Center for Translational & Policy Research on Precision Medicine

TRANSPERS Program on Health Disparities: Equity and Access of Precision Medicine

The TRANSPERS Center is committed to promoting health equity and access to precision medicine health care services through multidisciplinary and collaborative research into the root causes of health disparities. In the past, precision medicine research has largely been euro-centric. To advance health for all, we must ensure equitable access to precision medicine. To that end, we are engaging diverse perspectives to understand the interactions and effects of health insurance or lack thereof, health policies, socioeconomic status, and access of underserved or underrepresented populations to precision medicine.

We bring our unique expertise in payer coverage, stakeholder decision-making, and quantifying value to examine a range of policy issues that drive inequities and unequal access to precision medicine.

We use a systematic and interdisciplinary approach:

- Develop robust qualitative, approaches, including in-depth interviews with multilevel stakeholders (e.g., physicians, patients, policymakers, experts, etc.) and population-based survey research design
- Analyze and linkage of large population-based secondary data (e.g., all-payer claims data, national cancer registries, census data, etc.)
- Document and coverage policy analysis
- Engage multiple stakeholders and build consensus

TRANSPERS

Launched in 2008, the Center for Translational and Policy Research on Precision 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 precision 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.

Accomplishments

Our publications have included studies on disparities in cancer screening, including gene expression profiling, and cost of access for individuals by race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status. We are continuing our work with a particular focus on equitable access to precision medicine focusing on novel genomic technologies as they emerge. Our publication in the Journal of Community Genetics, we highlighted challenges and solutions in the Latinx community for hereditary cancer panel testing. Similarly, in our publication in Journal of Genetic Counseling, we addressed payer coverage and out-of-pocket costs for hereditary cancer panel testing in diverse settings. For more information: https://pharm.ucsf.edu/transpers/grants-programs/health-disparities

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