

角聲癌症協會

Herald Cancer Association

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Program Co-Leader, Cancer Population Science 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,

On behalf of Herald Cancer Association, I am pleased to provide this letter of strong support for your proposed modification to the California Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS) IRB protocol for the ACHIEVE Study. We wholeheartedly support the removal of the requirement for documented signed consent for study participation. Given the fear and uncertainty many immigrant communities are currently experiencing, we believe that implementing a waiver of documentation of informed consent is an important step toward reducing barriers to participation and improving response rates.

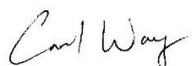
Herald Cancer Association provides comprehensive cancer care services in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner through offering information and education, patient navigation, and support programs to help Chinese cancer patients and caregivers during the cancer journey. We are committed to ensuring that the communities we serve have equitable access to research opportunities.

In our experience working closely with Chinese and other underserved communities, requiring participants to sign consent forms may deter engagement due to privacy concerns. This is particularly relevant for cervical cancer, which can carry stigma related to its association with sexual health, making some individuals hesitant to put their name and signature on research documents. Reducing these barriers is essential to improving participation and ensuring that cervical cancer research is inclusive and community centered.

Observed differences in response rates between the New Jersey State Cancer Registry (NJSCR), which allows a waiver of documentation of consent, and the Los Angeles Cancer Surveillance Program, (LACSP), which requires signed consent, further highlight the impact of consent procedures on participation and support the need for more accessible approaches.

As a Community Advisory Board member of the ACHIEVE Study, we support efforts to improve recruitment and engagement by reducing unnecessary barriers. We believe that implementing a waiver of documentation of consent is an appropriate and important step toward increasing participation while maintaining ethical standards for informed consent.

We strongly support this request and look forward to continuing our collaboration to improve cervical cancer outcomes for diverse communities in Los Angeles and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Wang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carol" and last name "Wang" clearly distinguishable.

Carol Wang
Director
Herald Cancer Association