



April 1, 2026

Adana A. M. Llanos, PhD, MPH
Associate Professor of Epidemiology
Mailman School of Public Health
Program Co-Leader, Cancer Population Science (CPS) Program
Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center
Columbia University Irving Medical Center

Jennifer Tsui, PhD, MPH
Professor of Population and Public Health Sciences
Department of Population and Public Health Sciences
Keck School of Medicine
University of Southern California

Dear Drs. Llanos and Tsui,

It is my pleasure to provide this letter of support on behalf of the American Cancer Society, Inc. (ACS) for your proposed modification to the California Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS) IRB protocol for the ACHIEVE Study. We strongly support your request to remove the requirement for documented written consent and to implement a waiver of documentation of consent, as this modification will help reduce barriers to participation while preserving appropriate protections for study participants.

ACS is a nationwide, community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem. Central to our mission is advancing equitable access to cancer prevention, screening, and care, while also reducing barriers to research participation, particularly among underserved populations. This commitment is especially important now, as we strive to ensure that cancer research is both inclusive and accessible to all.

From our perspective, the requirement for written consent may create a meaningful barrier to participation for some individuals, particularly those from communities that may have concerns about signing formal documents, face literacy challenges, or experience mistrust of institutional processes. Addressing these barriers is essential to fostering inclusive and equitable research and ensuring that the populations most affected by cancer disparities are appropriately represented.

We understand that your team has observed differences in response rates between the New Jersey State Cancer Registry (NJSCR), the other cancer registry on The ACHIEVE Study where a waiver of documentation of consent is permitted, and the Los Angeles Cancer Surveillance Program (LACSP), which currently requires signed consent. These differences highlight the significant effect that consent procedures may have on participation and further support the importance of adopting more accessible, participant-centered approaches.

As a Community Advisory Board member for the ACHIEVE Study, ACS strongly supports efforts to implement consent procedures that are more participant-centered and that foster broader, more inclusive engagement in research. We believe that a waiver of documentation of consent represents an appropriate and meaningful step toward reducing barriers to participation while maintaining the ethical principles and standards that guide informed consent.

We appreciate the opportunity to continue supporting your important work and applaud your ongoing commitment to advancing equitable, community-centered research practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ana Paisely".

Ana Paisely
Associate Director, Cancer Center Partnerships
American Cancer Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 1357
New York, NY 10018

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ana Paisley
Associate Director, Cancer Center Partnerships
American Cancer Society