



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Barriers of Entry into Clinical Trials Continue, Study Finds**

Data presented at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Reveals Low Enrollment Rates for Metastatic Breast Cancer Trials Despite Increased Efforts

SAN ANTONIO – (Dec. 11, 2014) – Data presented by the Cancer Support Community’s Research and Training Institute at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium today shows that cancer clinical trials for patients with metastatic breast cancer still suffer from a low rate of enrollment of eligible participants, despite significant investments in public awareness and patient education.

The study found the following:

- 67 percent of patients are uncomfortable being randomly assigned to a treatment
- 63 percent of patients are concerned about receiving a placebo
- 54 percent of patients are concerned about side effects

Patients who have participated in a trial have less of a concern about these issues than those who have not participated in a clinical trial. Unfortunately, less than half of the patients reported that their health care team talked with them about a clinical trial.

“The perceptions and worries of patients surrounding cancer clinical trials can be impacted through education and patient empowerment tools. Clinical trials are a cornerstone of cancer therapy, and we should ensure patients are able to make informed decisions about each of their treatment options, including clinical trials,” said Kim Thiboldeaux, president and CEO of the Cancer Support Community.

This study supports the importance of ongoing investment in patient education about cancer clinical trials, having proactive conversations with patients about cancer clinical trials and including clinical trials as a consideration as a part of treatment decision counseling.

The full poster can be accessed [here](#).

The data was collected from 577 patients with metastatic breast cancer in the [Cancer Experience Registry](#), a research initiative with the goal of collecting, analyzing and sharing information about the experience and needs of patients and their families throughout the cancer journey. The Cancer Experience Registry currently has more than 7,400 members, and nearly 1,000 are part of the Cancer Experience Registry: Metastatic Breast Cancer.

The Cancer Experience Registry: Metastatic Breast Cancer is made possible thanks to support from Celgene Corporation.

**About the Cancer Support Community**

The mission of the Cancer Support Community (CSC) is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. In 2009, The

Wellness Community and Gilda's Club joined forces to become the Cancer Support Community. The combined organization, with more than 50 years of collective experience, provides the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer through a network of 50 licensed Affiliates, more than 120 satellite locations and vibrant online and telephone communities, touching more than one million people each year.

Backed by evidence that the best cancer care includes social and emotional support, the Cancer Support Community offers these services free of charge to men, women and children with any type or stage of cancer, and to their loved ones. As the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community delivers a comprehensive menu of personalized and essential services including support groups, educational workshops, exercise, art and nutrition classes and social activities for the entire family. Through cutting-edge psychosocial, behavioral and survivorship research, the Cancer Support Community's Research and Training Institute is helping CSC change the future of cancer care through education and training. The Cancer Support Community's Cancer Policy Institute ensures that the voices of 13.7 million cancer survivors and their families are heard in the nation's capital and state and local legislatures across the country. In 2013, the CSC network delivered nearly \$48 million in free services to patients and families. The Cancer Support Community is advancing the innovations that are becoming the standard in complete cancer care. For more information, please visit [www.cancersupportcommunity.org](http://www.cancersupportcommunity.org)

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