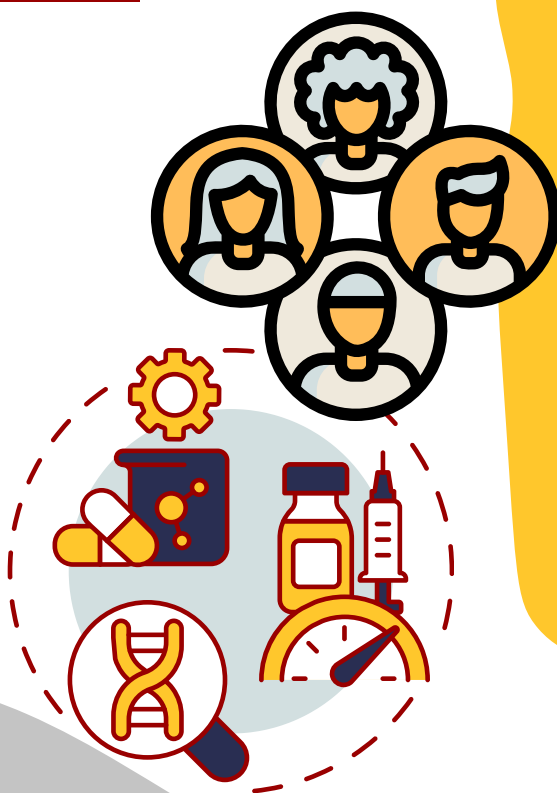




THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN CLINICAL TRIALS

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in clinical trials are essential for ensuring that medical advancements benefit all populations. Historically, clinical research has lacked diverse representation, leading to disparities in treatment effectiveness across different demographic groups. Addressing lack of inclusion in clinical trials promotes equitable healthcare outcomes and enhances trust in medical research.



Application in Clinical Research

Diversity: Including participants with a range of characteristics such as race, gender, age, socioeconomic status, and disability in clinical trials.

Equity: Recognizing systemic disparities and allocating resources to achieve fair health outcomes.

Inclusion: Ensuring individuals feel valued, encouraged, and able to participate in medical research.

Challenges to Inclusion in Clinical Trials

- 1** Lack of Representation: Clinical trials have traditionally recruited predominantly white, male participants, limiting the generalizability of medical treatments. Bias sustains this practice and can lead to the lack of inclusion of diverse individuals.
- 2** Systemic Barriers: Factors such as healthcare access, socioeconomic status, language barriers, and strict eligibility criteria disproportionately exclude marginalized groups.
- 3** Mistrust in Medical Research: Historical mistreatment of marginalized communities has contributed to skepticism and reluctance to participate in trials.

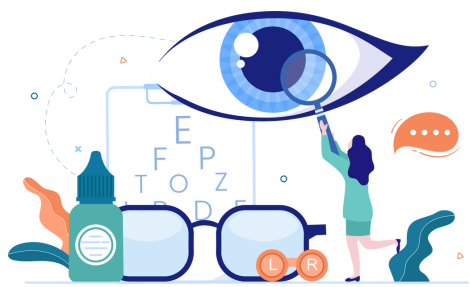
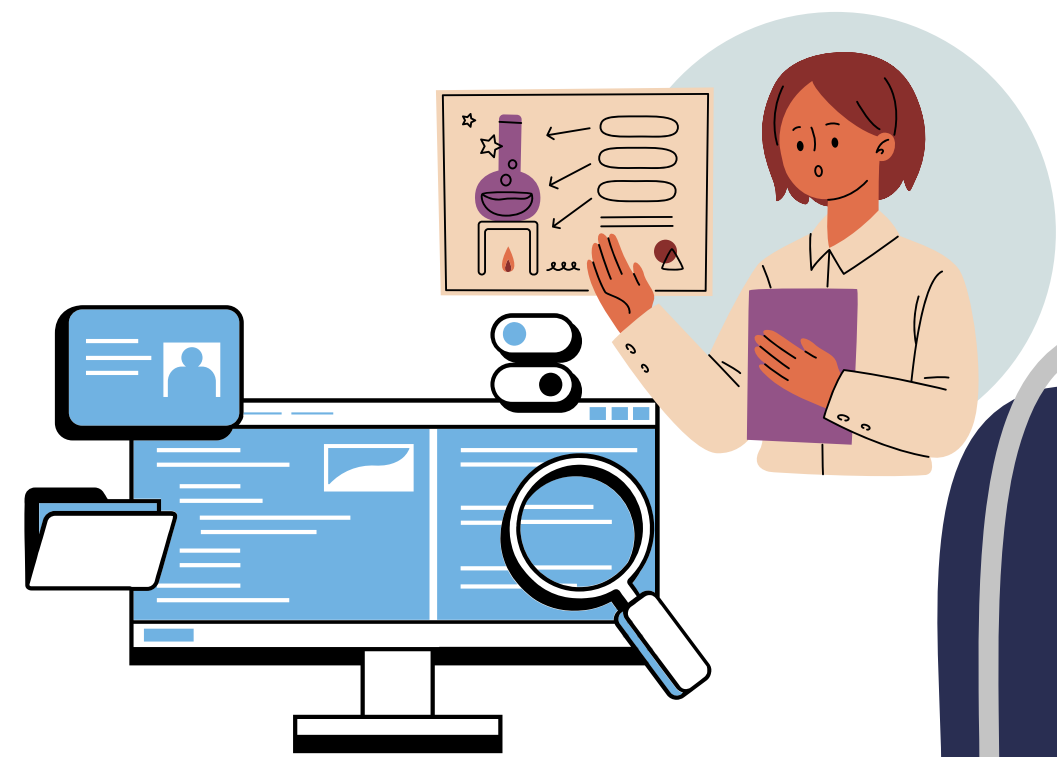


The Case for Inclusive Research

- Including diverse participants improves the understanding of genetic, biological, and environmental differences in treatment responses.
- A more diverse research workforce fosters trust among underrepresented communities.
- Community-based participatory research (CBPR) strengthens collaboration between researchers and participants leading to more engagement.

Current Initiatives in Clinical Trials:

The USC Race and Equity Center is actively working on integrating these principles in medical research. Their collaboration in Phase 2b of a retinal implant trial explores how inclusive and culturally-informed recruitment, outreach, and provider training can enhance trial participation and equitable health outcomes.



Emphasizing diversity, equity, and inclusion in clinical trials is both an ethical and scientific necessity. Addressing systemic barriers and increasing diverse participation ensures equitable healthcare advancements for all populations. Implementing transparent, inclusive, and culturally competent research methodologies is crucial to rectifying historical inequities and fostering trust in medical research.