study:

TRANSPERS is conducting a sub-aim as part of a study on breast cancer in Latinas funded by the California Institute to Advance Personalized Medicine (CIAPM). TRANSPERS aims to determine the financial accessibility of improved risk assessment and screening for Latinas in California, who are more likely to have Medi-Cal insurance or be uninsured. We are conducting studies of access to testing and how it is influenced by financial considerations.

Parent Grant Overview:

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Latinas and the leading cause of cancer deaths among Latinas in California. Because of this, screening for this cancer is important. This CIAPM project is seeking to improve our understanding of the genetic variants that commonly cause cancer so that high-risk patients can be identified. Another objective of the project is to raise awareness by training community leaders and educators to conduct outreach and spread awareness of the hereditary breast cancer risk.

TRANSPERS Contribution:

Even if it is economically feasible and cost-effective to improve genetic risk assessment and screening, the question remains as to whether these interventions can actually be implemented. It has been repeatedly noted that the largest barrier to genomic medicine is coverage and reimbursement. This is particularly true for Latinas in CA, who are more likely than other populations to have Medi-Cal insurance or to be uninsured. We also know from our prior work that women with Medi-Cal or who are uninsured may not be offered testing or may be referred elsewhere by clinics and this may decrease access.

Objectives:

- Examine how providers and clinics provide testing to Medi-Cal and uninsured women and how the cost of testing influences access
- Identify key implications for Latinas

TRANSPERS

Launched in 2008, the Center for Translational and Policy Research on Personalized Medicine (TRANSPERS) at the University of California, San Francisco is a first-of-its-kind research center dedicated to developing evidence-based information for patients, providers, industry, researchers and policymakers to objectively assess how personalized medicine can be most beneficial and efficient in improving health outcomes. The TRANSPERS Center has been funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and several foundations.

Key Collaborators: UCSF (Ziv [PI], Phillips, Lin, Douglas)

Funding: California Institute to Advance Personalized Medicine (CIAPM)