Summer Student Research Program
Project Description

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**PROJECT TITLE (200 Characters max):**

**Identifying Disparities Surrounding Access to Minimally Invasive Treatment Options for Women Suffering from Uterine Fibroids**

## HYPOTHESIS:

**Patients in a less affluent community that have undergone surgical removal of the uterus (hysterectomy) are unlikely to be adequately informed on uterine artery embolization (UAE) as a minimally invasive treatment option for uterine fibroids. We hypothesize we will identify a large % of patients who were never appropriated informed about this treatment option.**

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Include design, methodology, data collection, techniques, data analysis to be employed and evaluation and interpretation methodology)

**Study design: Prospective Participant Survey (NJHF sponsored study)**

**Methodology/Data Collection: An Institutional Board Review (IRB) approval will be obtained for this study from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS)/University Hospital (UH). A survey will be conducted of patient with symptomatic uterine fibroids with a series of questions surrounding the patient's knowledge or uterine artery embolization (UAE) at the time of hysterectomy. The survey will be submitted for qualitative and quantitative validation now that a pilot study has been completed (reference 10). Demographic and data pertaining to socioeconomic status will also be collected. Study subjects will be recruited via marketing at various locations (medical school and hospital) and by attending various community events (i.e. health fairs) by study staff. An IRB approved retrospective chart review may also be conducted to identify potential study subjects. Additional academic study sites may be added for this study with separate IRB approvals filed at those sites with sub-investigators. Study subjects will be provided with a stipend to for their involvement in the study as the pilot study had a difficult time recruiting subjects for their study.**

**Technique: Study staff will include Rutgers NJMS medical students who are part of the Interventional Radiology Interest Group (IRIG) and part of the interventional radiology research team. This team will be responsible for obtaining IRB approval to conduct the study and creation and execution of these surveys.**
**Data Analysis: Odds ratios for treatment choices based on demographic data**

**Evaluation and Interpretation: Observational data reported will be percentage of patients (i.e. with regards to level of knowledge of UAE and reasons provided against choosing UAE for treatment). Comparisons between groups (i.e. demographics, socioeconomic status, etc) created will be performed using students T test for continuous variables and Fischer's exact for nominal variables.**

**SPONSOR'S MOST RECENT PUBLICATIONS RELEVANT TO THIS RESEARCH:**

https://www.jacr.org/article/S1546-1440(25)00116-4/abstract

https://www.jvir.org/article/S1051-0443(22)01729-8/pdf

https://www.jvir.org/article/S1051-0443(19)31271-0/fulltext

**THIS PROJECT IS:** ☐ Clinical ☐ Laboratory ☐ Behavioral ☒ Other

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**THIS PROJECT IS CANCER-RELATED☐ N/A**
**Please explain Cancer relevance**

**THIS PROJECT IS HEART, LUNG & BLOOD- RELATED☐ N/A**
**Please explain Heart, Lung, Blood relevance**

**THIS PROJECT INVOLVE RADIOISOTOPES?☐ N/A**

**THIS PROJECT INVOLVES THE USE OF ANIMALS ☐ N/A**
**PENDING ☐ APPROVED ☐ IACUC PROTOCOL #**

**THIS PROJECT INVOLVES THE USE OF HUMAN SUBJECTS? ☐ YES**
**PENDING ☒ APPROVED ☐ IRB PROTOCOL # M**

**THIS PROJECT IS SUITABLE FOR:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS | ☐ | ENTERING FRESHMAN | ☐ |
| SOPHMORES | ☒ | ALL STUDENTS | ☐ |

**THIS PROJECT IS WORK-STUDY: Yes ☐ or No ☒**

**THIS PROJECT WILL BE POSTED DURING ACADEMIC YEAR**
**FOR INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS: Yes ☐ or No ☐**

**WHAT WILL THE STUDENT LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?**

1. **Survey research skills**
2. **Exposure to Interventional Radiology – Uterine Artery Embolization**
3. **Healthcare inequities**
4. **Public health and referral patterns.**